

PREFACE

BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

The 204th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held at the denominational conference grounds at Bonclarken. This preface is for the purpose of recording the activities held at the Pre-Synod Conference on Worship.

THE PRE-SYNOD CONFERENCE “THE INDISPENSABLE WORD”

Monday Evening, June 9, 2008

“BBQ on the Grounds” was served from 5:15-6:15. Following the meal, those attending the Pre-Synod Conference were welcomed and introductions were made.

Following a recital of sacred solos and duets by Dan Cole and Gary Seydell, accompanied by Dr. Gabriel Statom on the piano, Dr Phillip Ryken presented the Keynote Address, “Above All Earthly Powers,” from Jeremiah 36.

Those attending met for fellowship following the address.

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

At 9:15 A.M. Dr. Ryken presented the second address, “A Clear Word From God,” from II Peter 1:16-21 and 3:14-18.

At 10:15 A.M. The conference recessed for the morning break.

At 10:30 A.M. Dr. Mark Ross presented the final address, “Applying the Indispensable Word.”

PROCEEDINGS

204th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Tuesday, June 10, 2008

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

General Synod’s evening activities began with a Psalm Sing led by Earl and Harriet Linderman.

At 7:30 P.M. the 204th annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church began with the Worship Service and the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper.

OPENING WORSHIP**Tuesday, June 10, 2008**

7:00 P.M.	Informal Psalm Sing.....Earl Linderman Accompanist.....Harriet Linderman Prelude
7:30 P.M.	*Call to WorshipGordon Query, Moderator Special Music.....Korean Choir *Hymn of PraiseJoyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee..... Hymnbook 21 *Invocation and Lord's Prayer Charles F. Edgar *The Constitution of Synod..... Charles F. Edgar *Hymn.....Thine is the Glory..... Hymnbook 209 Memorial ServiceMichael Evans, Vice-Moderator The Listing of Deceased Teaching Elders (Since Synod 2007) The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders (Calendar Year 2007) *Hymn.....For All The Saints.....Hymnbook 425 (First) *Confession of Faith (The Apostles' Creed).....Hymnbook p. 12 The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition William B. Evans Hymn.....Be thou My Vision..... Hymnbook 303 Scripture Reading..... Charles F. Edgar Sermon Charles F. Edgar *Hymn of Response..Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah.. Hymnbook 339 Confession of Sin (Unison) Assurance of Pardon Song..... Bible Songs #242 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper *Hymn.....Once in Royal David's City Hymnbook 462 *Benediction..... William B. Evans *Postlude *Please stand if able

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

Wednesday, June 11, 2008**7:00 A.M.**

C. Earl Linderman led the informal morning Psalm Sing on the Dining Room Porch.

8:30 A.M.

Following a scripture reading by William Marsh, William B. Everett led the opening worship service.

Retiring Moderator Charles F. Edgar, Jr. called the first session of the 204th Synod meeting to order.

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

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

(See Appendix for the Official Roll of Synod).

Mr. Beard announced that the overture sent to the Presbyteries from the 2007 meeting of the General Synod was approved by a

majority of those voting in the Presbyteries.

A motion carried that the Special Committee on Worship be dismissed.

Moderator Edgar presented his Retiring Moderator's Address.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

"All good things must come to an end." My time both as Moderator-Elect and as Moderator have certainly been good things in my life, and as they come to an end, I believe my present task is to thank this court for the honor of serving. Today is Gordon Query's moment to issue a challenge.

In saying thank you, I want to point out that I was called by my God to be the pastor of a small congregation. I have a personality that might have wanted a larger challenge, but I was convinced of that call and I am more than convinced that it was God's hand that placed me in that pulpit and it was what I needed. It is a loving congregation, and it has been a wonderful place to serve for over 32 years. To serve as moderator has been the "icing on the cake" to a wonderful pastorate. I have been to Pakistan, Korea, and Japan. I have been to all parts of our denomination and have come to know its makeup in great detail.

I have believed for many years that the Lord has blessed the ARP. I have a greater deal of certainty about this conviction after these past two years. Likewise, I am convinced that we can do much more and that the Lord expects more. We need to train our people and plan for the battle. Most of all, we must then bow before the Lord and convince ourselves that we cannot carry out any of them without His help, and that if the plans are not His, that He would intervene. He promises "that He giveth more Grace," and we should beg for that Grace.

Again, I cannot thank everyone enough for the help I have received. I have received it from so many places that I would be remiss in failing to give proper credit if I attempted to single out any one person or group. I will thank my Vice-Moderator, Michael Evans, for his help and advice. My wife has been at my side almost everywhere I have gone and has been a faithful companion here as she has always been in my life.

My great hope is that the Lord and this Court are satisfied with this term.

Retiring Moderator Edgar presented Moderator-Elect Gordon Query to the Synod. Retiring Vice-Moderator Michael Evans escorted Mr. Query to the podium. Mr. Edgar placed the Moderator's shield around Mr. Query's neck and made brief remarks. Mr. Query presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Edgar.

Following remarks of thanks, Moderator Query presented his Moderator's Challenge to the Synod.

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

Brothers in Christ,

First, I want to thank my wife, Leona, for her constant support and encouragement and thank my family who I will introduce to you after the conclusion of this speech. Also, I want to express my appreciation to Glen Knecht, our former pastor at First Presbyterian Church, for his ministry and for the great spiritual impact he made on my life. As well, I want to thank First Presbyterian Church for nurturing me in the faith and for its commitment to the weekly preaching and teaching of God's Word. Finally, I want to express our appreciation at First Presbyterian for the opportunity of being part of the ARP denomination over the past 25 years.

It's likely that what will follow won't be what you would consider your typical Moderator's address.

Let's face it, only a handful of you will later remember even two or three points of this talk. Even this handful would rather wait until the Minutes of Synod are published just to make sure their recall was accurate! Yes, by tonight's supper it's probable the vast majority of you will have forgotten what that new Moderator guy said and we haven't even reached Thursday yet. Mind you, I'm not complaining – it's simply the way it normally works.

We are a group of sinners in a fallen world; so, let's not take ourselves too seriously here. Yes, we face serious issues and we should be seriously concerned about the welfare of others. We also should be intentional about seeking first God's kingdom and his righteousness. But it's only when the purposes of God are being manifested in us that we bring anything of any value to the table of life. But, whenever Christ's Spirit is directing our thoughts and actions – well, that's what it's all about, isn't it – now that's the time to take someone seriously!

Think of the things you carried with you to this Synod meeting, and I don't mean your luggage! I mean those things which occupy your mind, especially the issues of people that carry strong emotional attachments. It's not as if you can delete them at the touch of a key. Or, let's say you were all revved up about attending Synod and looking forward to seeing another pastor you hadn't talked to in months. No sooner do you arrive than you receive the news that your friend was in a car accident the day before and won't be here. We bring all manner of thoughts into this meeting place this morning – such is the plight of Christian leaders, both pastors and elders, especially those who take their vows seriously.

However, before the press of duties you thought had been left behind begins to crowd your thoughts, or the general state of your tiredness shuts off the words of this speaker, I would like to invade the pattern of your thoughts for a few minutes, if you will allow me.

Today, you won't be hearing a list of my views on matters of importance and direction from our Church. Lord willing, there are plenty of opportunities for that already scheduled over the next twelve months – be they Presbytery meetings, or Board meetings of our agencies, or Synod committees or commissions and the list goes on.

However, I can have all manner of legitimate, grandiose plans in place for our future and miss God's agenda for us as a Church today. As well, we can attend these remaining days of Synod with a mindset focusing on the accomplishments of past glory days within our Church. Or, we can come here with conviction that the failures of our denomination leave little room for bright tomorrows.

But, for this hour I want to be straight up with you and talk man-to-man right now about a matter that pushes our attention to the present state of things. It's only a single specific challenge to put before you. Nevertheless, if confronted immediately and thoroughly, it holds enormously positive repercussions for our denomination – even for the Church of Christ at large. Please receive these words as if we are the only two people left in this auditorium, and we're having a heart-to-heart conversation.

By now most of you are aware that the theme I have chosen for these next twelve months is "The Indispensable Word." Fewer of you know the Scripture passage supporting this theme from Deuteronomy 8:3, "...Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." You are probably aware that Jesus used this same verse in response to Satan's initial temptation in His wilderness experience.

The issue at hand is straightforward: What is your response to a verse like this, and for that matter what is your response to such a theme as the Indispensable Word? The issue at stake is the church of Christ – more particularly the ARP Church and its health, viability and future.

Before addressing your response, let's take note of Christ's emphatic statement on this subject as we find it recorded in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in truth; Thy word is truth." Let me emphasize these words by repeating what Jesus said, "Sanctify them in truth; Thy word is truth."

Tragic is the fact that the world most often is oblivious to what God's Word has to offer. Certainly, the unregenerate cannot grasp the significance of Scripture's power to affect the human condition. More tragic still are believers in Christ who by their actions appear to disavow the need for Scripture. Now this is the tragedy of the ages.

Matthew Henry comments on John 17:17 in this way: "That this word of truth should be the outward and ordinary means of our sanctification; not of itself, for then it would always sanctify, but as the instrument which the Spirit commonly uses in beginning and carrying on the good work; it is the seed of the new birth (I Peter 1:23) and the food of the new life (I Peter 2:1-2)."

The challenge for this hour and the challenge to be acted on today is responding to the truth of coming under God's Word as authoritative for your life on a day to day basis. In fact I don't think you can separate the two – if the Word is authoritative over all of life, you must depend on its direction for each day of your life.

We ARP's, and many other Presbyterian bodies for that matter, like to pride ourselves on being Reformed. With that distinction made, we say we believe in the authority of God's Word over our Church as a whole, and over us as individuals. The reformers called it Sola Scriptura. However, unless we see the need daily for God's truth, I think we make a mockery of our claim that Holy Scripture has ultimate authority over us.

Isn't this the truth being conveyed by Jesus in Deuteronomy 8:3? In that gruesome wilderness experience He recites those Old Testament words in direct response to Satan. Here is His statement: "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

God's Word has no less power for living each day than food has power for living each day. We like to think that reading the Bible every Sunday during worship and at home on Wednesdays and Fridays is enough for us. That would be like saying eating a well balanced meal every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday is enough to sustain me for the week. Jesus doesn't have to spell it out for us. He doesn't have to explain what would happen to our bodies if we limited our eating to three days out of every seven. No, Jesus chooses to say it this way: "It is written. 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Like the wordly, all of us instantly know how important food is to the point that we must eat it at least twice every day to be healthy and productive. Why doesn't the Church recognize the importance of Scripture to the point that its members must feed on it at least twice every day to be healthy and productive? Let that sink in for a moment.

I know there are exceptions. I'm not a minister, but in this case I hope I'm preaching to the choir! Thank the Lord, many of you present here today and certain members of your congregation live by the Word. You as a believer have decided to read and meditate upon it daily, and by so doing you have placed yourselves under God's authority and direction for your life.

But what of those within your local fellowship who have little or no understanding about meditating on the Word of God daily?

Your easiest response would be directing them to a specific study technique, or read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year outline, or even recommending some good devotional books. Typically, that is the first suggestion we make. There are literally thousands of those types of materials easily accessible to most Christians.

But responding with this kind of information addresses only the “how to’s.” If the solution was that straightforward, almost every member of every church in America would already be into the Bible daily. Please don’t misunderstand me, we need these “how to” tools and they should be utilized, but first things first.

Unless the believer understands why it is absolutely indispensable for living, he is tempted to view the daily reading of Scripture as just another legalistic exercise. Once it’s completed, he checks it off the list for the day and feels good about himself. Without the “why” question answered first, the “how to’s” rule the day.

I’m suggesting an approach which would challenge the person with verses like Deuteronomy 8:3. While preaching is absolutely necessary to move this agenda forward, we will need to do more. A concerted effort will be needed to show the absolute necessity of digesting Scripture every day. Prayer will be needed for a mighty moving of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts and minds of God’s people to this end. Start with the elders and deacons. Do not assume that all of them view Scripture as authoritative over all that occurs each day.

I want to encourage the time spent in your home for any number of family activities making use of Holy Scripture. But there must be enough time carved out of your schedule every 24 hours to be alone with the Lord – just the two of you – in prayer and in the Word. Begin every moment spent in the Word with an honest plea that the Spirit would enable you to receive and apply His Word to be changed from the inside out.

Imagine the traction gained for revitalizing our local fellowships, if every member was reading daily from the same Book (and that’s Book with a capital “B”).

I pledge, Lord willing, to devote as much of my energies as possible over the next twelve months to encouraging elders and pastors to take up this challenge. The goal is for every church member, especially those who worship regularly on Sundays, to be feeding on God’s Word under the Spirit’s guidance every day of the week. For those here already doing it, I’m counting on you to help challenge and encourage others to do the same. I need your ideas on ways to make this happen.

We all know prayer is essential to our walking with the Lord. But we all need to believe that Bible reading and studying is no less essential. Both are daily activities.

My longing is to see the daily transforming power of God’s Word taking hold in the lives of every ARP man and woman. May we take advantage of every opportunity to make good on this challenge. I pray for the present spark of overwhelming dependency on God’s Word to become a wildfire sweeping across our denomination.

No doubt that God would be pleased to bless such an endeavor. He has made the Bible so readily available to us, especially in America. May God give us the grace to make use of it during every day He has given. It is absolutely indispensable.

Moderator Query introduced members of his family to the Synod.

Moderator Query introduced the Vice-Moderator, William Marsh, to the Synod.

Vice-Moderator Marsh presented the proposed program for the 2008 meeting of the General Synod. The program was adopted.

Moderator Query made his appointments to the Moderator's Committees and called for official reports for reference to the Committees.

Synod recessed for the morning break.

Moderator Query made the following introductions to the Synod: John Lutz, Synod's technician; Earl Linderman leader of the Psalm singing; Gabe Statom, organist; Dr. Joung Sook Nahm, interpreter.

Pages: Andrew Goodman (First Presbytery), Micah and Josiah Rentschler (Tennessee Alabama Presbytery).

Ministers who have been received or ordained since the last meeting of the General Synod:

Canadian Presbytery: Fariborz Khandani. **Catawba Presbytery:** Robert Malcolm Ferguson, William A. Fitzhenry, Matthew T. Mantooth, Mark J. Miller, Christopher M. Parnell, Gary H. Stiltner, Jr. **First Presbytery:** Terry Crahen, John Currid, Paul Mulner, Duck Eun Park, Brian Phillips, Frank M. Reich, Terrence Schultz, Roger N. Wiles. **Florida Presbytery:** Kent Adrian, Wyatt H. Folds, Jr., Tim Wohlers. **Mississippi Valley Presbytery:** Moises Chan. **Northeast Presbytery:** Jack A. Van Dyk. **Pacific Presbytery:** Geom Nam Lee, Kyung Sae Lee, Tae Woong Yoo. **Second Presbytery:** Robert Anderson, Timothy L. Brooks, James E. (Rhett) Carson, Craig D. Wieberdink. **Tennessee Alabama Presbytery:** None. **Virginia Presbytery:** None

New Missions and/or Congregations Which Have Joined the ARP Family Since the Last Meeting of the General Synod: **Canadian Presbytery:** None; **Catawba Presbytery:** Faith Fellowship ARP Church, Spring TX 77379-7396; **First Presbytery:** Grace Community ARP Church, Lucama NC 27851; Covenant of Grace ARP Church, Winston-Salem NC 27103; Mustardseed Korean ARPC, Charlotte NC 28226; **Florida Presbytery:** SonLife Church, Jacksonville FL 32246; **Mississippi Valley Presbytery:** French Camp Presbyterian Church, French Camp MS 39745; **Northeast Presbytery:** Christian Center Ministries, Alexandria VA 22310; The Joyful Church of New York, Fresh Meadows NY 11365-2018; Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Severn

MD; Yae Dam Presbyterian Church, Flushing NY 11354-5048

Pacific Presbytery: Jesus Tree Presbyterian Church, Great Neck NY 11021-4813; Future Vision Presbyterian Church, Flushing NY 11358; Jang Dae Yun Presbyterian Church, Woodside NY 11377-3347; Vision Blind Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles CA 90006; **Second Presbytery:** Clemson Korean Presbyterian Church, Clemson SC 29631; **Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery:** None; **Virginia Presbytery:** None

Seminary and Special Students Under Care of Presbytery. (See Appendix)

Mark Ross led in prayer for the students.

Brent Turner, Executive Director of Christian Education, led in prayer for retired Coordinator of General Synod, Dr. Wilfred Bellamy. The Moderator spoke to the service of Dr. Bellamy and directed that the following be included in the minutes:

**RECOGNITION OF WILFRED A. BELLAMY
COORDINATOR OF SYNOD**

Dr. Wilfred A. Bellamy has served our denomination as Coordinator for the past six years. Prior to joining our denomination in 1995, he had eventful careers in business, the pastorate, and as a missionary with the Sudan United Mission in Nigeria, Africa.

Unique gifts and experiences have made Dr. Bellamy an invaluable source of information, counsel, and direction for our denomination during his tenure as Coordinator. He has pushed and prodded us to advance the Kingdom of God through the ARP Church – and to do it efficiently, firmly, and as he would say, “with alacrity.”

Recognizing that Dr. Bellamy’s first desire is to see the Gospel proclaimed in all its richness and fullness, and in thanksgiving for his work as Coordinator, a donation has been made by Synod in his honor to Erskine Theological Seminary to be used for the assistance of a student from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

Guy H. Smith presented the General Synod’s recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries, recognizing those who have retired since the 2007 meeting of Synod: James McLurkin, John Little, Don and Debbie Schwencer and Ed Hogan.

Frank van Dalen, on behalf of World Witness, presented plaques to Don and Debbie Schwencer and Ron and Pam Brunson in recognition of their service to the work of Synod in witness to the world.

The Principal Clerk introduced Chaplain Ed Brogan, Chair of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel, who spoke to the General Synod on behalf of the Chaplains of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and offered prayer for our chaplains and their work.

Special prayer for the chaplains and the missionaries of our church was offered by Chuck Wilson.

Martin L. Taylor presented the **Recommended 2009 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was adopted.

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF SYNOD'S UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

AGENCY	Approved for 2008	Requested for 2009	Recommended for 2009
Boards and Agencies			
Central Services	\$ 220,148	\$ 271,933	\$ 271,933
Benefits	\$ 6,795	\$ 6,795	\$ 6,795
ARP Center Facility	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Executive Board & Con.	\$ 152,122	\$ 161,680	\$ 106,680
The ARP	\$ 104,941	\$ 111,903	\$ 107,000
Stewardship	\$ 50,166	\$ 17,575	\$ 17,500
Commission & Committees			
Ecclesiastical Com.	\$ 0.00	\$	\$ 0.00
Historical Concerns	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Inter-Church Relations	\$ 17,661	\$ 25,230	\$ 17,900
Investment Committee	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,500
Lay Ministry	\$ 20,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 20,300
Minister & His Work	\$ 14,384	\$ 18,000	\$ 14,600
Nominations	\$ 3,829	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000
Theological & Social Con.	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Worship	\$ 21,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 21,000
Sub-Total for Non-Program	\$ 629,546	\$ 695,116	\$ 607,208
Bonclarken	\$ 151,840	\$ 154,877	\$ 153,560
Christian Educ. Ministries	\$ 222,192	\$ 271,446	\$ 255,000
Dunlap	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Erskine	\$ 616,613	\$ 640,000	\$ 623,596
ARP Student Union	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
ONA Operations	\$ 716,000	\$ 737,480	\$ 724,109
World Witness	\$ 716,000	\$ 716,000	\$ 724,109
Program Sub-Total	\$ 2,423,145	\$ 2,520,303	\$ 2,480,873
TOTALS	\$ 3,052,691	\$ 3,215,419	\$ 3,088,081

John D. Cook presented the report of the Special Committee on Strategic Planning. The report was received as information.

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning Committee was formed following the 2007 Meeting of General Synod and was given the charge, "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."

The Strategic Planning Committee members are: Dr. John D. Cook (Chairman), Mr. Brad Anderson, Mr. Adam Bloom, Dr. William Evans, Rev. Bob Illman, Rev. Wayne Frazier, Dr. Peggy Gray, Rev. Ken Lotze, Mr. Steve Maye, Dr. Ron Mahurin, Dr. Mark Ross, and Dr. Jack Whytock. The Moderator of Synod, the Coordinator of Synod, and the Director of Central Services were named as advisory members.

The Committee has met four times as a group and once as subcommittees. A great deal of discussion has been generated, and ideas are being shared. The Committee recognizes the magnitude of the task that has been set before it and requests the continued prayers of the General Synod.

The committee has decided to engage a professional consultant to lead us in the process of Strategic Planning mapping so that it might have a better framework to use as it seeks to formulate a variety of information and accomplish its mission. An organization has been enthusiastically referred to us, and we are in process of discussions at this time.

The Committee requests the permission of Synod to continue for another year.

Respectfully Submitted,
John D. Cook
Chairman

The Principal Clerk made a brief oral report from the Special Committee on Organization.

Wayne Frazier offered special prayer for the Committees on Strategic Planning, Form of Government Revision, and Organization.

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

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

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

The Committee has renewed its efforts to complete the self-study which began approximately two years ago. A special meeting will be held at Bonclarken on September 5 & 6 for that purpose. The desire of the Committee is to find ways beyond the conference ministry to reach the laymen of our denomination with effective tools for doing ministry within the local congregation.

The Laity in Action Conference will be held at Bonclarken on July 11 & 12. Co-sponsored by the Committee on Lay Ministry and the Alliance of Loyal Laity, this conference is a family event and includes child-care and a children's program. Dr. John Currid of Reformed Theological Seminary and pastor of the Ballantyne ARP Church will be the keynote speaker. This two-day conference is cost efficient and should particularly appeal to those

within a one to three hour driving distance of Bonclarken. As a summer weekend conference, it does not interfere with work schedules or school terms.

Two awards are presented annually by the Committee at the Laity in Action Conference. The Onesimus Award is given to a layman who has exhibited himself/herself to be a slave for Christ both within and outside the local congregation. Last year's Onesimus Award was presented to Mr. Jimmy Matthews of the Tirzah Church, York, SC. The Barnabas Award is given to a church which shows itself to be an encourager to other churches through its unique ministry. The 2007 Barnabas Award was given to The Bridge, Simpsonville, SC.

The Family Bible Conference will be held on July 21-24 at Bonclarken. Dr. Ligon Duncan and Dr. Sinclair Ferguson will be the keynote speakers. The speaking schedule will be somewhat altered this year in order to accommodate the schedule of the speakers. The theme for the conference is "The Glorious Church." The Annual Meeting of ARP Women's Ministries will be held on July 21. Mrs. Susan Hunt will be the featured speaker at the meeting. Various seminars are scheduled throughout the week to address Women's Ministries and family concerns.

The Rev. Morrie Lawing serves as the Synod appointed Director of the Family Bible Conference through 2009. The Rev. Greg Hamer is the Assistant Director. Mr. John Barron serves as Treasurer of the Conference.

The Committee feels there is a strong need for the Cornerstone (Young Adult Conference) which has not been held now in three years, because of the lack of a conference director. If you have a suggestion for this position, please forward it to Tom Patterson (tpatterson@arpsynod.org).

A unique program is offered through the Lay Ministry Committee to provide work teams to assist congregations with various tasks (such as painting, building construction, landscaping, literature distribution, etc.). Volunteers furnish their own transportation and bring their own tools. Meals, lodging, and supplies are provided by the church or agency needing the help. Contact Tom Patterson if you have a need for a Work Team.

Some limited funding is provided through our budget to assist presbyteries, clusters of congregations, and individual congregations who desire to sponsor teaching and training events for laymen on a more local level. You may make application for these funds through the Director of Lay Ministry. The Korean churches in First Presbytery held a spiritual conference/retreat at Bonclarken over the Labor Day Weekend last September which was partially financed by these funds.

Officers for the coming year are Ronald McKnight – Chairman; Sue Roberson – Vice Chairman; and John Lutz – Secretary. Tom Patterson continues to serve as Director of Lay Ministry.

Recommendations to Synod

1. That sessions and pastors promote attendance at the Laity in Action Conference, the Family Bible Conference, and the Cornerstone Conference.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. That the retreat and conference ministries of the ARP Church be given proper promotion within each congregation.
 6. 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.
 7. That the Budget for 2009 be approved as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Laity in Action Conference | \$ 5,000 |
| Family Bible Conference | \$12,000 |
| Area Laity Workshops | \$ 1,000 |
| Cornerstone Conference | \$ 2,000 |
| Director of Lay Ministry | \$ 4,000 |
| Cooperative Work with A.L.L. | \$ 3,000 |
| Committee Expense | <u>\$ 6,000</u> |
| Total | \$33,000 |

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Burrell, Chairman

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The membership of the Committee on Minister and His Work encompasses the Chairman of each presbytery's Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work, the Chairman of each presbytery's Committee 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 the Executive Director of Central Services serve as advisory members. The Committee recognizes the passing of former Chairman Bill Roberts and gives thanks to God for his life.

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 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.

At the request of the Committee, General Synod’s Web site provides a list of those congregations seeking a pastor. Churches are listed for a particular presbytery by the Presbytery Chairman. For a current listing, visit the site at www.arpchurch.org. It is incumbent upon the Presbytery Chairman to keep the office of Central Services updated on changes and openings.

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 will be on file at the ARP Center. Representatives on the Council are Reverend Ronald Beard (as Principal Clerk), Reverend R. J. Gore (2008), Reverend James Ryan (2009), and Mr. Terry Wallace (2010).

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

Synod’s Committee on Minister and His Work is responsible, “to assist the minister in areas of his work so long as it does not usurp the authority and responsibility of the presbytery” (*Manual of Authority and Duties*, 2007, p. 85, Duty 6). In the report submitted to the 203rd meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church this committee underscored the importance of the issue of “preventive maintenance” for ARP ministers and its growing commitment to provide encouragement, resources, and assistance to the presbyteries and ministers of the denomination. The following report is offered as an example of such a commitment.

Pastoral Care for Pastors

The work of the pastor is a glorious work and blessing. To labor in the word, to administer the sacraments, to be devoted to a life of prayer, to shepherd God’s people, to live and share the Gospel, truly is a high and holy calling. Nevertheless, it is not without its struggles and the pastor is not without need for pastoral care himself. Who is responsible for pastoral care of pastors? Do our ministers need regular, on-going pastoral care? If so what might that care entail? Unfortunately these are vital questions that we seldom ask and thus seldom seek to answer. Too often our thoughts are not oriented in this direction until a presbytery’s Minister and His Work Committee is called in to help handle a serious problem. The concept of preventive maintenance for machines is considered wise stewardship. Would that we were wiser in our dealings with those of far greater worth and value than automobiles – shepherds of God’s people.

Matters of Polity

When one of our laymen is asked, “*To which church do you belong?*” they can give the name of their local congregation. If we ask our ministers that same question, what will their answer be? Our *Form of Government* indicates that in our practice, an ARP minister is a member of a presbytery. It would seem that certain questions should at least be asked: *Is a presbytery a congregation of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ? If we somehow can conceive of it as both a court of the Church and a congregation, then does it faithfully function as the*

latter? For laymen being a member of a local ARP congregation entitles a person to holy rights and privileges. These privileges include being able to sit under a ministry of Word and Sacrament and the pastoral care entailed in such ministry. Do our ministers have these same privileges? Can such privileges be conceived of within the typical ebb and flow of presbytery life and work? If our presbyteries are to serve as real congregations, then what kind of structural changes should be made to enable them to fulfill pastoral care? Such questions are far from academic. In a time when our Synod has undertaken the important task of revising our *Form of Government*, might it not be wise for that work to include careful consideration of these very questions?

Ministerial Need

Deitrich Bonhoeffer once wrote:

Everyone who cares for the soul needs a person who will care for his or her soul. Only one who has been under spiritual care is able to exercise spiritual care.

That insight seems all the more obvious when you survey pastors. Consider the following statistics gleaned from one such survey:¹

- 80% believe that pastoral ministry is affecting their family negatively
- 33% say that being in ministry is clearly a hazard to their family
- 75% have reported a significant crisis due to stress at least once every five years in their ministry
- 50% feel unable to meet the needs of the job
- 90% feel they were not adequately trained to cope with the ministry demands placed upon them
- 40% report having a serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month
- 37% have been involved in inappropriate sexual behavior with someone in the church

Such views could easily be multiplied. The demands of ministry are immense, and great damage can readily occur to a man, his family, his congregation and his ministry. There will certainly be times in which a presbytery has to deal with conflicts and problems that arise despite great efforts to provide faithful and loving pastoral care for her ministers. Nevertheless, such preventive care could very well obviate the need for much of the sort of end of the line steps of remediation that a presbytery has to sometimes take. The earlier that wise and God-honoring maintenance measures or shepherding steps are implemented the more preventive we are likely to become, and the more likely our bodies will prove effective and faithful in fulfilling our pastoral responsibilities.

1 A survey by the Fuller Institute of Church Growth as reported in work by Wes Roberts entitled, *Support Your Local Pastor*, (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995) p. 19. Although the survey is dated, the information gleaned from it is still relevant.

When one begins seriously considering the very real need for pastoral care, the scope of the task grows. New ministers need orientation to pastoral life help. Young ministers could benefit from the wisdom of a seasoned and caring ministerial mentor. On-going, regular pastoral shepherding is needed for all. Ministers need the protections afforded through implemented sexual harassment and sexual misconduct policies. Frequent questions of calling in the face of ministerial challenges and desire for guidance on considering other ministerial calls are commonplace. Training in and counsel about financial matters is often needed. Time management and scheduling are issues with many. Physical and mental health should not be ignored. The list is easily lengthened upon further reflection.

Measures Recommended

1. That the committee on the revision of the Form of Government consider the issue of ministerial membership as it relates to pastoral care and the responsibilities of presbyteries and that the committee work in conjunction with Synod's committees on Theological & Social Concerns and Minister & His Work as needed.
2. That presbyteries be encouraged to evaluate their meeting structure with an eye to providing better fellowship and care to ministers.
3. That presbyteries be encouraged to evaluate their manuals of procedures in regard to the responsibility to provide faithful pastoral care to their ministerial members.
4. That examples of such changes to presbytery structure and procedures be shared with the Synod through the Synod's Committee on Minister & His Work.
5. That a page on the current ARP Web site or a separate site be made to provide pastoral care resources (articles, links, discussion lists, etc.) to presbyteries and ministers and that the Synod's Committee on Minister & His Work be tasked with its oversight and content.
6. That presbyteries consider implementing mentoring relationships between qualified members and new ministers.
7. That the Board of Benefits be encouraged to explore the feasibility of requiring annual physical exams for ministers and the possibility of such exams being a covered expense under Synod's insurance program.
8. That Bonclarken be encouraged to seek ways to provide reduced rates for ministers needing periodic personal time away from their local ministry.
9. That presbyteries be encouraged to direct their ministers to take all of the vacation time provided for in their calls each year, and to encourage Sessions to ensure that their minister(s) use their annual vacation time.
10. That presbyteries be encouraged to direct their clerks to amend the annual *Information Form for Presbytery* to include a check box for annual vacation taken.

11. That presbyteries encourage sessions to encourage ministers to take regular days off.
12. That presbytery committees be encouraged to develop and maintain lists of qualified counselors to which ministers in need can be referred and that presbyteries be encouraged to consider including finances for such counsel as a part of their annual budget.
13. That such contacts be shared with other presbyteries through Synod's Committee on Minister & His Work.
14. That presbyteries be encouraged to consider including annual shepherding visits with individual ministers as a part of the duties of presbytery Minister and His Work committees.
15. That the Synod's Committee hold a workshop for its members to discuss possible means by which to implement shepherding visits and to develop a uniform questionnaire to be used in such visits.
16. That the Synod's Committee and Erskine Seminary work closely together in the planning and provision of continuing education opportunities with pastoral care of ministers in view.
17. That presbyteries be encouraged to work closely with approved seminaries within their geographical bounds in the planning and provision of continuing education opportunities with pastoral care of ministers in view.
18. That presbyteries consider ways to make financial counsel and training pertinent to a minister's needs and available on a recurring basis.
19. That Synod's Minister and His Work Committee hold an annual retreat for its members. The purpose of the retreat would be to discuss and identify pastoral care issues, to devise means by which to address such issues, and to orient and assist both new and experienced presbytery committee chairmen with the pastoral care aspect of the work of the committees.
20. That presbyteries encourage their ministers to develop and maintain structures and relationships which will provide personal and regular accountability.

B. 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.

C. 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 March and the last Monday and Tuesday in September. The program begins with dinner

(6:00 PM on Monday) and concludes at 4:00 PM on Tuesday. Spouses are invited, and the General Synod will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for those participating in the orientation program.

D. 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. 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 2009.

	<u>2009</u>
Committee Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,500
General Office	750
Presbyterian Council	<u>9,000</u>
	<u>\$ 12,250</u>

Miscellaneous Items

A. The Committee encourages presbyteries to ensure that mentors/sponsors of students of theology take seriously their responsibilities to candidates for their spiritual and pastoral development.

B. Officers for 2008 - 2009:

Chairman: John Cook

Vice-Chairman: David Lauten

Secretary: Fred Carr

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

C. Meeting Dates for 2008 - 2009: The Committee will meet in conjunction with the Board of Benefits. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates: November 5 - 6, 2008 and April 15 - 16, 2009.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries be encouraged to review the 20 recommendations listed in the body of this report under "Preventive Maintenance" and to communicate back to Synod's Committee on Minister and His Work any concerns and suggestions that may have bearing on them.
2. 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.
3. That presbyteries require ministers to attend the General Synod orientation program early in their pastoral ministry.
4. That presbyteries that have not yet done so develop a program to encourage their congregations to incorporate the annual review of the minister's call into an annual ministry review.
5. That appreciation be expressed to the Presbyterian Council for the work it does on behalf of chaplains and military personnel.
6. That the Synod pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our military and institutional chaplains.
7. That presbyteries that have not yet done so adopt policy statements on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.
8. That the budget for 2009 be approved.
9. That all other actions of the Committee as reported herein be affirmed.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Cook, Chairman

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The Committee on Worship is laboring diligently to fulfill the revised purpose and list of duties approved by General Synod in 2005. The committee is equally balanced with representatives from the field of music, theology or clergy, and members-at-large to address the full range of assigned worship activities and topics:

- The 2007 Music Conference was attended by 425 conferees, and the conference was not only well-attended but also praised as a very helpful, uplifting, and meaningful experience for those who participated. Plans for the July 13-18, 2008 conference have been

finalized (see budget), and plans continue for a 50th Anniversary Music Conference in 2011.

- The committee will offer the first Mid-Winter Music Workshop for choir directors and organists this winter in Florida.
- The committee has prepared a revised list of recommended psalters and hymnals which are compatible with the belief and practices of the Synod, and continues to evaluate the new resources available
- The committee is working with Erskine College and Seminary to offer a psalmody conference at Erskine on February 26-27, 2009 entitled, "Where are the Psalms? The State of Congregational Psalm Singing after Fifty Years of Renewal." An impressive list of very capable speakers includes Mark Ross, Robert Bell, John Witvliet of Calvin College, Terry Johnson of Independent Presbyterian in Savannah, and Hal Hopson. The conference will be particularly helpful to pastors, elders, musicians, worship directors, seminarians, and worship and music instructors.
- The committee is continuing to research useful and appropriate worship-related materials to make available on the ARPworship.org Web site, including Bible Songs and the Scottish Psalter.
- The committee has prepared a short printable booklet on the Lord's Day, which is also available on the Web site.
- The committee continues to research ways to assist music and worship in the small churches within our denomination. Dr. Gabriel Statom is distributing a collection of Psalm recordings with a booklet this year toward this end.
- The committee is providing a list of resources for private and family worship on the Web site, ARPworship.org, and preparing a brochure to encourage and direct the practice of family worship.
- The committee will continue to sponsor an afternoon session on a worship topic at the Family Bible Conference in 2008.
- And finally, the committee is preparing to carry on the work of the Moderator's Special Committee on Worship by educating churches about the new Worship Directory pending its approval by Synod. The committee plans to assist in the education of ministers, elders, and laymen together with Christian Education Committees.

The committee is open to ways of encouraging and promoting the singing of Psalms among the churches in the Synod. It continues to welcome proposals for projects to be funded by the Jean McFall White Memorial Fund, which was established for the promotion and encouragement of congregational Psalm singing.

Recommendations

The Committee on Worship makes the following recommendations:

1. That the 2009 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.
2. That the revised list of "Hymnals and Psalters" be approved.

For the Committee,
Rev. David Vance, Chairman

**SYNOD'S WORSHIP COMMITTEE
2009 PROPOSED BUDGET**

EXPENSES	2008 Budget	2009 Proposed
Worship Committee		
Committee Travel/Room & Board	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Telephone/Postage	275.00	275.00
Committee Meeting Expenses	200.00	200.00
Lord's Day Alliance	350.00	350.00
Mid-Winter Music/Worship		
Workshop	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL (Worship Committee)	\$ 5,825.00	\$ 5,825.00
<i>Bonclarken Music Conference</i>		
Clinicians 1 @ \$2000, 5 @ \$1500	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
Accompanists 5 @ 500	2,500.00	2,500.00
Conference Directors 3 @ 500	1,500.00	1,500.00
Organist 1 @ 500	500.00	500.00
Recreation Leader 1 @ 200	200.00	200.00
Recreation Supplies	300.00	300.00
Craft Leaders 2 @ 200	400.00	400.00
Craft Supplies	600.00	600.00
Night Activities	1,250.00	1,250.00
Night Activity Director	200.00	200.00
Worship Leaders 3 @ 300	900.00	300.00
Children's Church/Nibble Nook		
Music	1,500.00	1,500.00
Child Care	900.00	900.00
Staff Travel	6,000.00	6,240.00
Staff Food/Lodging	15,599.00	16,223.00
Counselor Honorariums 30 @ 100	3,000.00	3,000.00
Music for Conference	6,500.00	6,500.00
Conference Recording	500.00	500.00
Printing/Mailing	3,500.00	4,000.00
Telephone	500.00	500.00
Conference Fee (Bonclarken)	27,000.00	29,000.00
Nurses 2 @ 200	400.00	400.00
T-Shirts	4500.00	4,500.00
Piano Tuning	400.00	400.00
Organ Rental/Piano Rental	1,500.00	1,500.00
Contingency/Equipment Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL (Bonclarken Music Conf.)	\$ 91,649.00	\$ 94,413.00
<i>Worship Committee</i>	\$ 5,825.00	\$ 5,825.00

<i>Bonclarken Music Conference</i>	91,649.00	94,413.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 97,474.00	\$ 100,238.00
INCOME		
<i>Gifts, Conference Registrations</i>	\$ 65,500.00	\$ 67,500.00
<i>Synod Supplement</i>	31,974.00	32,738.00
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	\$ 97,474.00	\$ 100,238.00

Recommended Psalters and Hymnals

Revised 2008

Bible Songs – This book was published in 1930 by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Originally designed to be a supplement to the original *Psalter*, it contains a selection of metrical Psalms set largely to music in a gospel-hymn style. This well-loved and Synod-endorsed Psalter is the only one still in print by the ARP Church, and it contains settings of all 150 Psalms, either in part or in entirety. There is also a section of responsive readings. The singing of the Psalms is a Biblically-warranted practice which has long been an integral part of our heritage and is strongly encouraged.

The Book of Psalms for Singing – This book was published in 1973 by Crown and Covenant Publishers and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. It is a popular option for those seeking a traditional psalms-only collection. Four-part musical settings are provided for each psalm, with a second option provided for many entries. Some of the translations are older, some newer and strive toward a close rendering of the original.

Trinity Psalter: Words-Only Edition – There are no musical settings in this words-only Psalter, taken from *The Book of Psalms for Singing*. Its purpose is to provide a complete Psalter that is smaller in size and less expensive than the full-sized Psalter from which it is taken. Each psalm is included with only one setting, with the appropriate meter inscribed below. One appropriate tune is suggested, but the music is not included. One nice feature is the introductory information about how to sing metrical psalms.

Psalter Hymnal – This book was published in 1987 by CRC Publications in association with the Christian Reformed Church. The collection begins with a single setting for each Psalm, the texts of which are mostly new efforts. Then follow 86 Scriptural songs which are taken from the whole scope of the Bible, using both traditional and contemporary musical settings. There are then 384 traditional hymns, spirituals, and contemporary choruses. It is especially rich in traditional Psalter tunes. A Doctrinal Standards section contains the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort.

Trinity Hymnal – This book was published in 1961 by Great Commission Publications in association with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. It contains 662 traditional hymn and Psalm settings, a collection of gospel-

styled songs for “informal occasions,” a selection of musical responses, and the complete Westminster Shorter Catechism and Confession of Faith. There is a strong inclusion of hymns from the Reformation period.

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

Rejoice in the Lord – This book was published in 1985 by Eerdmans Publishing Company in association with the Reformed Church in America. It was edited by Erik Routley, a well-known Englishman and Professor of Church Music at Westminster Choir College, and contains many of his tunes and arrangements. It focuses primarily on material from the Reformation and the modern day. There are many new texts and tunes, and the book’s subtitle is “A Hymn Companion to the Scriptures.” It contains a Psalter selection with 63 entries and 561 other hymns organized thematically around the persons of the Trinity. It does not have a service music section.

The Hymnbook – This book was published in 1955 by five Presbyterian-Reformed denominations, including the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. There is a standard collection of traditional hymns with a strong emphasis on Psalter selections and Psalm paraphrases. It has a thorough selection of varied hymns and service music available up to its publication date and good indexes.

The Report of the **Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs** was presented and received as information.

REPORT OF ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION ON JUDICIARY AFFAIRS

The 2007 General Synod charged the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs as follows:

“...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” (*Minutes of the 2007 Meeting of the General Synod*, p. 132).

At the time of Synod’s charge, the primary issue in dispute appeared to be between Pacific Presbytery and members, and officials thereof, and Reverend Joseph I. Paek. The Ecclesiastical Commission convened at the ARP Center in Greenville, South Carolina on July 18, 2007. After considerable discussion as to how best to undertake its charge, the Ecclesiastical Commission

determined to pursue two courses of action:

First, the Commission requested that Pacific Presbytery furnish the Commission with documentation of all its proceedings relative to the issue between the Presbytery and Reverend Joseph I. Paek.

Second, the Commission consulted with the moderator regarding the wisdom of seeking consultation with individuals involved in order to determine if a peaceable and amicable solution was possible.

The documents received as a result of the request of the Ecclesiastical Commission were received in untranslated Korean. Efforts were made to find a source to translate them into English, but the cost estimates were extraordinary. Before a desirable result at consultation could be reached, matters of discord that had developed in Pacific Presbytery involving Reverend Paek appeared to have spread beyond the bounds of Pacific Presbytery and may have involved other matters. Because the matters appeared to have extended beyond the scope of the charge of Synod to the Ecclesiastical Commission, the Executive Board was requested to determine whether the Ecclesiastical Commission should attempt to proceed or if it should be relieved of further responsibility in the matter for the present time.

The Executive Board determined that due to the expanded scope of this matter and because Pacific Presbytery presented to the Executive Board official translated documents reflecting that official action had since been taken by Pacific Presbytery, the Ecclesiastical Commission should be excused and relieved of further responsibility for actions in the matter at present.

Respectfully submitted,
 Monterey Campbell, Chairman
 Ecclesiastical Commission on
 Judiciary Affairs

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 22, 2008 at the ARP Center in Greenville, South Carolina. World Witness Director Frank van Dalen was present and gave an overview of the work of World Witness with special emphasis on the work with our sister synods in Mexico and Pakistan.

Sister Synods

Mexico. Our relationship with the Mexican Synod (IPAR) continues to improve. The Mexican delegates were warmly received by Synod last year, and we have continued to have discussions on areas of common work and concerns. Rev. Van Dalen reported that Rev. Boyce Wilson is now serving as

the Ministry and Strategy Coordinator for World Witness concerning World Witness missionaries and the ARP Synod of Mexico (IPAR). On February 20-27 Boyce Wilson and Frank Van Dalen visited the Synod of Mexico (IPAR) during their meeting and brought fraternal greetings from our Synod through a letter from our committee.

Pakistan. We are all troubled by the political turmoil in Pakistan. Rev. Van Dalen reported to us the situation of our missionaries. Four of the ten ARP schools in Pakistan will be returned to the ARP in the summer of 2008. This will be a significant opportunity for children's ministry. Rev. Gary Letchworth is scheduled to bring greetings from our Synod to the meeting of the Synod of Pakistan.

Ecumenical Organizations:

The ARP is now a member of three ecumenical organizations: 1) The International Conference of Reformed Churches (**ICRC**) which will be meeting next in New Zealand in 2009. Our own Rev. Frank Van Dalen is scheduled to be a speaker at this meeting. 2) The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (**NAPARC**), which met in Newark, NJ in November 2007, hosted by the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (**KPAC**). Representing the ARP at the meeting were Moderator Charles Edgar and Kyle E. Sims. The council's statement on women in the military has not been adopted by enough member synods to pass and will remain open for one more year. The Heritage Reformed Congregations (**HRC**) were received into the membership of NAPARC. The Presbyterian Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Church have both applied for membership in NAPARC.

The Presbyterian Reformed Church was formed on November 17, 1965, by two congregations in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Each congregation had been established by Scottish and Irish Presbyterians about eighty years before. The creation of the presbytery took place largely at the instigation of John Murray, Professor of Systematic Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, who had a long relationship with the two founding congregations. Murray composed the proposals leading to the union, and also the constitution which served as the Basis of Union.

The subscription by church officers to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms is understood to require a strict adherence to the teachings of these standards. More information on the PRC can be found at <http://www.presbyterianreformed.org>.

The Canadian Reformed Church was founded in April 1950. This church holds to the Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and Canons of Dort). They have about 50 local congregations. Information on the Canadian Reformed Church can be found at <http://www.canrc.org>.

Our ICR Committee intends to bring a motion to the 2009 Synod concerning

the reception of these two bodies into NAPARC, to allow our Synod more time to become acquainted with them.

3) Last year Synod voted to apply for membership in the World Reformed Fellowship. The next meeting of the WRF will be in Edinburgh in 2010. Information on the WRF can be found at <http://www.wrfnet.org>.

Relationship with NAPARC –

The ICR Committee wants to remind Synod of the nature of our NAPARC relations. NAPARC declares its basis to be a:

“fellowship that enables the constituent churches to advise, counsel, and cooperate in various matters with one another and hold out before each other the desirability and need for organic union of churches that are of like faith and practice.” (from the Basis)

The first part of this basis has always been a valuable part of our relationship with the NAPARC churches. Our original understanding of NAPARC’s function is reflected in the 1981 Inter-Church Relations Report to Synod in which it states:

“NAPARC is a forum for information-exchange, consultation, and cooperation among its member Churches...All its actions and decisions are advisory only.” (*Minutes of ARP General Synod*, 1981, pg. 443)

The latter part of the basis of the fellowship regards holding before us “the desirability and need for organic union of churches that are of like faith and practice.” Because of our unique theological, governmental, historical and geographical issues, we are not actively pursuing organic union with any other body at this time.

Over the past several years we have been taking purposeful steps to get better acquainted with the RPCNA and to pursue a relationship whereby we can better serve our Lord Jesus together. This will be dealt with later in this report.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

North American Churches in fraternal Fellowship with the ARPC are the Korean-American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and the Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA). In 2007 at the various assemblies/synods, the ARP was represented by the following: Marty Taylor (EPC), Charles Clendenin (RPCNA), Kyle E. Sims (PCA and URC), and Tom Shoger (OPC).

CRCNA. The committee once again raised concerns with the CRCNA. Our planned meeting with the officials from the CRCNA never came to fruition due to changes of leadership in the ARP ICRC. The committee reaffirmed its previous desire to meet with a delegation of the CRCNA.

This meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2008. The ARP delegates will be Vice-Moderator Michael Evans and Chairman Kyle E. Sims.

RPCNA. We rejoice that we have continued to grow closer to our brothers in the Covenanter Church. Since 2005 we have had several meetings with their ICR committee and have had an exchange of preachers and speakers at our synods. We think it is time to give more definition to our actions and relations together, while still recognizing and respecting our various distinctives. To this end, the Inter-Church Relations committee is requesting permission from Synod to meet with an RPCNA delegation to formulate an agreement of cooperation as we did with the EPC. We think that this will allow us to work more closely with this sister denomination and enjoy a greater fellowship with them to the glory of Christ.

Churches in Fraternal Correspondence

We are in fraternal correspondence with the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC), and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA). Our main active relationship with these three communions is through our chaplaincy endorsing agency, the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Sent in 2008

The following ARP delegates/representatives are scheduled to be sent to our sister synods: PCA (Moderator - Gordon Query), EPC (Tom Shoger), RPCNA (Peter Kemeny) NAPARC (Kyle E. Sims, Tom Shoger, Moderator Gordon Query, and the Moderator-Elect)

Letters of Fraternal Greetings will be sent to the Synods of Pakistan and Mexico.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Invited in 2008

Delegates/representatives will be invited to our General Synod meeting from the PCA, EPC, OPC, RPCNA, and the Synod of Pakistan.

New Perspective/Federal Vision

Many of our sister denominations have commissioned and adopted papers concerning the New Perspective on Paul and Federal Vision theology. Since there has been so much work done on this issue, we think another full paper is not necessary. We request the moderator to appoint the Theological and Social Concerns Committee to write a concise position statement on the New Perspective/ Federal Vision theology.

We also encourage presbyteries to become familiar with this issue, especially when receiving ministers from other denominations. Information on this issue can be found on the Web sites of the OPC, PCA, RCUS, and URC.

OPC: <http://opc.org/GA/JustificationBook.pdf>

PCA: <http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/07-fvreport.html>

RCUS: http://www.rcus.org/main/pub_papers.asp (Federal Vision & New Perspective)

URC: <http://www.covenant-urc.org/urcna/SynodAgenda06.pdf> (Pg. 52 and following)

Sending and Inviting of Fraternal Delegates

While we are encouraged that the number of denominations with whom we have fraternal relations is growing, this has caused several problems with logistics, finances, and time constraints of our synod. The committee recommends to Synod a change in the Manual of Authorities and Duties that would delete the every year requirement that we have now for the PCA and the EPC.

Duty 3 (NOTE: Denominations approved are the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church [*fraternal delegates exchanged on an annual basis*], the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, the Presbyterian Church in America [*fraternal delegates exchanged on an annual basis*], the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and the Korean-American Presbyterian Church.) *Omit italicized phrases.*

This change would allow us to rotate through our fraternal churches: one year they would come to us and the next year we would go to them. This would give us proportional exposure to our sister churches while exercising good stewardship of our time and money. It would also give the Inter-Church Relations Committee the ability to invite delegates on an annual basis when warranted by current projects and discussions.

Presentation of the Delegates to NAPARC

The Committee on Inter-Church relations proposes the following changes to the Manual of Authorities and Duties:

Current Reading: Duties: 1. To present to the General Synod the name of a teaching or ruling elder for consideration as the at-large delegate to the annual meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (other delegates include the Moderator, Moderator-Elect (or their respective Vice-Moderators as alternates) and a representative of the Inter-Church Relations Committee); and to receive and review the report from NAPARC as well as from the delegates and disseminate information from these reports through the denominational magazine.

Proposed Reading (changes italicized): 1. *To present to the General Synod for approval the names of the ruling or teaching elder delegates to the annual meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (delegates to include the Moderator, Moderator-Elect or their respective Vice-Moderators*

as alternates); and to receive and review the report from NAPARC as well as from the delegates and disseminate information from these reports through the denominational magazine.

This change eliminates the verbiage of an “at-large delegate.” The committee feels that no one is more qualified to serve in this capacity at NAPARC than the Moderator and Moderator-Elect. This leaves the remaining delegates to come from the ICR Committee. Because of the nature of NAPARC, it is desirable to have a continuity of delegates with NAPARC experience. This change would ensure that takes place.

Miscellaneous

The committee also appointed several sub-committees to look into various issues concerning inter-church relations.

A letter expressing solidarity was sent to the East African Presbyterian Church. This church has experienced suffering due to unrest in the nation of Kenya.

The Committee thanks outgoing members John Dawson and Marty Taylor for their labors

Officers for 2008-2009

Chairman – Kyle E. Sims

Vice-Chairman – Tom Shoger

Secretary – Peter Kemeny

Proposed Budget for 2009

The committee approved the following budget:

	2008	2009
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

The committee requests a special allocation for \$6,500 for travel expenses to the ICRC meeting in New Zealand.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed Committee 2009 Budget be approved.
2. That Synod give permission to the committee to meet with an RPCNA delegation to formulate an agreement of cooperation.
3. That Synod request the moderator to appoint the Theological and Social Concerns Committee to write a concise position statement on the New Perspective/Federal Vision theology.
4. That Synod amend the Manual of Authorities and Duties for the

Committee on Inter-Church Relations Duty 1 to read:

Duty 1. To present to the General Synod for approval the names of the ruling or teaching elder delegates to the annual meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (delegates to include the Moderator, Moderator-Elect or their respective Vice-Moderators as alternates); and to receive and review the report from NAPARC as well as from the delegates and disseminate information from these reports through the denominational magazine.

5. That Synod amend the Manual of Authorities and Duties for the committee on the Inter-Church Relations Duty 3 to read:

Duty 3... (NOTE: Denominations approved are the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, the Presbyterian Church in America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Christian Reformed Church in North America, and the Korean-American Presbyterian Church.)

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

Respectfully submitted

Kyle E. Sims, Chairman

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

REPORT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee is responsible for oversight of various investments of the General Synod. Committee members receive quarterly reports from investment managers and consultants for review, and the committee meets periodically with the consultants.

The Committee is continuing to develop guidelines and policies for future operations and has begun to implement the specific duties assigned to it. The committee will meet quarterly in 2008-2009 with two conference calls and two physical meetings.

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 Investment Committee, at the request of the Board of Benefits, has received reports from the consultant and meets with him on a periodic basis to evaluate the performance of the funds. The fund value at 12/31/2007 was \$42,863,082. The chairman of the Board of Benefits Retirement Committee

meets with the Investment Committee in an advisory role.

(2) Endowments and Endowment-type Funds. These are individual accounts belonging to churches, presbyteries, and individual restricted funds of agencies of the General Synod. Each account is invested to meet the risk profile of the fund. At 12/31/2007 these funds were valued at \$10,489,474. Representatives of entities with funds invested under the oversight of the committee are invited to participate in an advisory capacity.

(3) 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 \$585,378 in value at 12/31/2007. The balance in the Gift Annuity Fund was \$161,818 at 12/31/07.

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 committee completed an intensive review of its investment consultants in the summer of 2007. As a result of that review, the committee chose to retain Deutsche Bank to oversee the retirement plan assets and chose to move the endowment and endowment-type funds to Smith Barney.

With the Smith Barney relationship, the funds will have access to separately managed accounts in addition to mutual funds. The combined value of our accounts will allow us to access investment managers in some asset classes that typically have high minimum investments (such as \$1 million). Each account will continue to receive monthly statements and quarterly performance reports as it does today and online access will be available. The total expenses associated with this new relationship are less than we were paying with our previous provider.

The Investment Committee believes that this new set-up will provide additional value to each of our accounts and will do so in a less costly manner. We also believe that this provides a good investment vehicle for local churches and agencies. The combined value of all our accounts allows us access to managers we could not use individually and also allows us to lower our expenses.

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 their missions. 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.) In 2007, Outreach North America chose to consolidate its funds under the Investment Committee's oversight.

The committee expresses its appreciation to Terry Wallace for his service the last few years during this transition.

Recommendations

The committee makes the following recommendations:

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 Investment Committee be granted \$2,500 for committee travel and expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cruce, Chairman

Following announcements, John Hopkins closed the morning business session with prayer and the blessing for the meal.

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Following an organ prelude at 6:30 P.M. by Gabriel Statom , and a Scripture reading and prayer by William Marsh, the evening worship service was led by John Van Eyk. A closing prayer was offered by Craig Wilkes.

David Griffin escorted Sue Roberson, President of the ARP Women's Ministries, to the podium. Mrs. Roberson presented her President's Address to the General Synod. A Motion carried to print the address in the *Minutes*.

THE ARP WOMEN'S MINISTRIES – PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS SUE E. ROBERSON, PRESIDENT

Mr. Moderator, Members of the Court, and Friends, it is an honor and a privilege to speak to you this evening. As President of the ARP Women's Ministries, I am sharing with you what our Lord has been doing within our organization during this past year. We are truly "an organization which encourages and equips the community of ARP women to minister together for God's glory and purpose."

It is hard to realize that I am nearing completion of my first year as "over-seer" of this Godly women's organization. I look back in amazement at what has been, and what is yet to come within this group of Christ-centered and

dedicated women. For those of us who have lived through the “transition” years, beginning in 2004, from WSU to ARP Women’s Ministries, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that our Lord was, and is, in control of our “Vision” to be.

Recently, a Pastor from a church in North Carolina called me to ask for some guidelines to help his local Women’s Ministries. After we introduced ourselves, he asked me: “So, you are the one who is in charge of bringing about all the new changes, aren’t you?” I laughed and responded that I hoped to do so for the continued benefit of the Women’s Ministries. Then, I proceeded to direct him to contact the First Presbyterian President for all the help that he needed, since she is, geographically, much closer to his church than I am in West Tennessee.

This incident made me think about that term of reference – “change.” We have heard this word bandied about during all the recent national political hoopla. It has become a new “by-word” for seemingly, “political correctness.” Yet, we as Christians know that “change” is a very necessary ingredient to becoming a “new creation” in Christ, as an individual, and as a church organization.

It also reminded me of a time in 1972, when I was one of the chaperones for my church youth group who went to Dallas, Texas, for the Campus Crusade for Christ Youth Conference. Billy Graham was the keynote speaker, along with Josh McDowell and other well-known Christian speakers of that time. My eldest daughter was in the group who went, and we learned a new word to live by as a Christian – “flexible.” That word was a constant reminder each day, as we moved among the thousands of young people to eat, sleep, learn, and evangelize. We were in amazement that everyone got along without pushing and shoving, or losing tempers. It was like the Holy Spirit was really “in-charge.” We really learned what it meant to “be flexible” – to “go with the flow” at times – but also, to bend and adapt to your surroundings at that point in time and essence.

Is this not also what we have been called to do by our Lord in today’s world? Yes, change is important, but to be flexible is as equally important in order to follow what the purpose of the Lord is in our individual lives, as well as the life of our church. I have learned that, as a Christian called by Jesus, I must be willing and able to change and be flexible, otherwise, my testimony before others will not ring true, and I will no longer be useful for God’s purpose in my life, or the life of my church.

Recently, Dr. Peggy Gray, Vice President of ARP Women’s Ministries, spoke of the WM as she said: “This is a new day – a new Organization that can have tremendous influence into General Synod.” We are continuing our new relationship as an integrated ministry of the ARP Church. Dr. Wilfred Bellamy, former Coordinator of Synod, counseled with us in this past year

about a truth that the women of the ARP Church need to be aware of: in our ARP denomination, we are over 20,000 women strong—a force to be reckoned with. How then shall we minister to our women to become this “integrated ministry” within our denomination? This is the question that our Executive Board has been seeking to answer during this year.

I have no doubt in my heart and mind that every woman who is serving on our current Board is a lady of beauty and strength, a Godly woman especially chosen by God to be a part of what His plan is for the WM. We are women of prayer, dedicated to God’s purposes, and for His glory and honor. We have come a long way in our “transition” which began in 2004, and we are looking forward to continuing to nurture our “new name” as Women’s Ministries, as we become more and more a “new nature.”

Last June, in 2007, with the commissioning of our WM Administrator, Elizabeth Burns, we were taking a giant step forward in becoming our “new nature.” I thank God for His bringing Elizabeth into our fold. She has already helped us in so many ways to broaden our horizons, and to truly seek God’s will for our Ministry to ARP Women. Again, Dr. Bellamy counseled with us to encourage Elizabeth to become more active within the Synod and its agencies. He initiated an invitation for Elizabeth to attend the “New Ministers Orientation” in March. She addressed these men with greetings from the ARPWM and an offer of help for their churches women’s groups if they needed it. We hope that this will be a yearly occurrence, and a beginning of a new relationship between new ministers and the ARP WM.

This past year has also been a busy one for Elizabeth. She has started a monthly “Newsletter” to all the Presbyterial/Presbytery Reps as well as being available and willing to travel to churches and Presbyteries to offer WM training, Bible Study and speaking at retreats. Since she is still new at her job, she is beginning to settle into a schedule and routine that is comfortable for her and her many talents.

Our Executive Committee has encouraged Elizabeth to look at her role as Administrator, and to review the “Vision and Purposes” of the WM, and see where adjustment need to be made in her “Job Description.” It is great to have a “stated plan,” but it is even better to be flexible (there’s that word again) enough that we can change details to fit a more workable job description. Elizabeth has described four areas that she believes should be her focus for this year, and maybe into next year:

At the Synod level: assisting in the integration of the WM into General Synod by being a liaison person between Synod’s agencies and the WM; and to continue writing articles in the ARP Magazine.

At the Presbyterial/Presbytery Level: mentoring Presidents and Reps as needed; implementing the “Purposes” of the WM; encouraging spiritual enrichment of the women; provide training where needed; and to encourage

a closer relationship between each Presbyterial and the Presbytery.

At the Local Level: providing continuity of the Philosophy, Vision and Purposes of the ARPWM to each local WM; communicating with the local Presidents and contacts; relating to local church Sessions and Ministers; establishing a closer connection of local WM to their Presbyterials; and to aid in developing new local WM with the Presbyterial Presidents and Reps.

At the WM Board Level: The Administrator is accountable to the ARPWM Board as she conducts WM business, and represents the Board's Purposes throughout the ARP Church. She serves as an advisor to the Board, maintaining a close relationship with the WM Officers, seeking their guidance and keeping them informed of her activities, observations, and recommendations.

This is a tall order for one person to work with. However, knowing Elizabeth's background, and her heart for Christ, we know that she has been "called" by our Lord to this purpose. We hope to enjoy a long and fruitful relationship with Elizabeth – for no matter who may be elected WM President in the future – the Administrator will continue to be here, providing the glue to hold the ARPWM together.

This past year has been one of growth and "settling-in" for our new identity as an integrated entity of General Synod. As President, I have become more integrated into areas of the ARP Church that, heretofore, were only names of the agencies of Synod. My experience on Committees and Boards has educated me, and helped me to understand the inner workings of our denomination. To witness decision making and strategic planning has given me insights to the needs within our different agencies. It has also awakened within me a need to encourage the women within our church to be more willing to serve on the different boards and committees throughout our denomination.

The reports from our nine active Presbyterial Presidents and Reps have indicated that there is a new "sense of freedom" and genuine fellowship among our ARP women. Our Local church women are beginning to catch this wave of enthusiasm for ownership, and have continued reorganizing their WM to really meet the needs of their women. They have embraced the freedom to "think outside the box," and try new ways for meeting the needs of their women. Basically, the Bible Study and fellowship has not changed – these are still a top priority. Also, our women remain loyal to hosting congregational fellowship meals; the Jubilee Birthday celebration for our two Jubilee Birthday Ladies; and our yearly Prayer Emphasis. More recently, we have been seeing an increase in encouragement to have more Presbyterial retreats, inviting women from all areas of the Presbyteries to attend.

We still have the problems inherent to demographic and population changes, even in attempts to revitalize our local congregations. Many churches have downsized till they no longer have enough active women to hold WM offices. Some of our Presbyterials have made adjustments in their terms for officers;

and because of the size and distances in the confines of the Presbytery, women have been appointed to be "contact persons" for Regions, or Areas, within the geographic location. This helps with the communication within the Presbyterials, and fosters a more personal fellowship. Overall, I can report that our Presbyterials are healthy, vibrant, and in touch with the WM, making changes and becoming flexible to needs of the ARP women.

Looking towards the future is an exciting endeavor! For the first time, in these past few months, we have truly become 21st Century, electronically connected Christian women! The Executive Board has experienced a "Chat Room," and realized a new energy for progress in the WM. Dorothy Hutelmyer, President of 1st Presbyterial, introduced us to this "computer reality" at our March Board Meeting. One of the new areas in ministry that we are investigating is in the planning and implementation of an ARP Women's Ministries Conference. All this came about through suggestions from last year's Family Bible Conference report, and the Lay Ministry Committee meeting in February. I understand that the Christian Education Ministries may have had some viable input to fuel the discussions. So, I brought the matter before the Executive Committee and Board in March to discuss the feasibility of such an idea. With the encouragement of Coordinator Dr. Bellamy, we agreed to investigate the idea of a WM Conference. I asked all of our women who were present at the meeting to pray and think about this possibility, and I stated that I would initiate a "chat room" on Sunday afternoon, April 27th, for all who were interested in this new venture. The "chat room" was a success. We decided upon a beginning committee of seven ladies, to be known as the WM Conference Committee. Administrator Elizabeth Burns agreed to be our coordinator, who will contact the committee and either have a phone conference, or meet in body to discuss initial plans. I am delighted to report that the WM Conference Committee is now a "work-in-progress!" The women are excited about the challenge, and the prospect of planning such an endeavor. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Our most recent challenge, which has been in "incubation" for a number of years, has been to establish an ARP WM Web site. Even though we have had a "page" on the Synod Web site at the Central Services in Greenville, SC, there has been no one to oversee it and keep it updated. I have had a few inquiries through e-mails and phone calls, requesting information that was supposedly on that ARP WM page. Our Executive Board has established that one of our goals for 2008 is to pursue the development of a Web site for the WM. Elizabeth has investigated the possibility by talking to Juan Carlos Bonilla, who keeps the Synod Web site up-to-date. Mr. Bonilla has been very helpful and informative about what it will take to get "arpwm.org" ready for us to use. We are excited about this as one more step into the technology of the 21st Century to be used for God's purposes in the WM.

Another “change” that we are anticipating for our new year is in revising the way in which we elect the ARP WM President. We have been struggling with this idea for a few years – finding it harder each year to find a nominee who will devote four years of her life as Vice President/President for two years/then VP again. Dr. Peggy Gray, our current VP, has recommended that our Constitution be changed from a four-year term to a three-year term. The nominee for VP would serve one year; move up to President for one year; and the third year she will act as Past President, non-voting Advisor to the Executive Board. This proposed amendment was approved by the Board in March, and will be voted on at this July Annual Meeting. Then it will be overtured to the Presbyterials to be voted on at their annual meetings.

A two-thirds majority is required for adoption, and at the July 2009 Annual Meeting the Delegates shall certify the final vote.

One of the reasons that we feel the necessity for this change is to encourage younger women to accept roles of leadership at the Executive Board level. Some of our Presbyterials have already moved in this direction, and are reaping the benefits of a more diverse and younger group of women willing to accept a leadership role.

We are well on our way, encouraging our women to broaden their horizons in the access of information and resources. We need to explore ways to integrate more with Synod’s agencies. We have extended an invitation to all the ARP agencies to take part in the WM Showcase on July 22nd, at the Family Bible Conference. This Showcase is a way in which we can better educate others about the denominational agencies, as well as the ARP WM Board Officers, Chairman, and Presbyterials.

In 2005, part of our “vision” was to develop a WM “Resource Center.” It would be so designed as to be helpful to all women in the ARP Church. A place where they could go for any type of written material, tapes, videos/DVDs, Biblical maps, etc., whatever their need might be. Well, we already have the Synod agencies – Christian Education Ministries; ONA; World Witness, etc. What more do we need? As Eileen Avera, Witness and Outreach Chairman, said to us at our March Board Meeting:

“If the wheel is already there, don’t waste time re-creating it again!” She speaks truth to us in that we need to think “outside the box,” and be open to the Holy Spirit to lead us through prayer for ways that we can utilize the help of our different agencies for the resources that are needed.

Last October, I was approached after the Erskine Board meeting by another member of the Board with a plea for the WM to help support a new Women’s Intern to help the Chaplain at Erskine to meet the needs of young women students. I promised that I would take it to the WM Board and we would see what the Lord would have us to do. Our Budget was already set for the year, and there were no extra monies available. After discussion and prayer, our

Executive Committee drafted a statement that we would help raise support for the new Intern, and the Board agreed. I wrote to all of the Presbyterial Presidents and Reps, and included a "support letter" from the new Intern, Hannah Casey. This became our "Hannah Casey Project." I knew in my heart that our ARP women would respond to the need. Hannah Casey, 2007 Erskine graduate, was able to raise all the support that she needed for the Spring Semester, and began her internship in January. I have invited her to attend our annual meeting in July, so that she can meet our women. I also asked her to write a short report for us about her work with the women students. She graciously accepted, and it will be in the July ARP magazine. I share this with you to remind us all that God will meet our needs as He has promised in Philippians 4:19.

Looking at our history as ARP women, we have always had a heart for our missions – home and foreign. A top priority in our Annual Budget is our Jubilee Birthday Ladies, Judi Hodges and Judy Buis. The last that I heard from Judy Buis, she was on her way to Ireland across the North Sea to take courses in CEF to be certified as a teacher in Europe. I am sure all is well with her, or we would have heard something about it. Judi Hodges serves as a missionary in Germany.

Our approved Budget for 2008-2009 will show you where our women's hearts are—we have again designated \$46,000 for our Jubilee Birthday Ladies. The ladies of the Home Mission Service of 1818, and the "Ladies Missionary Society" of 1871, I am sure, would be greatly pleased to know that the ARP WM in 2008 still honor and support our missions. We have also designated \$9000 in our Budget to our Retired Missionaries, who will receive their "Love Gifts" in December. This is truly a labor of love for those who have served our Lord and the ARP Church so faithfully through the years.

In the coming year of 2008-2009, we will finally arrive at the place that we had projected we would be in 2004. No longer do we collect and disburse monies to our agencies. Through these years we have encouraged our women to support the ARP agencies through their local churches; WM/WOC's; or to give directly through the Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings. This is finally happening. Change is not always easy, but the outcome is proving to be beneficial to all concerned.

This year our Bible Study has been on the life of Joseph. Our study book has been View from the Top: Studies in the Life of Joseph, by Wallace Tinsley, Jr. Our theme verse has been, Genesis 48:4b: "I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give you this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you."

Joseph's father, Jacob, says these words to Joseph after they are reunited in Egypt. This was just before Jacob blessed Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. It is a clear statement of God's promise to Jacob – as He had

promised Abraham and Isaac before him. It is a statement of promise to us also in the 21st Century. Did not God allow our ARP ancestors to follow a call to go west in search of a land where they could worship God in freedom? May we be ever grateful to those covenanters for faithful and committed lives lived for Christ alone.

Members of the Court and Friends, you have been a great audience. Thank you for allowing me to come and share with you my report from the ARP WM for the past year. I have great appreciation for all that you do in providing Godly leadership for the ARP Church. I want to thank Dr. Peggy Gray for the example that she has set for me to follow and the encouragement that she has given during this past year – not only for me, but also for all of our Board Members. I am humbly grateful to our Lord for blessing the ARPWM with women who have served us in the past – especially the 2004-2005 Task Force members who unselfishly gave of their time, talents, and prayers, as God directed them, to help us become “the community of ARP women” who “minister together for God’s glory and purpose.”

In closing, I leave you with this one thought: “I can do everything through Him (Jesus) who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 – AMEN.

On behalf of the Inter-Church Relations Committee, Kyle Sims presented the Fraternal Delegates to the Synod. The Rev. Dr. Don Fortson represented the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Mr. Ian Wise represented the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America. The Reading Clerk read a communication from the Presbyterian Church in America. Kyle Sims led the Synod in prayer.

The Report of the **Moderator’s Committee on Stewardship** was presented. The **Moderator’s Committee on Stewardship** recommended the adoption of Recommendations 1-4 of the Board report. The committee recommended that recommendation #5 not be adopted.

In addition, the committee recommended

6. That all other actions as therein reported be sustained except expending Board of Stewardship reserves to cover Synod operating budget shortfall for 2009.
7. Moderator’s Committee recommends that the Board of Stewardship reserves be held until the General Synod can review a specific job description that ensures that the functions intended to be accomplished by the Stewardship Counselor position are in fact accomplished.
8. That the General Synod thank the Board of Stewardship for their diligence and hard work this past year.
9. That the General Synod pause and pray for the financial

needs of the denomination.

Recommendations 1-4 of the Board of Stewardship were adopted as well as the additional recommendations by the Moderator's Committee. Recommendation 5 of the Board of Stewardship Report was not adopted.

Neal Mathias led in the Synod in prayer for the financial needs of the denomination.

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Introduction

Encouraging the practice of biblical stewardship. This is the challenge and opportunity before the Board of Stewardship ("Board") as it seeks to fulfill the duties granted by General Synod. It is the Board's desire that members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church understand that our call to be faithful stewards is a call upon every area of our lives. We are called to be faithful in the administration of our time, talents, our daily lives, as well as in the administration of our tithes and offerings.

Authority and Duties

The present Board is the result of a 2004 merger of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation") and the Board of Stewardship that was in existence at the time. The Foundation continues to exist as the legal entity for holding assets contributed to the General Synod. Members of the Board serve as directors of the Foundation. Members of Synod's Investment Committee serve as investment advisors for the Board.

The Board has been granted 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; to present to the General Synod a recommended allocation of those resources; to receive, maintain, and administer funds given to the General Synod and/or the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc.; and to expend income for the furtherance of the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The duties currently reflected in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* represent five areas of responsibility: promotion, fiduciary responsibilities, gathering financial resources, allocation of resources, and developing stewards.

1. Promotion

Duty 1. To promote the general ministries and programs of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Board seeks to be an advocate for the ministries and programs approved by General Synod, working alongside these ministries and programs in an impartial manner to assist them in achieving their goals.

2. Fiduciary Responsibilities

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 reli-

gious, charitable, literary, scientific and educational purposes and for no other purposes.

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.

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 exemption status.

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.

Operating under the oversight of the Executive Board of Synod, the Office of Central Services provides accounting for all agencies of the General Synod, with the exception of Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness. Procedures are in place for expenditures of funds, and requests for expenditures must have the approval of the agency director. Either the Treasurer of Synod or the Executive Director of Central Services approves checks before payments are made. Restricted and designated fund descriptions are maintained, and the Executive Director of Central Services is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that funds are made available for expenditure in accordance with the governing documentation.

The Board sets 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 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.

An annual independent audit covers the funds of General Synod and funds administered on behalf of its agencies. The Board selects the auditor and receives and reviews the audit, which is also submitted to the General Synod with the official report, given to agencies of General Synod, and made available on the Synod Web site: www.arpchurch.org.

The Finance Committee of the Board serves as the Audit Committee and is authorized (1) to receive and review audit reports for all entities audited, and (2) to select the audit firm to recommend for use by all agencies. While the Audit Committee does not see a need to change the relationships established by Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness, each agency is expected to submit a copy of its audit to General Synod with the agency's official report to Synod. These audits and any management letter and other pertinent information should be submitted to the Finance Committee for review.

The independent firm of Ron Millard, CPA, PA is conducting the December 31, 2007 audit. The scope of the audit includes the books of the Treasurer of Synod, the ARP Foundation's custodial funds, the ARP Foundation's gift annuity funds, and Outreach North America's revolving loan funds.

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 primary program by which funds are secured is the Denominational Ministry Fund. In 2007, the Board surveyed presbyteries to determine if there was a need to change the method by which these funds are raised. No compelling reasons to change the current structure and method were identified. The only general solicitation for operating funds is through the special offerings at Easter and Thanksgiving.

Duty 9. (First part). To solicit and accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, purchase or otherwise [financial resources].

The Board will be working to re-establish effective programs by which such resources may be solicited and accepted.

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 Synod's unrestricted income. The Board invites representatives of Bonclarken, Christian Education Ministries, Erskine, Outreach North America, and World Witness to review their requests with the Board at its Spring meeting. The Board has maintained relatively consistent allocations from year-to-year, making minor adjustments as necessary to address individual agency needs.

While it is not a duty, the Board is granted permission by General Synod to review the approved allocations and to make changes if the anticipated funds, based on Denominational Ministry Fund pledges, fail to meet the approved allocations. Additionally, the Board is granted permission to make recommendations for additional allocations if the funding exceeds expectations.

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.

The Board, at its Fall 2007 meeting, voted to suspend the search for a Stewardship Counselor, pending the results of the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. The chairman of the Board was named to the Strategic Planning Committee.

At its Spring 2008 meeting, the Board asked Christian Education Ministries to undertake the responsibility for developing resources for the teaching of Biblical Stewardship throughout the denomination. The Board will provide financial assistance in 2009 for Christian Education Ministries to assume this ongoing responsibility.

Allocation of General Synod's Unrestricted Funds

At its Spring meeting each year, the Board reviews projected revenues for the current calendar year. If the expected funds exceed the allocations approved at the prior meeting of the General Synod, the Board considers additional funding requests from the program agencies (Bonclarken, Christian Education Ministries, Outreach North America, and World Witness) and makes recommendations to General Synod for additional allocations. When expected funds fall below the amount approved for allocation, the Board must make adjustments to the allocations.

Funding for 2008 & 2009

This year, we do not expect funds to be sufficient for the Board to make additional allocations in 2008.

The Synod has set a target for its reserves at 6.5% of available funds. Based on expenditures approved for the year by the 2007 General Synod and pledges for 2008, the Board anticipates the operating reserve will have a \$140,000 shortfall at year-end. The Board worked to reconcile this problem. Unused funds from the Executive Board were designated to offset the 2008 shortfall. Additional unused Stewardship reserves are being held for 2009 to cover the remainder of the shortfall and to raise the reserves to 7.6% of available funds. The board believes that over the next few years the reserve should be raised to 8.3% of available funds.

The Board's recommended allocations are presented separately as "Allocations for Synod's Unrestricted Income." Based on information available at the time of the Spring meeting, the Board projected income of \$3,061,038 from only 214 of 282 churches, which represents only about 75% of our congregations.

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

The Board encourages presbyteries to review their procedures for monitoring and encouraging the reporting of statistical data by their churches.

Agencies are reminded that the 2005 General Synod approved a motion which included a provision that "except for Erskine College, 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.)" (2005 *Minutes of Synod*, p. 170, item 7)

Boards and committees requesting allocations from General Synod's unrestricted funds for 2010 are expected to follow procedures approved by General Synod.

Denominational Ministry Fund

General Synod has established that the Denominational Ministry Fund is **the primary means** for Associate Reformed Presbyterians to channel financial resources for denominational ministry and witness. All churches, therefore, are encouraged to give to the fund, thereby providing funding for the allocations approved by General Synod. The Board expresses gratitude to those churches which have reported their intentions to participate in this vital part of our ministry.

The goal, established by General Synod, is for each church to give 20% of its unrestricted tithes and offerings. Churches that are unable to give 20% are asked to give at least 10%--a tithe of the tithe. Churches that cannot give at least 10% are encouraged to increase their giving by one percent (1%) a year to reach the goal.

Statistical Data re: Denominational Ministry Fund

Of the 281 churches listed on the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church roster at the beginning of 2008, 108 had not submitted statistical reports at the time of this writing. Of those churches that had submitted reports, 94 increased their pledge to the Denominational Ministry Fund for 2009, 48 reflected no change in their pledges, and 32 had decreased the amount of their support.

Special Offerings

The results of the special offerings for the past five (5) years are reported as information. These figures reflect only monies received through the Treasurer of Synod and do not reflect gifts sent directly to agencies listed.

Easter Offering	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Stewardship Foundation	10,758	12,599	9,570	10,167	10,711
Bonclarken	16,377	15,705	12,578	13,574	14,346
Christian Educations					
Ministries	11,977	11,120	8,680	9,553	11,727
Erskine College	15,900	15,194	12,132	13,120	13,290
World Witness	23,181	24,597	19,905	23,063	25,734
Sub Total	78,193	79,215	62,865	69,476	75,808
Thanksgiving Offering					
Erskine Seminary	12,128	11,355	8,166	10,569	13,577
American Bible Society	7,609	8,143	5,329	7,947	7,292
Outreach North America	16,440	15,828	10,686	14,603	18,077
Christmas Ben. Fund	40,935	43,593	29,687	58,172	65,695
Sub-Total	77,112	78,919	53,868	91,291	104,641

Administrative Information

Board Actions

- Accepted the resignations of Board members Tony Berry and Gordon Fuqua.
- Authorized the Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc. to carry forward unused special allocation funds at the end of 2007 for use for promotions in 2008.
- Approved a new mileage reimbursement rate effective June 1, 2008. The new rate is equal to the prevailing IRS rate minus \$.05/mile.
- Elected new officers for 2008 – 2009:
 - Robert “Bob” Elliott, III – Chairman
 - Jeff Lipscomb – Vice-Chairman
 - David Walkup – Secretary
 - Mr. Guy H. “Chip” Smith, III serves as Treasurer. Paul Bell serves as Administrative Officer.
- Expressed appreciation to retiring Board member Martin Taylor and to retiring Coordinator of Synod, Wilfred Bellamy.

Meeting Dates

September 2008 – TBA

April 23 -24, 2009 – Bonclarken

Recommendations

1. That General Synod raise the minimum reserve level from 6.5% of available funds to 7.6%.
2. 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.
3. That the Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings be continued for 2009.
4. That the budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved.
5. That all other actions as herein reported be sustained.

Respectfully,

Martin L. Taylor, Chairman

**BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
OPERATING FUNDS**

	Revised Budget 2008	Proposed Budget 2009_
RECEIPTS		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 16,560	\$ 17,575
Miscellaneous Income		
Special Offering	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Transfers for Ministry	\$ 36,925	\$ 36,925
Adjustment for Transfer of Expenses		
Interest and Dividends	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Restricted Funds		
ARP Foundation Endowment		
Civil War Diaries (ARP Foundation End)		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 63,485	\$ 64,500
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board Travel & Expenses	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,650
ARP Foundation		
Board of Stewardship		
Staff Expense		
Administrative Support	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750
Insurance		
General Synod Audit & Legal	\$ 6,560	\$ 6,888
Other	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	\$ 36,925	\$ 36,925
New Member Subscriptions		
General Office	\$ 750	\$ 787
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 63,485	\$ 64,500

Receipts Over (Under)		
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Beginning Fund Reserve	\$ 192,000	\$ 192,000
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 192,000</u>	<u>\$ 192,000</u>

Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund
June 2008

Category	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Churches meeting goal of 20%	16	17	16	17	19
Churches giving 10% - 19%	43	48	NA	NA	NA
Giving percentage not determined	59	7	15	10	14
Remaining at same percentage	65	2	2	3	0
Increased percentage level	66	66	48	43	55
Increased by 1%	29	44	35	29	33
Decreased percentage level	58	46	69	73	64
Decreased giving but at 10% or above	15	20	19	25	12
Churches submitting report but no pledge recorded	52	41			
Churches who have not submitted reports at time of Meeting of Synod	44				

The Report of the Board of Christian Education Ministries was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Christian Education Ministries** recommended that recommendations 1 and 2 be approved.

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended that:

3. Prayer be offered requesting two more Vacation Bible School sites for the CEM Staff's Appalachian trip.
4. Prayer be offered for the CEM Staff.

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

Prayer was offered for the matters of recommendations 5 and 6 of the Moderator's Committee report.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES**

"Equipping the Saints"

Who would have thought just a few years ago, that a day would come when the elders and deacons of churches across the synod would get up on a Saturday morning and go to their local church to take part in a synod-wide training conference streamed live online? This would have been a dream in the past, but it became a reality on February 10, 2008. This meeting, in many ways, represented Christian Education Ministries' new focus to bring CE

training to the churches of the Synod utilizing means varying from one-on-one conversation to the powerful tools of the internet.

Christian Education should be a strong focus in every church, and it is the goal of Christian Education Ministries (CEM) to be a resource to the churches of the synod, no matter the size or zip (postal) code. We have been called to grow in God's Word and be thoroughly equipped. Just as the local church is dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of its people, CEM is dedicated to doing everything within our ability and scope of authority and resources to provide the local church with the expertise/training to teach effectively the truths of God's word. The board of Christian Education Ministries is excited about the future of Christian education in the ARP and the role that CEM is going to play in that future.

Organization:

Officers: Chairman – Bob Whittet,
Vice-Chairman Chad Reynolds,
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 12-13, 2008 and September 10 - 12, 2007 at Bonclarken Conference Center. An extra day was taken in September for vision and goal setting.

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 in the Manual of Authorities and Duties for Officers and Agencies (MAD) 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)

The board is looking to hire a "Director of Resources/Training" when funds are available.

Mrs. Marge Malone, Administrative Assistant, will officially retire as a full-time employee at the end of 2008. The board is hosting a special dinner in her honor during our September Board meeting.

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*) See budget at end of this report.

3. To initiate, develop, promote, coordinate, and evaluate comprehensive 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 initiated an Elder and Deacon Training Seminar held in Gastonia, NC on February 10th, 2008. Dr. Mark Ross, professor for Erskine Seminary, was the main speaker. Over three hundred people attended this event which was streamed over the Internet in order to broaden participation. This event was also video taped and made available for churches to use in their local congregations.
- The board approved the establishing of a new Senior High Curriculum to be used throughout the denomination. Mr. Alvin Sell, Bible teacher at Shannon Forest Christian School of Greenville, SC, and member at Redeemer ARP, is presently putting this material together.
- The board approved Dr. Dale Johnson, Erskine Seminary Professor, to begin working on a new literary project, which will capture the history and the heritage of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- CEM republished the work "We Believe and Teach" (a workbook of the beliefs and teachings of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) and has made the copies available for churches.

4. To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry. (*MAD 2006*)

- The board saw the need to modernize the graphic appearance of the ARP Quarterly and approved making those changes. We will continue to improve the visual appeal of this fine publication in hopes of better marketing the materials.
- CEM produced two new DVDs for training purposes in the local churches. (1) Elder – Deacon Training Seminar by Dr. Mark Ross (2) The History of Psalm Singing by Rev. J. Calvin Smith.
- The board is presently reviewing the Bible Way Curriculum as a suggested curriculum.
- The board sent Chairman Whittet and Executive Director Turner to represent CEM at a meeting of the board of Great Commission Publications as we explore the possibilities of a formal relationship.

Suggested Curriculum Resources

A wide variety of curriculum resource materials is 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 are best suited to the needs of the congregation. The following materials have been endorsed and recommended by the Board of Covenant Discipleship 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. <faithalivresources.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.

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 was encouraged by the continued strong attendance patterns.

Horizon Conference (Sr. High Conference) attendance—336

Quest Conference (Jr. High Conference) attendance—352

Camp Joy—3 full sessions with 120 campers and 122 counselors and 35 staff members

Appalachian Mission—402 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 79 in attendance

There were 105 who participated in the summer missions trip to Wales (co-sponsored by Christian Education Ministries and World Witness)

- The board re-established a Camp Joy planning team under the leadership of CEM's Director of Events.
- CEM is exploring the feasibility of holding conferences on a regional basis in various states across the synod. This matter will take considerable future study.

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 seeks opportunities to partner in programming.

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 other 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 will hold an Elder-Deacon training seminar early in 2009 in Florida.
 - CEM will promote Sunday school whenever possible.
 - 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 continues to add to its media library to help assist local churches.
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 currently is seeking better ways to assist Erskine College and Seminary and other colleges.
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 DCEs 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 the 2009 budget be approved.
2. CEM recommends that the duties for Christian Education Ministries as described in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* be amended as follows due to the restructuring of the organization.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

of the

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

(*2006 Minutes of Synod, p. 74*)

Membership:

At Large: Six members (*1997 Minutes of Synod*).
 Presbytery Representatives: One from each Presbytery, each of whom is usually the Chairman of the Presbytery Committee on Christian Education.
 Ex-officio: Representative from ARP Women's Ministries.
 Advisory: Chaplain of Erskine College; Professor of Christian Education, ETS; Executive Director of Christian Education Ministries; other Staff members of the Office of Christian Education Ministries, as determined by the

- Board; Moderator of Synod; Moderator-Elect of Synod; Coordinator of the General Synod; Representative of Board of Bonclarken. (1998 *Minutes of Synod*, p. 137)
- Terms of Service:** At Large: Six years. (1992 *Minutes of Synod*, p. 32)
Presbytery Representatives, Ex-officio, and Advisory:
As determined by the office to which elected or appointed.
- Stated Meetings:** At least two stated meetings per year.
- Organization:** Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary.
- Committees:** Executive Committee
Budget and Personnel Committee
Curriculum Committee
Youth and Family Committee
Christian Educator's Committee
- Administrative**
- Officer:** Executive Director of Christian Education Ministries
- 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.
- Duties:**
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~~.
 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.
 3. To initiate, develop, promote, coordinate, and evaluate comprehensive programs of Christian education for Synod, presbyteries, and congregations that will help to equip ~~adults, young people, and children~~ (the saints) for their ministries in the world. (Ephesians 4:12)
 4. To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry (i.e., Sunday School, catechism training, mid-week programming, Vacation Bible School, etc.).
 5. To ~~keep~~ (inform) Synod, presbyteries, pastors, sessions, DCE's, superintendents, and chairmen of local Christian education commit-

- tees (concerning trends and developments in Christian Education).
~~informed on developments in Christian education generally and to seek to win their cooperation in the denominational program~~
6. To develop and supervise a full program of camps, conferences, retreats, etc., and (when requested) to assist presbyteries in these areas.
 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.~~
 8. ~~To work with ARP Women's Ministries and presbyteries and, where desirable ;~~
 - (7) To cooperate with other Christian denominations in carrying out all phases of the teaching ministry.
 9. (8) 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.~~
 - ⌘ (c.) Assisting (,when requested,) in the development of congregational libraries(.) ~~and making available relevant resources for loan from the Office of Christian Education.~~
 - (d.) (Making available relevant media resources for loan or purchase from the office of Christian Education Ministries.)
 10. (9) ~~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. (To promote job opportunities for those who may be called into the ministry of Christian Education.)~~
 11. ~~To serve as a clearing house for persons available as Directors of Christian Education and for other specialized ministries within the ARP denomination.~~
 12. (10) To ~~secure~~ (collect) annual reports from congregations on ~~the~~ (their) teaching ministry (ies) and to make summary reports (available) to the General Synod and to Presbytery committees-~~(on the status of Christian Education Ministries in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.)~~
 13. (11) To make an annual report to the General Synod

Respectfully submitted,
 Bob Whittet, Chairman

**Proposed Budget
Christian Education Ministries**

Revenues	Revised 2008 Budget	Proposed 2009 Budget
Contributions for Ministry		
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 222,192	\$ 271,446
Easter Offering Allocation	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,330
Misc Contributions	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,635
Misc Contributions for Camp Joy	\$ 33,331	\$ 33,794
ARPWM Contributions	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,635
ARPWM Contributions for Camp Joy	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Gifts from Special Endowment Fund	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Interest Allocation	\$ 550	\$ 550
Misc Income	\$ 4,500	\$
Total Contributions for Ministry	<u>\$ 290,824</u>	<u>\$ 341,275</u>
Registration and Fees		
Conference Registration	\$ 213,155	\$ 213,155
Mission Trip Receipts	\$ 106,000	\$ 106,000
Camp Joy Registration	\$ 48,650	\$ 48,650
Total Registration and Fees	<u>\$ 367,805</u>	<u>\$ 367,805</u>
Sales & Subscriptions Adult		
Quarterly Income	\$ 46,000	\$ 47,380
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 704,629</u>	<u>\$ 756,460</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits		
Executive Director		
Salary	\$ 47,250	\$ 48,668
Housing Allowance	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,630
Social Security Allowances	\$ 5,344	\$ 5,500
Other Taxable Allowances	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Insurance	\$ 14,643	\$
Retirement	\$ 6,391	\$ 6,579
Total Executive Director	\$ 96,228	\$ 99,791
Other Salaries and Benefits	\$ 191,032	\$ 192,159
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$ 287,260	\$ 291,950
Staff Expenses	\$ 10,988	\$ 11,208
Board/Committee Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,690
Promotional Expenses	\$ 7,567	\$ 7,945
General Office		
Resources	\$ 5,971	\$ 6,270
Equipment	\$ 2,471	\$ 2,595
Communications	\$ 1,525	\$ 1,601
Rent	\$ 9,313	\$
Bonclarken Office	\$ 650	\$ 650
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 13,000	\$
Total General Office	<u>\$ 32,931</u>	<u>\$ 34,359</u>

Contingency	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Publications		
Adult Quarterly	\$ 29,082	\$
Adult Quarterly - Large Print	\$ 6,507	\$ 6,832
Adult Quarterly - Teacher	\$ 1,848	\$ 1,940
Other Publications	\$ 382	\$ 401
Total Publications	\$ 37,818	\$ 39,381
Total Ministry Disbursements	\$ 114	\$ 117
Conferences and Training	\$ 204,669	\$
Camp Joy Expenses	\$ 90,981	\$ 91,444
Short Term Mission Trips	\$ 76,713	\$ 77,074
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 764,042</u>	<u>\$ 774,032</u>
Income Less Expenses	\$ (59,413)	\$ (17,571)
Beginning Operating Fund Balance	<u>\$ 76,984</u>	<u>\$ 17,571</u>
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 17,571	\$

Alan Avera, Executive Director of Outreach North America, introduced Bob Illman who spoke to the Synod of some of the innovative outreach going on in his mission work in Huntsville AL.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Outreach North America** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Outreach North America** recommended the adoption of Recommendations 1-4 and 6-8 of the Board report. The committee recommended that recommendation #5 not be adopted.

The Moderator's Committee made an additional recommendation:

9. That the Director, Staff and Board of ONA be commended for their hard work on the documents covered in this report.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Introducing people in the United States and Canada to Jesus Christ by helping our presbyteries plant new churches and renew existing churches.

The Lord says through the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 (NIV): "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." The Board of Outreach North America affirmed at its fall meeting that 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 is a crucial passage for understanding our approach to Christian living, the nature of the Church, ministry in general, and with specific application to our approach to evangelism. We would encourage all delegates to Synod to have their sessions study what this passage teaches about our approach to Christian living, ministry, and evangelism.

This report will address how the Board of Outreach North America has fulfilled the assigned duties of the Board as set forth in Synod's *Manual of Authorities and Duties (MAD)*. But first, having reviewed the duties assigned to the Board, we request that Synod revise the Outreach North America section of the *MAD*. This revision reflects the more strategic and less programmatic approach that we believe Outreach North America needs to take. It also reflects the duties and priorities included in the job description for the Executive Director that Synod approved last year. **The requested revision to the *Manual of Authorities and Duties (MAD)* is attached at the end of this report.**

Now, here is our report on how we have addressed the duties currently assigned.

I. To guide and supervise such programs (evangelism, multi-cultural ministries, revitalization and church development) on the denominational level.

In conjunction with reviewing the duties assigned to Outreach North America in the *MAD*, the Board also reviewed the ONA Policy Book to consider how to better oversee the areas of responsibility assigned to the Board. We request that Synod approve a revision to the ONA Policy Book. **The requested revision to the ONA Policy Book is attached at the end of this report.**

The two most substantial changes being proposed in this revision concern 1) the responsibilities of the evangelism and multi-cultural ministries committee of the Board and 2) the way we oversee the use of financial resources. Number 1) will be addressed under this duty of supervising programs, while number 2) will be addressed under the next duty of overseeing finances.

A. Evangelism and Multi-cultural Ministries. The proposed revision to the ONA Policy Book completely rewrites the function of the Evangelism and Multi-cultural Ministries Committee of the Board. The revision better focuses the work of this committee under just three responsibilities:

1. Study and recommend to the presbyteries biblical approaches and resources for evangelism.
2. Study, recommend, and then encourage presbyteries to pursue approaches, resources, and strategies that assist churches to reflect in their fellowship their immediate demographic.
3. Provide a network of encouragement and mentoring for pastors now serving churches located in multi-ethnic settings.

Our requested revision also renames this committee as Evangelism and Multi-ethnic Ministries. In our day, many connotations surround the word "multi-cultural," not all of which reflect ideas that would be agreeable to the ARP Church. People will probably better understand the intent by substituting the word "multi-ethnic."

Besides requesting a change in the policy book, we have also continued to make people and churches aware of the Christianity Explored evangelistic Bible study; we have sent each ARP minister some tools for evangelism, as well as publishing tools on our Web site; and we have promoted a prayer tool for evangelism called *My Ten Most-Wanted*. For multi-cultural ministry, we have continued to work with World Witness to oversee the ARPConnect ministry to Muslims, and we have provided training for ministers or church planters serving in Korean, Hispanic, Chinese, African-American, and African settings.

B. Revitalization. See under duty #3 below.

C. Church Development. See under duty #4 below.

II. To oversee the use of financial resources received from all sources for these purposes.

The Board is continually considering ways to improve our stewardship of the funds committed to our care. The proposed revision to the ONA Policy Book spells out with greater clarity how financial requests will be evaluated by the Board. Two different committees of the Board will evaluate each request: the New Church Development and US & Canada Expansion Committee will consider the advisability and worthiness of each request, while the Finance Committee will evaluate each request in light of big-picture funds availability. The Policy Book revision also specifies that provisional sessions of ONA-funded congregations need to review the fiscal integrity of the congregation's funds and provide evidence of such review to their presbytery on a regular basis. The proposed revision contains other changes designed to clarify and standardize ONA financial policies.

This past year the Board has also developed a Guidelines notebook for people involved in new church development on the Synod, presbytery, or local level. The Guidelines notebook contains a Manual for Presbytery/ONA Teamwork and the ONA Policy Book. The notebook also contains a place to insert the new How to Plant an ARP Church Manual that is now being published as a working document while it is still being refined. These three documents put together in one notebook provide a handy reference that brings several sources of information together in one place. This gives mission developers, provisional session members, church extension committee members, and ONA Board members much practical information about overseeing the financial resources received from all sources for new church development, and it includes application forms and guidance for requesting ONA funds.

III. To recommend to the General Synod, the presbyteries, and the local congregations programs, emphases, and resources for revitalization.

In the early 1990s, a special Synod Committee on Revitalization developed the Revitalization Program for ARP churches needing renewal.

After a pilot program was deemed successful, Synod gave responsibility for the Revitalization Program to the Board of Church Extension, which is now Outreach North America. Last year, Outreach North America hired Dr. Ken Priddy to work part time as Director of Church Renewal. Dr. Priddy provides church renewal training, including the 16-month 2nd Wind church renewal process that is a refinement of an earlier process called Project 6:15. Project 6:15 appears to have had at least as good a track record as the Revitalization Program, and with Dr. Priddy's salary coming from Outreach North America, Dr. Priddy's training is more economical for an ARP congregation than the Revitalization Program. Outreach North America recommends that the function of the Revitalization Program now be subsumed under Ken Priddy's training and the 2nd Wind process.

Ken Priddy has provided training for Virginia, Catawba, Second, Florida, and Mississippi Valley presbyteries. Currently, there are clusters of churches participating in the 2ND Wind process in Virginia, Florida, and Mississippi Valley presbyteries. Catawba and Second are in the process of forming 2ND Wind clusters.

We understand that for church renewal to have a lasting impact, two components are necessary: spiritual renewal and strategic initiative. As part of the church renewal section of the Outreach North America strategic plan, the Board suggests several spiritual renewal approaches to our presbyteries: set times for prayer and fasting for church renewal throughout presbytery, pre-presbytery retreats and/or conferences for spiritual renewal, and developing a team of people praying for renewal within the presbytery and linking these people together via email. We have asked the presbytery representatives to report at our fall Board meeting what their presbyteries are doing. We have a publication by John Kimmons, *30 Days of Prayer for Church Renewal*, available on our Web site as a tool for presbyteries and churches to use to promote spiritual renewal.

IV. To assist the presbyteries in seeking new fields for church development and special ministries and in planning for financing and staffing those fields.

The following mission congregations have received financial supplements from Outreach North America during all or part of the period since the last Synod meeting.

First Presbytery

Christ Church, Denver, NC	Rev. Morrie Lawing
Rivertown, Hillsborough, NC	Rev. Stacey Cox
Skybrook, Huntersville, NC	Rev. Jim Powell

Florida Presbytery

Christ Community, Apollo Beach, FL	Rev. Charlie Lewis
SonLife, Jacksonville, FL	Rev. Bob Ho
Tradewinds, St. Pete Beach, FL	Rev. Mike Avato

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

New Geneva, Paducah, KY

Rev. Don Watkins

Northeast Presbytery

Communion, Irvine, CA

Rev. Kent Moorlach

Second Presbytery

New Millennium, Lithonia, GA

Rev. Stephane Cobbert

Travelers, Travelers Rest, SC

Rev. Bill Barron

International Community

(Swahili) Mission, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Isaac Gitundu

Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery

Connections, Huntsville/Madison, AL

Rev. Bob Illman

Two missions are anticipated to begin receiving supplements from ONA this summer: Havana ARP in Havana, AR, and Christ Presbyterian in Grove City, PA.

Outreach North America has also helped presbyteries prepare new mission developer candidates by providing supplements for church planting residencies/internships. The following men have received residency/internship supplements during all or part of the period since the last Synod meeting: Gary Stiltner, Stacey Cox, Scott Siems, Charlie Jones, Bob Hovey, Tim Wohlers, and Jae Park.

Four couples attended the church planting assessment center in February.

V. To aid the presbyteries and the local congregations in planning and implementing new concepts and forms of ministry.

We are not convinced that there is a purpose for planning and implementing new concepts and forms of ministry for their own sake. We believe the only reason Outreach North America should plan and implement new concepts and forms of ministry is if these new concepts and forms are biblically warranted and they support our strategies in the areas of evangelism, multi-cultural ministries, revitalization, and church development. Therefore, we have removed this duty in the proposed revision to the MAD.

VI. To plan workshops, conferences, and other training events in church development, special ministries, revitalization and evangelism.

A. New Church Development.

1. **New Church Network.** We have a Carolinas/Virginia New Church Network that provides on-the-job training and encouragement for our mission developers. Through this network, we match mission developers with coaches, and we hold quarterly meetings for prayer, training, consultation, and encouragement. John Kimmons is our network director. We try to match mission developers who are outside the Carolinas and Virginia with other existing New Church Networks.

2. **Mission Developer and Family Retreat.** This is an annual retreat for training and encouraging mission developers and their families, along with church planting interns and residents. This year's retreat was at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia. Dr. Sinclair Ferguson and the staff at First Presbyterian were our main speakers.
3. **Church Planting Conference.** We send each mission developer, as early in their church plant as possible, to the Global Church Advancement National Church Planting Conference. We also encourage presbytery church extension chairmen to attend, as well as others wanting training in church planting. This year 18 ARPs attended the conference.

B. Special Ministries. Outreach North America partnered with Erskine Theological Seminary to teach two courses at the seminary this year: 1) Evangelism and 2) Church Planting and Renewal.

C. Revitalization. See under duty #3 above.

D. Evangelism. John Kimmons, as Director of Evangelism, is available to encourage ARP ministers and churches in evangelism. For a Christmas gift this year, ONA sent ARP ministers, and a few other people, the booklet *What is True Conversion?* by Steve Smallman, along with a tract called *Your Spiritual Journey*, which is a great tool for people to use in discerning how the Holy Spirit might already be working in someone's life. We have also encouraged a *Ten Most Wanted List* prayer strategy in our churches where each member is asked to identify ten people to pray for specifically about their relationship with the Lord.

VII. To present to the denomination the challenges and opportunities of national outreach. The Board spent some time strategizing about this duty, but there is no new initiative to report.

VIII. To appoint such administrators as are necessary for the work of the Board.

The Board employs three program staff: Alan Avera, Executive Director; John Kimmons, Director of Evangelism and Care; and Ken Priddy, Director of Church Renewal.

Our office manager is Jean Piscina. This year we have said goodbye to Ruth Younts, who worked as an Administrative Assistant for ONA for six years. We welcome Tessa Taylor, who is serving as Administrative Assistant for Publications and Communication. Tessa will be working part time in the Outreach North America office.

IX. 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. The Board's Evangelism Committee serves as the representative.

X. 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. Outreach North America provided information for the Thanksgiving offering.

XI. To receive and review the annual report of the American Bible Society and to report items of special interest to the General Synod.

XII. To prepare and recommend to Synod each year a budget with which to do the work of this Board. See the budget attached to this report.

Recommendations

1. That Synod request local sessions to study 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 as a crucial passage for understanding our approach to Christian living, ministry, and evangelism.
2. That the requested revision to the Outreach North America section of Synod's *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be approved.
3. That the requested revision to the *ONA Policy Book* be approved.
4. That Synod commend the *ONA Guidelines* notebook to presbyteries for their use.
5. That the function of the *Revitalization Program* be subsumed under Ken Priddy's training and the *2ND Wind* process.
6. That Synod encourage presbyteries to implement spiritual renewal approaches within presbytery, such as: set times for prayer and fasting throughout presbytery, pre-presbytery retreats and/or conferences for spiritual renewal, and developing a team of people praying for renewal within the presbytery and linking these people together via email.
7. That the proposed budget be approved.
8. That the report of the Board of Outreach North America be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Sattlem, Chairman

Proposed Revision to ONA Section of Manual of Authorities & Duties

BOARD OF OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Membership: At Large: Six members.

Presbytery Representatives: Chairman of the Committee on Church Extension (or Outreach North America Committee.)

Ex-officio: Representative from ARP Women's Ministries.

Advisory: (Executive) Director of Outreach North America, (other Directors employed by the board), Treasurer of Synod's Funds, Moderator of Synod, Moderator-Elect of Synod, Coordinator of the General Synod.

Terms of Service: At Large: Six years.
Presbytery Representatives, Ex-officio, and Advisory:
As determined by the office to which elected or appointed.

Stated Meetings: Semi-Annual.

Organization: Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

Committees: Executive Committee
Committee on Evangelism and Multi-
~~Cultural~~ (Ethnic) Ministries
Committee on Finance
Committee on (New) Church
Development and ~~Special Ministries~~
(US & Canada Expansion)
Committee on ~~Revitalization~~
(Church Vitality)
Administrative Officer: (Executive)
Director of Outreach North America

Authority: ~~The Board of Outreach North America~~ is the agency of Synod charged with the responsibility for denominational ~~programs of~~ (strategies for) evangelism, multi-~~cultural~~ -(ethnic) ministries, ~~revitalization and~~ (church vitality, new) church development(, and ARP expansion in the US and Canada. Outreach North America is governed by the Board of Outreach North America).

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.

Duties: 1. To ~~guide and supervise such programs on the denominational level.~~ (work with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies for evangelism, including strategies to help our presbyteries

and churches reach the increasingly ethnically diverse population in the United States and Canada).

- ~~2. To oversee the use of financial resources received from all sources for these purposes:~~
2. To work with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies to enhance church vitality).
- ~~3. To recommend to the General Synod, the presbyteries, and the local congregations programs, emphases, and resources for revitalization.~~
3. To work with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies for new church development and for ARP expansion in the United States and Canada).
- ~~4. To assist the presbyteries in seeking new fields for church development and special ministries and in planning for financing and staffing those fields:~~
- ~~5. To aid the presbyteries and the local congregations in planning and implementing new concepts and forms of ministry:~~
- ~~6. To plan workshops, conferences, and other training events in church development, special ministries, revitalization and evangelism:~~
- ~~7. To present to the denomination the challenges and opportunities of national outreach:~~
- ~~8. To appoint such administrators as are necessary for the work of the Board:~~
- 9.(4). To (Through the Evangelism and Multi-Ethnic Ministries committee of the board, 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
- ~~10. To (by) assist(ing) the American Bible Society in offering the opportunity of giving through the annual (in the annual) offering for the American Bible Society as approved~~

- by the General Synod,
- 11—~~To receive and~~ review(ing) the annual report of the American Bible Society, ~~and to~~ (and) report(ing) items of special interest to the General Synod.
 12. ~~To prepare and recommend to Synod each year a budget with which to do the work of this Board.~~
 5. To communicate the importance of financial support for these purposes and to oversee the use of financial resources received from all sources for these purposes.
 6. To prepare and recommend to Synod each year a budget with which to do the work of this Board.
 7. To appoint such administrators as are necessary for the work of the Board.)
 - 13.(8).To make an annual report to the General Synod.

Proposed Revision

POLICY BOOK

BOARD OF OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Of The

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Introduction

~~The Board of Outreach North America ((ONA)) is the agency of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church charged with responsibility for denominational programs of (strategies for) evangelism, (multi-ethnic ministries), revitalization (church vitality), and (new) church development, (and ARP expansion in the US and Canada). In order to carry out this responsibility, the Board (ONA) (1) guides and supervises such programs on the denominational level, (2) oversees the use of financial resources designated by the General Synod for these purposes, (3) recommends to the General Synod, the presbyteries, and the local congregations, programs, emphases, and resources for national outreach, (4) assists the presbyteries in seeking new fields for church development and in planning for financing, and staffing those fields, (5) aids the presbyteries and the local congregations in planning and implementing new concepts and forms of ministry, (6) plans workshops, conferences, and other training events in church development, revitalization and evangelism ((1) works with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies for evangelism, including strategies to help our presbyteries and~~

churches reach the increasingly ethnically diverse population in the United States and Canada, (2) works with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies to enhance church vitality, (3) works with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies for new church development and for ARP expansion in the United States and Canada, (4) serves as a liaison to the American Bible Society, (5) communicates the importance of financial support for these purposes and oversees the use of financial resources received from all sources for these purposes, (6) appoints such administrators as are necessary. ONA is governed by the Board of Outreach North America.)

I. The Organization of the Board

A. Membership

1. The Board shall consist of these voting members:
 - a. The chairman of the church extension committee of each presbytery of the General Synod as the representative of his presbytery to the Board.
 - b. One representative, ex-officio with voting privileges, from the ~~Woman's-Synodical Union~~ (ARP Women's Ministries.)
 - c. Six members at large, nominated by the Committee on Nominations of the General Synod (and approved by Synod) as the rotation system allows vacancies.
2. Members other than the ~~Woman's-Synodical Union~~ (ARP Women's Ministries) representative, and presbytery chairmen of church extension, will serve six-year terms in rotating classes as vacancies occur.
3. The (Executive) Director of Outreach North America, (other Directors employed by the board), the Treasurer of the General Synod, (the Coordinator of the General Synod), the Moderator (of Synod), and the Moderator-Elect (of Synod) will serve as non-voting advisory members of this Board.

B. Officers

1. New officers will be elected at the spring meeting of the Board, to serve ~~for the following church year~~ (beginning in July).
2. Officers to be elected each year are Chairman,

Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

3. The Chairman will perform the following duties:
 - a. Preside at all regular and called meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee.
 - b. Call special meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee as needed to carry out the business of the Board.
 - c. Serve, by direction of the General Synod, on the Executive Board of the General Synod as an advisory member.
 - d. Serve as ex-officio member on all standing and special committees of the Board.
 - e. Appoint all committees unless the Board specifies some other procedure.
 - f. Supervise the execution of all Board policies between the regular meetings of the Board.
4. The Vice-Chairman will perform the following duties:
 - a. Assist the Chairman in the performance of his duties.
 - b. Assume the duties of the Chairman if the Chairman is absent from a meeting or otherwise unable to fulfill his responsibilities.
5. The Secretary will perform the following duties:
 - a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee.
 - b. Provide the Director (office) of Outreach North America a copy of the minutes for duplication and distribution.
6. The Treasurer of the General Synod in his capacity as custodian of the funds of the General Synod, will serve as Treasurer of the Board of Outreach North America.
7. The Treasurer will perform the following duties:
 - a. Oversee the investment of Board funds, with the exception of the Revolving Loan Fund. (Advise the Board concerning the Revolving Loan Fund).
 - b. Disburse the Board's funds with the advance approval of the (Executive)

Director of Outreach North America and/or the Chairman.

- c. Present a financial report of the Board's funds at the regular meeting of the Board.

C. Committees

1. The standing committees of the Board are (New) Church Development and **Special Ministries**(US & Canada Expansion), Evangelism and Multi-Cultural (Ethnic) Ministries, Finance, **Revitalization** (Church Vitality), and Executive.
2. The Committee on (New) Church Development and **Special Ministries** (US & Canada Expansion) will perform the following duties:
 - a. Work in cooperation with the church extension committees of the presbyteries to find new fields for church development.
 - b. Review presbytery requests for the ~~purchase of new sites~~ (supplements, loans, and grants); ~~and~~ (then) make appropriate recommendations to the Board (concerning the advisability of these requests and to the Finance Committee) concerning ~~these requests~~ (the worthiness of these requests for funding).
 - c. Review building plans submitted by the extension churches and make appropriate recommendations to the Board concerning them.
 - d. Assist the presbytery's church extension committees in making the preliminary surveys and plans for the development of new churches, and make recommendations to the Board.
 - e. Aid the presbyteries and local congregations in planning and implementing ~~new forms of ministry~~ (strategies for encouraging new church development and ARP expansion).
 - f. Identify, evaluate and recruit those persons who might possess the desirable qualities for church planters.
 - g. Deploy approved church planters as requested and required by presbyteries.

- h. Plan workshops and other training events for church planters.
 - i. Receive reports of special ministries from their respective presbyteries through the presbytery's church extension.
~~Committee: (suggestions from presbyteries for promoting ARP expansion).~~
3. The Committee on Evangelism and Multi-Cultural(Ethnic) Ministries will perform the following duties.
- a. ~~Plan and implement a yearly denomination-wide program of evangelism.~~
 - b. ~~Study and recommend to the denomination new approaches, programs and resources in evangelism.~~
 - c. ~~Assist presbyteries and local congregations in formulating and carrying out dynamic programs of witness and service.~~
 - e. ~~Develop a denomination-wide strategy for multi-cultural church planting and provide resources for the presbyteries' multi-cultural ministries.~~
 - f. ~~Provide a network of encouragement and mentoring for the multi-cultural pastors now serving within our denomination.~~
 - g. ~~Provide a pool of multi-cultural pastors and/or lay leaders with skills and vision to help initiate new ministries.~~
 - a. (Study and recommend to the presbyteries biblical approaches and resources for evangelism.
 - b. Study, recommend, and then encourage presbyteries to pursue approaches, resources, and strategies that assist churches to reflect in their fellowship their immediate demographic.
 - c. Provide a network of encouragement and mentoring for pastors now serving churches in multi-ethnic settings).
4. The Committee on Finance will perform the following duties:
- a. (Promote funding opportunities outside

- of ONA). ~~Prepare a proposed budget for the following year for presentation at the spring meeting of the Board.~~
- b. Study and recommend to the Board necessary adjustments in the current (proposed) budget (submitted by the Executive Director of ONA).
 - c. Explore on a continuing basis the Board's philosophy of church extension financing.
 - d. Supervise the operation of the Revolving Loan Fund and the Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund with the assistance of the (Executive) Director of Outreach North America.
 - e. Receive requests for (supplements), loans, (and grants, take into account recommendations by the New Church Development Committee as to worthiness for funding, then) and make **recommendations** (determination of big-picture funds availability) **concerning them** (in order to make recommendations) to the Board and/or the Executive Committee.
 - f. Plan and promote giving to the work of Outreach North America.
5. The **Revitalization** (Church Vitality) Committee will perform the following duties:
- a. ~~Continue to~~ Discover and evaluate tools for renewal to recommend for use in ARP churches.
 - b. Develop new tools and resources, or adapt those that are already available, as necessary for promoting renewal within ARP churches.
 - c. Publicize to ARP churches the tools that are available for church renewal.
 - d. ~~Find ways to~~ Motivate and encourage churches to take advantage of available renewal resources.
 - e. Promote prayer for revival and reformation within the ARP Synod as a whole.
6. The Executive Committee will perform the following duties:

- a. Act for the Board as necessary between the regular meetings of the Board.
 - b. Prepare the annual report to the General Synod and present it for the Board's approval at the spring meeting of the Board.
 - c. Plan programs and articles for the annual church extension emphasis of the General Synod.
7. The constituency and size of the Committees on (New) Church Development and **Special Ministries** (US & Canada Expansion), Evangelism and ~~Multi-Cultural~~ (Ethnic) Ministries, Finance, and **Revitalization** (Church Vitality) will be determined by the Chairman of the Board.
 8. The Executive Committee will consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary of the Board and the chairmen of the four remaining standing committees.
 9. All standing committees will meet at least two times annually and report at each of the two regular meetings of the Board.
 10. Special committees to perform designated tasks may be appointed by the Chairman at his discretion or at the request of the Board.

D. Meetings

1. The Board will meet in regular session at least two times a year and as often as conditions require in called session.
2. The regular meeting dates for the next year will be determined at the spring meeting.
3. Notice of all regular meetings will be sent at least two weeks in advance. Notice of all called meetings will be sent at least one week in advance and will include a statement of the reason for the meeting.
4. A quorum of the Board shall consist of seven members.
5. Members who are unable to attend meetings will inform the Board in advance through the (Executive) Director of Outreach North America.
6. ~~The Board~~ (ONA) will bear the expense of travel,

food, and lodging when members are attending meetings or performing other authorized Board business.

II. The (Executive) Director of Outreach North America

A. The (Executive) Director of Outreach North America will perform the following duties:

1. Carry out the policies, communicate the purposes and goals, and oversee the ~~on-going~~(ongoing) business of the Board and its committees.
2. Bring to the Board informative and innovative ideas that will enable the Board to explore new directions for its work.
3. Communicate to the presbyteries the challenges, needs, programs, plans, resources, and directions of the work of church extension.
4. Counsel with presbytery committees on church extension, pastors, mission developers, sessions, and other groups concerning the work of church extension.
5. Represent the Board in cooperative agreements between presbyteries and the Board.
6. Work to develop mutual programs of ministry with boards, agencies and institutions of our own and other denominations.
7. Present a written report at each regular Board meeting.
8. Serve, by direction of the General Synod, on Synod's Committee on the Minister and His Work.

III. The General Synod

A. Relationship of the General Synod and the Board

1. The Board is authorized by the General Synod to manage and carry on the special work entrusted to it without particular instructions of the General Synod.
2. The Board shall follow carefully the general instructions of the General Synod and any specific instructions given by the General Synod.
3. The General Synod has full power to approve or to set aside any action taken by the Board.
4. The General Synod appoints the members of the Board, fixes their term of membership, and

supervises their work.

5. The Board shall elect its own officers, as provided in the Policy Book.

6. The Board shall prepare its own Policy Book, subject to the approval of the General Synod.

B. Responsibilities of the Board to the General Synod

1. The Board shall perform faithfully the work entrusted to it by the General Synod.

2. The Board shall make an annual report to the General Synod.

3. The Board shall keep an accurate permanent record of its proceedings and whenever required to do so shall present this record for the inspection of the General Synod.

IV. The Presbytery

A. The Presbytery in General

1. The Board will carry out its work in the respective presbyteries in cooperation with and through the Church Extension ~~committees~~ (Committee, which may also be called the Outreach North America Committee,) of the presbytery.

2. Requests for grants, loans, and other financial assistance will be approved by the presbytery prior to being considered by the Board.

3. Presbyteries will accompany ~~their annual~~ (any) request for funds with ~~a statement of their~~ (an application form or a proposal describing the intended use of the funds, the rationale for the request, and including a projected budget for the requested use of the funds). Any change in the use of allocated funds requires the permission of presbytery and approval of the Board.

4. Presbyteries in general and their congregations may call on the resources of the Board and the office of Outreach North America and the assistance of the ~~Director~~ (Outreach North America staff) in ~~planning~~ (developing) and implementing effective ~~programs of~~ (strategies for) outreach, evangelism, (new) church development, ~~revitalization and new forms of ministry~~ (and enhancing existing church vitality).

B. The Presbytery's Church Extension Committee(, or Outreach North America Committee)

1. Presbytery's church extension committee, with the assistance of the Board, will implement ~~the church extension program approved by the General Synod~~ (strategies for evangelism, multi-ethnic ministries, church vitality, new church development, and ARP expansion).
2. Presbytery's church extension committee will work with the Board to plan for the purchase of property, the erection of buildings, and the organization of new churches in communities which are deemed to be promising fields.
3. Presbytery's committee will inform the Board of fields of special opportunity within its bounds and may direct surveys of new fields with the assistance of the Board.
4. Presbytery's committee will assist the presbytery in informing (and training) the ministers and laymen within the presbytery ~~through presbytery programs, conferences, retreats, and seminars of the work of~~ (concerning the support of new) church development, (the renewal of existing church vitality), and (the encouragement of) evangelism.
5. Presbytery's committee will present to the presbytery for approval requests to the Board for ~~financial assistance~~ (supplement, grants), and loans.
6. Presbytery's committee shall work in close cooperation and consultation with the Board in administering allocated funds, and shall secure the permission of the Board before making any changes in the allocation of funds.
7. It is recommended that presbyteries provide from their funds expenses of the presbytery committee and its chairman; when they act, however, at the expressed request of the Board, the Board will bear the expense.

C. The Chairman of Presbytery's Church Extension Committee

1. The chairman will serve as liaison between ~~church extension~~ (mission) congregations and the Board, between presbytery and the Board, and between

presbytery and church—extension(mission) congregations within its boundaries.

2. The chairman will make a written report to each meeting of the Board, including presbytery's approved financial requests; shall submit to the Director (office) of Outreach North America and the presbytery copies of this report and of all other church extension reports; and shall retain copies as a permanent record for future reference.

V. The Local Congregation

A. (Outreach North America) Funded Congregations

1. (ONA-funded) congregations are congregations that are receiving financial aid ~~through grants or supplements from funds of the General Synod administered by the Board, excluding those congregations receiving special grants as specified in Section VI.B.2.~~
2. (ONA-funded) congregations must be officially acknowledged by the presbytery as either missions or organized churches.
3. (An ONA-funded) congregation retains this status as long as funding continues and until the Board is officially notified by the presbytery that the status of the congregation has changed.
4. Mission Developers or Pastors of (ONA-funded) congregations will be expected to meet the following qualifications:
 - a. They shall be ordained ministers.
 - b. They shall be members of the presbytery before assuming the work or moving upon the field.
 - c. They shall have either two years of pastoral experience or special training in the field of new church development.
 - d. They shall have been approved by a Board-sanctioned assessment process as having the skills, knowledge, attitude and gifts to be a successful church planter, or they shall have a previously demonstrated track record as a successful church planter.
 - e. Extraordinary situations not covered by the qualifications above require the approval of the Board of Outreach North America.

5. The procedure for securing a minister for a(n ONA-funded) congregation will be the same as that followed by a presbytery in securing a minister for a self-supporting congregation provided that procedure includes the following:
 - a. Presbytery's church extension committee will counsel and advise funded congregations on actions relative to securing a minister.
 - b. Funded congregations may elect or appoint a "listening committee" to consider pastoral candidates and make their recommendations concerning the selection of a pastor to presbytery's committee on church extension.
 - c. Having first determined that the qualifications of paragraphs *a*, *c*, and *d* of V.A.4 above have been met, the presbytery's church extension committee shall approve a candidate for the pastorate of a funded congregation BEFORE a definite, specific offer or commitment is made to the candidate.
 - d. Only if the candidate falls under the provision of paragraph 4.e above, will the approval of the Board of Outreach North America be required.
6. The Board will bear one-half of the moving expense of a pastor assuming work in a(n ONA-funded) congregation except where there is some special pastoral arrangement; the remaining one-half will be assumed by the congregation or presbytery to which he is moving.
7. (ONA-funded) congregations, through their pastors, shall maintain contact with presbytery's church extension committee.
8. (ONA-funded) congregations will be expected to meet the following guidelines:
 - a. ~~An effective stewardship program will be carried out~~ (Demonstrate an effective stewardship strategy).
 - b. ~~A budget will be prepared for operating~~

- (Operate) the ~~total—program~~ (total ministry) of the church (according to an approved budget) and (submit) a copy of the budget ~~submitted~~ each year to the office of Outreach North America and the chairman of presbytery's church extension committee.
- c. ~~Some type of evangelism outreach program will be conducted~~ (Demonstrate an effective outreach strategy that includes making contact with lost people in the community and providing opportunities for conversion.)
 - d. ~~The~~ (Participate in) programs and emphases of the General Synod ~~will be observed~~.
 - e. ~~Arrangements will be made~~ Make arrangements to have representation at all stated meetings of church courts.
 - f. ~~Contributions~~ Contribute to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan ~~will be paid~~ in accordance with the policies of Synod.
 - g. ~~It is the responsibility of the~~ (The mission) developer to (will) teach and nurture the congregation about the connectional nature of our denomination. Following the pattern of II Corinthians 8:7-8, funded congregations ~~will be~~ (are) expected to give liberally and sacrificially to the Denominational Ministry Fund.
The mission will begin giving at least 10% of its income (exclusive of the General Synod supplement) and will work progressively toward Synod's guideline of 20%. Giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund will take precedence over other benevolent causes except presbytery assessments.
 - h. (Pay the) ~~The~~ pastor's salary (and housing allowance) ~~will be paid~~ at least once a month. (The church extension committee) ~~and will be reviewed~~ (review the pastor's compensation) annually ~~by the Church~~

~~Extension Committee~~ to be certain that his financial needs are adequately met. The presbytery church extension committee shall insure that there is no net reduction in salary due to cost-of-living increases. We suggest consulting an index, such as The Washington Index, to ascertain the cost-of-living index for a particular geographic area.

9. (Sessions of ONA-funded congregations shall provide evidence of reviews of fiscal integrity to the spring and fall meetings of their respective presbyteries). Sessions of funded congregations will submit designated reports promptly to the ~~Director~~ (office of Outreach North America) and the chairman of presbytery's church extension committee; beginning with the next payment after the report is due, the Board will withhold funding from congregations that do not submit reports.
 10. (An ONA-funded) mission will generally not become an organized congregation of the presbytery while receiving a supplement from Synod for current operating expenses. If a presbytery does organize a congregation that is receiving a(n ONA) supplement, an action of the Board is required for that mission to continue receiving funding. Such approval will ~~ordinarily~~ not be granted unless there are special circumstances involved that require the congregation to (immediately) organize with its own session, and unless the active communicant membership is at least 80 and the membership is showing a steady increase.
 11. Pastors of (ONA-funded) organized congregations may be officially installed by the presbytery.
 12. The Board shall closely monitor the work of (ONA-funded) congregations and give assistance to the presbyteries' committee and to the missions in securing pastors.
- B. Non-(ONA-funded) Congregations
1. Non-(ONA-funded) congregations are those congregations, whether self-supporting or not,

which do not receive financial aid through ~~regular grants and supplements~~ from funds of the General Synod administered by the Board.

2. The Board will make its (training) resources available to help non- (ONA-funded) congregations plan and carry out effective ~~programs~~ (strategies) of evangelism, (new) church development, ~~church revitalization, and new forms of ministry,~~ (and renewal of church vitality.)
3. Requests to the Board from non- (ONA-funded) congregations for help in special projects and programs should be submitted to the Board through presbytery's church extension committee with the approval of the presbytery.
4. Non-(ONA-funded) congregations receiving ~~special grants or other~~ assistance from the Board will submit quarterly progress reports.

VI. Financial Policies

A. (Mission) Supplements

1. (Mission) Supplements are extended to funded congregations to help meet current operating expenses.
2. Requests for (mission) supplements shall have the recommendation of presbytery's church extension committee ~~and~~, the approval of the presbytery, (and be recommended by the New Church Development Committee) before they will be considered by the Finance Committee for ~~submission~~ (recommendation) to the Board. (The New Church Development Committee will consider the advisability and worthiness of the request, while the Finance Committee will consider big-picture funds availability in making its recommendation to the Board regarding funding).
3. (Mission) Supplements will be disbursed on a pro-rata basis in monthly installments.
4. (Mission) Supplements will be reduced each year according to a schedule prepared by the Board.
5. (Mission) Supplements will ~~generally~~ be granted to a mission for no more than four years.

B. Grants

1. Grants are given from the income from the ~~Permanent Fund Initiative~~ (Outreach North America endowment).
2. Grants will be given to missions or newly organized churches to assist in the purchase of land and/or the building of their first unit.
3. Grants will be matching grants of up to \$35,000.00
4. Requests for grants shall have the recommendation of presbytery's church extension committee and, the approval of the presbytery, (and be recommended by the New Church Development Committee) before they will be considered by the Finance Committee for ~~submission~~ (recommendation) to the Board. (The New Church Development committee will consider the advisability and worthiness of the request, while the Finance Committee will consider big-picture funds availability).
5. Grants will be disbursed at the time the expense is actually incurred by the congregation and not in advance.
6. Grants will be approved only after verifying that the church (or) mission is contributing at least the recommended 10% to the Denominational Ministry Fund on an annual basis.

C. ~~Loans~~ (Revolving Loan Fund Loans)

1. Congregations may secure loans through local institutions and/or through the Revolving Loan Fund of the Board.
2. The total debt a funded congregation assumes must have the approval of presbytery's church extension committee and the Board.
3. The following policies will govern the operation of the Revolving Loan Fund:
 - a. To Qualify:
 - (1.) Must be a (mission congregation or a) new church (that has previously) been an ARP mission congregation. ~~(if funds are available, loans can be made to established churches. (In the~~

rare event that funds are not expected to be needed in the near future by a mission or a new church that has previously been an ARP mission, the Board may make an exception and extend a loan to an established church). The established church would have to agree to loan recall at any time funds are needed at (for) a mission (congregation or new) church.) Loans will be approved only after verifying that the congregation is contributing at least the recommended 10% to the Denominational Ministry Fund on an annual basis and will commit to continue contributions at that level.

- (2.) Must demonstrate ability to repay loan.
 - (a.) Monthly payments will not exceed 25% of budget at time of application.
 - (b.) Must not count presbytery or Synod support in loan eligibility figure.
 - (c.) Must have one-third down payment (land value can count toward the one-third).

b. Terms of the Loan

- (1.) The loan will be secured by a first or second mortgage with presbytery guaranteeing the loan.
- (2.) The loan will be for a maximum of 15 years.
- (3.) The interest rate will be fixed at 1.5% below current commercial bank rates for a 15-year fixed rate (home) mortgage in the local community; however, the rate will not be below 5%.
- (4.) Repayment begins no more than 180 days after the ~~loan is issued~~ (funds are disbursed).

- (5.) The maximum amount of the loan will be \$400,000.
- c. Applicants must complete a Revolving Loan Fund application form and submit it to the presbytery church extension committee. After presbytery approval, (the New Church Development Committee and) the Finance Committee of the Board of Outreach North America will review the loan application before the Board considers it for approval.
 - (1.) The primary purpose of the Revolving Loan Fund is to make available for new church development loans up to \$400,000 for land purchases and for building the first unit.
 - (2.) The Board (will give priority to ONA-funded congregations and congregations that have previously been ONA-funded congregations, but) may, at its discretion, make loans available to non-(ONA)-funded congregations under these policies if adequate funds are available.
 - (3.) Requests for loans shall have the recommendation of Presbytery's church extension committee and the approval of the presbytery before they will be considered by (the New Church Development Committee for recommendation to) the Finance Committee ~~for submission~~ (and) to the Board. (The New Church Development Committee will consider the advisability and worthiness of the request, while the Finance Committee will consider big-picture funds availability in making its recommendation to the Board regarding funding).
 - (4.) All loans must have the approval of the Board; the Executive Committee, however, may act on behalf of the

Board to approve loans in emergency situations between the regular meetings of the Board.

- (5.) Loans will be granted only for the specific purposes recommended by presbytery's church extension committee and approved by the presbytery and the Board.
- (6.) The Board shall engage a custodian with the necessary expertise to administer the Revolving Loan Fund.
- (7.) Legal matters relating to the loans shall be handled by the custodian engaged by the Board to administer the Revolving Loan Fund, and by the trustees of the congregation or presbytery seeking the loan. Payments will be made to the custodian administering the fund.
- (8.) Loans will be granted only to presbyteries and organized congregations.
- (9.) Loans will bear an interest rate of 1.5% less than the prevailing rate unless otherwise specified by the Board.
- (10.) Loans will be granted for a period of fifteen years
- (11.) If the loan is in arrears a minimum of 90 days, the loan shall be recalled.
- (12.) Other terms of the loans will be worked out in consultation by the congregation or presbytery involved and the (Executive) Director of Outreach North America as directed by the Board.

D. Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund

1. The purpose of the Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund is to make temporary loans for cash flow purposes to missions and to presbyteries for new church development. Any funds not used for that purpose may be invested, with earnings to be used to fund current operations after adjusting for inflation to maintain the real value of the fund.

2. The following policy will govern the operation of the Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund.
 - a. To qualify:
 - (1.) Applicant must be a mission or a presbytery, but loans to presbyteries will only be for purposes of new church development.
 - (2.) Applicant must complete a loan application form that documents:
 - (a) The cash flow issue causing the need for the loan.
 - (b) Evidence that the cash flow difficulty is only temporary.
 - (3.) Applicant must attach to the application a financial report for the previous year, plus a current budget, and budget projections for the next two years.
 - (4.) (If the applicant is a congregation, the loans will be approved only after verifying that the congregation is contributing at least the recommended 10% to the Denominational Ministry Fund on an annual basis and will commit to continue contributions at that level. If the congregation is currently below the recommended 10%, then they must submit a pledge and a plan for escalating giving to get to 10% as soon as possible.)
 - b. Terms of the loan
 - (1.) The loan will be secured by a promissory note kept by Outreach North America with a copy to the presbytery.
 - (2.) The maximum amount of the loan will be \$25,000.
 - (3.) The loan will be for a maximum of two years.
 - (4.) The interest rate will be the current rate of inflation, for the purpose of maintaining the fund's real value.

- (5.) Total balance of the loan must be repaid as soon as possible, but no later than two years after the loan is issued.
 - (6.) Total balance of the loan must be repaid before any grants or other loans are made by Outreach North America.
 - c. Requests for loans
 - (1.) Must be submitted on the ONA Church Plant Cash Flow Loan application form.
 - (2.) Must be approved by the presbytery before being considered by the (New Church Development Committee and the Finance Committee for recommendation to the board. The New Church Development Committee will consider the advisability and worthiness of the request, while the) Finance Committee (will consider big-picture funds availability). ~~for submission to the board.~~ (In approving the loan, presbytery is pledging to do everything possible to make sure the loan is repaid).
 - (3.) Requests for Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund loans must be approved by the Board. The Executive Committee, however, may act on behalf of the Board to approve Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund loans in emergency situations between the regular meetings of the Board.
- E. Intern/Resident Supplement
 - 1. Resident Supplements are intended to provide supervised training for an experienced minister who needs further preparation related to church planting, or who needs to build relationships in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church before becoming a mission developer.
 - 2. Intern Supplements are intended to provide supervised training for someone who needs general

ministry experience as well as further preparation related to church planting before becoming a mission developer.

3. Student Intern Supplements are intended to provide supervised exposure to church planting for someone who has the skills to immediately help a mission congregation now, and who can be either an advocate for church planting or a mission developer in the future.
4. Interns/Residents will be assigned to a mentor and will assist in an assigned congregation.
5. The supplement will be disbursed to the assigned congregation. This congregation will take care of compensating the intern/resident.
6. Proposals for intern/resident supplements must be approved by presbytery before being submitted to the office of Outreach North America.
7. The office of Outreach North America will request, and the board will approve as part of the budget, a total amount each year for intern/resident supplements.
8. The Executive Director may approve intern/resident supplements as long as the total amount extended for the year stays within the approved budgeted amount for intern/resident supplements.
9. The Executive Director will keep the Board informed of intern/resident supplements that have been requested and that have been approved.)

(F). Investments

1. The Revolving Loan Fund will be invested as designated by the Board.
2. Other permanent funds of the Board will be invested by the appointed trustee of the invested funds of the General Synod.

VII. Buildings and Capital Improvements

- A. Prior to signing a contract, plans and specifications for buildings and other capital improvements by (ONA-funded) congregations must be approved by the presbytery and the Board or its designated representative whether or not all funds come from the local congregation, and adequate supervision must be provided by an architect, an engineer, or a qualified builder approved by the Board

- throughout the construction.
- B. Plans and specifications for buildings and other capital improvements must be accompanied by complete financial information, including construction price, fundraising programs, and the outline of long-range planning.
 - C. The Board will not invest the money of the General Synod in the development of property given with restrictive conditions except when it is specifically directed to do so by the General Synod.
 - D. When a building or other capital improvement program is completed or accepted, the Board and the presbytery will receive a statement of the actual cost.
- VIII. Property
- A. When property is purchased with Synod (ONA) funds, the presbytery in which the property is located shall hold title.
 - B. If a(n ARP) mission or congregation is **not** (never) located on the property **and** (before) it is sold, the (first use of the) proceeds shall be **returned** to (reimburse Outreach North America for all grants and to pay the outstanding balance on all loans provided with ONA funds) ~~the Synod through the Board.~~
 - C. The Board may hold property for a presbytery at the request of a presbytery.
- IX. Relation to Other Agencies of the Synod and the Presbytery
- A. The Board shall work in close cooperation with all the agencies of the General Synod and the presbyteries.
 - B. The Board requests of all such agencies that contributions not be accepted from (ONA-) funded congregations which are not meeting Synod's guidelines for **voluntary commitment** (giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund).

Outreach North America Budget

	Revised Budget 2008	Proposed Budget 2009
RECEIPTS		
Projected Increases		
Denominational Ministry Funds	716,000	737,480
Special Offering	16,500	16,500
Contributions for Ministry	0	0

Misc. Contributions for Ministry	71,814	71,814
Conference Registrations	0	0
ARP Women's Min. Local Churches	15,965	15,965
Interest on Reserves	5,414	7,115
Invested Fund Transfers for Operations		
Hillcrest Fund	6,372	6,436
Church Plant Cash Flow Loan		
Fund Income	12,577	12,703
Mattie B. Ellis Fund Income	597	603
Permanent Fund Income	6,348	6,411
Ralph Grigsby Fund	1,830	1,848
St. Andrew Church Fund	7,531	7,606
Program Receipts/Sale of Material	708	708
Total Receipts for Operations	<u>861,655</u>	<u>885,189</u>

DISBURSEMENTS**Payroll & Benefits**

Director of Outreach North America		
Salary	47,139	48,553
Housing Allowance	27,685	28,516
Other Allowances	360	360
SS Allowance	5,724	5,895
Insurance	14,512	15,673
Retirement	<u>6,878</u>	<u>7,084</u>
Director of Outreach North America	102,298	106,081
Support Staff	<u>195,772</u>	<u>202,542</u>
Payroll & Benefits	<u>298,070</u>	<u>308,624</u>
Staff Expenses	22,000	22,000

Board Expenses

Travel and Meeting Total	15,000	15,000
Promotion	24,402	24,074
Professional Services	<u>25,380</u>	<u>23,164</u>
Board Expenses Total	64,782	62,237
General Office	20,000	20,000

Program and Mission

Recruiting and Assessing	23,000	23,000
Training	213,892	198,586
Placement	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
Recruiting - Assessing - Training -		
Placement	<u>245,892</u>	<u>230,586</u>
Mission Supplements	350,417	278,433
Evangelism & Renewal		

Evangelism	5,000	5,000
Muslim Ministry (ARP Connect)	23,397	24,333
Erskine Mission's Conference	750	750
Multi-Cultural Ministries	500	500
Church Renewal	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Evangelism & Renewal	<u>34,647</u>	<u>35,583</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>1,035,807</u>	<u>957,463</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(174,152)	(72,274)
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>411,325</u>	<u>237,173</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>237,173</u>	<u>164,899</u>

Prayer for the work of Outreach North America was offered by Chad Reynolds.

The business session adjourned with the Benediction by Craig Wilkes

Thursday, June 12, 2008

7:00 A.M.

Earl Linderman led the informal morning Psalm sing on the Dining Room Porch.

8:30 A.M.

Following Scripture reading and prayer by William Marsh, Matt Lucas led the opening worship service.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** was presented. The **Committee** recommended that this memorial not be adopted by the General Synod.

**MEMORIAL FROM THE NORTHEAST PRESBYTERY
RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FORM OF
GOVERNMENT
[NOT ADOPTED]**

Since the *Form of Government* at Chapter XII, C.3 stipulates that, "Ministers in good standing in other Presbyteries or in other Christian denominations being present at any meeting of the Presbytery may be invited by the Presbytery to sit as consultative members. Such members may deliberate and advise, but shall not vote...."

And since the involvement of Ruling Elders in the work and deliberations of Presbytery are to be valued and encouraged, the Session of Ballston Center ARP Church proposes that the following amendment be added to the *Form of Government*:

Amend the end of the second paragraph of XII.C.3. to read:

"All Ruling Elders who are actively serving in a church of the Presbytery and present at the meeting of Presbytery, shall be invited by the Presbytery

to sit as consultative members and shall be allowed the privilege of the floor.”

This proposed amendment was approved by the Session of the Ballston Center ARP Church, Ballston Spa, NY on September 20, 2007.

This proposed amendment was adopted as a Memorial to General Synod by Northeast Presbytery on March 7, 2007, during its Spring Meeting at the Faith ARP Church, Olney, MD.

Attest:

Rev. GJ Gerard,

Principal Clerk of Northeast
Presbytery

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2009. Neely Gaston nominated J. Barry Dagenhart. Floy Jumper seconded the nomination.

Bill Evans nominated J. R. DeWitt. R. J. Gore addressed the court and read the seconding letter of Sinclair Ferguson on behalf of J. R. DeWitt. Dr. Gore then seconded the nomination.

A motion carried to close the nominations.

Darrell Peer addressed the Synod with regard to the work of Dunlap. The Report of the **Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap** recommended that recommendations 1 and 2 of the Board report be adopted. The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

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

The Dunlap Board of Trustees (Board) met at Bonclarken November 7 – 8, 2007 and by telephone conference call on March 19, 2008. Minutes of these meetings have been filed at the ARP Center.

The legacy of the Dunlap Board is long and rich, its roots being in the William H. Dunlap Orphanage (Dunlap) which served our denomination in Brighton, Tennessee from 1905 until its closing in 1978. The purpose of the orphanage, founded by Annie Bell Dunlap to honor the memory of her father, William H. Dunlap, and her aunt, Elizabeth Dunlap Spain, was to provide “for the maintenance, support, and education of orphans.” The first residents of Dunlap were children who came from an orphanage that had been opened in 1897 in Hickory Grove, SC by Reverend J. P. Knox. Since the closing of Dunlap in 1978, the Board has been the instrument of the Synod charged with providing for children who have been made vulnerable by unfortunate circumstances (loss of normal parental care) and whose vulnerability is compounded by their youth. The duties of the Board fall into two specific categories: Ministry and Administration as currently

outlined in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* and denoted in this report in bold print:

Ministry

1. To carry out the purpose of the corporation consistent with the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The policy guidelines for the Board state that our “purpose is to assist those providing all the following [to orphans]: basic physical necessities; spiritual, mental and emotional well-being; and assistance toward greater self-reliance.” To this end, the Board has established on-going relationships with the Collins Home & Family Ministries, Seneca, SC, and the Palmer Home for Children, Columbus, MS. A representative from the Dunlap Board serves on the board of each of these homes—Jane Williams for Collins, and Dianne Clowers for Palmer.

Collins Home provides a Christ-centered home for children between the ages of 5-18 who need a stronger family support system. The goal of the home is to foster spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development, and whenever possible, eventually to reunite the children with their natural families. The home is supported through private donations.

“Palmer Home for Children is a ministry to children in need...children who are growing up as social orphans without the nurture and support of a loving family...children who need a place to be and to become.” (www.palmerhome.org) Primarily supported by a number of Presbyterian denominations, the home has been serving children since 1895.

In addition to the Collins and Palmer Homes, the Board has approved funding for a number of years for the Presbyterian Homes and Family Services in Lynchburg, VA. Virginia Presbytery provides input to the Board on an annual basis to determine if there is a need for continued funding to support this ministry. One of the Dunlap board members describes the work of the Presbyterian Homes and Family Services as being very similar to that of the original Dunlap Orphanage.

The Board continues to provide \$20,000 annually to Erskine College for scholarships for orphans. In addition to the Erskine Dunlap Scholars program, funds are also available for Associate Reformed Presbyterian orphans who plan to attend college but are unable to attend Erskine.

In 2008, the Board is providing assistance to the homes mentioned above and is providing a special unsolicited grant to World Witness to be used for the care of orphans at the Mabel Lowry Pressly School in Sahiwal, Pakistan. The Board requests the assistance of members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in identifying homes, services, and college students who qualify for funds or scholarships. Further information and applications for grants and scholarships are available from the ARP Center.

Administrative

Administrative support is provided through the Office of Central Services.

Paul Bell serves as Administrative Officer for the Board.

Meeting dates for 2008–2009: November 12–13, 2008, Bonclarken; March 19, 2009, Conference Call.

2. To prepare and present to the General Synod a budget for William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.

The Dunlap Board does not request funds from the Denominational Ministry Fund of General Synod. Instead, the resources for the work of the Dunlap Board are provided primarily from endowment earnings and income from trusts and restricted endowments which name Dunlap as a beneficiary. When Dunlap Orphanage closed, assets and proceeds from the sale of the property were turned over to General Synod and invested in two separate endowments. The Will Ministry Fund endowment exclusively restricts its earnings to the care of orphaned children. The Orphanage Ministry Fund provides for broader purposes of the corporation. Those trusts which currently have Dunlap as a beneficiary are the B. J. Wade Trust, the Ola B. Hunter Trust, and the Kennedy Annuity.

Budget projections for 2009 are based on anticipated income from the trusts and five percent (5%) of the three-year market value of the endowments. Actual expenditures for 2009 will be approved at the 2008 fall meeting of the Board. Dunlap funds are audited as part of the annual General Synod audit, and financial reports are presented to the Board.

3. To elect officers and employ such administrators as are necessary for the work of the Board.

Officers of the Board for 2008 – 2009 are:

Darrell Peer – Chairman

William Harris – Vice-Chairman

Susan Jenkins – Secretary

Synod's Treasurer serves as Treasurer to the Corporation.

The Board expresses grateful appreciation to Carolyn Evans and Ronald Pritts who are completing their terms of service in June 2008.

4. To make an annual report to the General Synod.

Recommendations

1. That the tentative budget for 2009 be approved.
2. That all other actions of the Board, herein reported, be sustained.

Darrell Peer, Chairman
William H. Dunlap Fund

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP FUND
BUDGET

	Revised Budget 2008	Proposed Budget 2009
RECEIPTS		
Denominational Ministry Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ola B. Hunter Trust	\$ 1,758.50	\$ 1,713.15
B. J. Wade Trust	\$ 49,668.14	\$ 45,658.06
Will Ministry Fund	\$ 18,019.64	\$ 16,747.62
Orphanage Ministry Fund	<u>\$ 53,837.25</u>	<u>\$ 50,029.67</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 123,283.53</u>	<u>\$ 114,148.50</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
General Office	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Administrative Support	<u>\$ 4,250.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,250.00</u>
Board & General Office Sub-Total	<u>\$ 7,250.00</u>	<u>\$ 7,250.00</u>
Collins Home	\$ 40,365.80	\$ 0.00
Palmer Home	\$ 40,365.80	\$ 0.00
Presbyterian Home & Family Services	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00
Erskine Scholarships	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
MLSP Christian Girl's Hostel	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00
Unallocated	<u>\$ 301.93</u>	<u>\$ 86,898.50</u>
Ministry Contributions Sub-Total	<u>\$ 116,033.53</u>	<u>\$ 106,898.50</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 123,283.53</u>	<u>\$ 114,148.50</u>
Excess Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

The Moderator introduced Josh Grimm who led the Synod in prayer for the work of Dunlap.

The **Report of the Board of Trustees of Erskine College** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Erskine College** recommends that recommendations 1-3 be adopted.

The Committee makes the additional recommendations:

4. To encourage both teaching and ruling elders to take advantage of Erskine's continuing educational opportunities; specifically the upcoming Calvin Quincentenary and Reformed Institute of Worship conferences. Delegates are encouraged to pick up brochures detailing these opportunities.
5. That Erskine College and Seminary faculty, staff and administration be thanked for their devotion to the ARP denomination and to Christianity throughout the world.

The Report of the Board of the Trustees of Erskine College and the additional recommendations from the Moderator's Committee on Erskine were approved.

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE**Fathers and Brethren:**

The Board of Trustees is comprised of thirty members, twelve of whom are Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers, two elected each year. One half of the members are alumni or alumnae of the College and/or Seminary. Ex-officio members include the President of the Erskine Alumni Association, the Moderator of Synod, President of the ARP Women's Ministries and a representative designated by ARP Women's Ministries. Advisory members are the President, all Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, faculty and student representatives, the President of the Parents Association, the Chairman of the Board of Counselors, the Director of Christian Education Ministries, President of the Flying Fleet Club, the Moderator-Elect of Synod and the Coordinator of the General Synod. Members at large serve for six years. The Board meets in October, February and May.

Officers of the Board for 2007-2008 were Chairman Guy H. Smith III, Vice Chairman David J. Cathcart, Secretary William L. Barron, and Treasurer Gregory W. Haselden. The Board has the following committees: Executive, Academic and Enrollment Management, Finance and Facilities, Development, Student Services and Athletics, and Seminary.

The Board of Trustees exercises direct control of the operations of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary and establishes policies and educational programs and manages all properties and funds.

In the exercise of its authority, the Board complies with the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and its policies and programs are consistent with the purpose of the General Synod. Duties set forth in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* are herewith reviewed:

1. To exercise general oversight of the total operation of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary.

The mandate is fulfilled through the Board by reviewing at each meeting detailed reports from the President and the administrative staff. All reports are carefully examined by the appropriate Board committee, discussed, and recommendations for full Board consideration are crafted. The Board oversees the operations of the institution and makes decisions consistent with federal and state laws, accreditation standards, Erskine's Charter and Bylaws, Mission Statement and the Statement of Philosophy of Higher Christian Education. In keeping with its authority, the Board may challenge and rescind or amend administrative actions.

2. To establish admission and graduation requirements and to grant appropriate certification to all students for academic work satisfactorily completed.

While the Board establishes policies dealing with admission and graduation requirements and the approval of diplomas for graduating seniors, the actual implementation of Board policies is carried out by the faculties. Both the College and Seminary have Admission Committees made up

of faculty and staff, and through faculty structures, all candidates for degrees are approved by the College or Seminary faculty.

3. To determine all financial charges made to students.

Each year a budget is prepared by the administration, in consultation with faculty and staff, and submitted to the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board for review and revision. The budget may be revised as the year progresses if changes are necessary due to final student counts or other significant changes, and these revised forecasts are submitted through the Finance and Facilities Committee. The Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board considers the proposed budget, may make any needed changes, and then forwards it to the full Board for consideration. Prior to Board consideration, the Chief Financial Officer reviews key metrics which characterize the budget and entertains questions from Board members. This detailed and thoughtful process allows the Board to set student charges in the context of the full budget. Once a budget is adopted, the President informs students and parents of the financial charges for the coming year.

4. To establish curriculum.

In institutions of higher learning, the curriculum is primarily shaped by the faculty and submitted to the Board for approval. At Erskine the Board approves all new academic programs and degrees. The College offers a liberal arts education and awards the A.B. and B.S. degrees. The Seminary awards the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Christian Education, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry, Master of Church Music, Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, Master of Theology and the Doctor of Ministry degrees.

5. To supervise and promote religious, athletic, and social programs for the academic community.

a. Religious programs

Every effort is made by the Board and administration to make Erskine a “Christ-centered” institution. This is a major feature of the new College Mission Statement recently produced by a special Board committee. To implement that mission, the administration has in place a variety of Christian programs: worship services at The Barn, Bible studies, retreats, required chapels, a Baccalaureate service, student organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Christian counseling, the Gospel Choir, and a full-time chaplain and a female chaplain intern. A major campus organization is the Student Christian Association. Denominational groups meeting regularly are the Associate Reformed Presbyterian and Baptist.

b. Athletic programs

Currently Erskine has ten intercollegiate sports: men’s and women’s cross country, tennis, soccer, basketball; and baseball and softball. Plans are to begin men’s and women’s golf and women’s lacrosse in fall 2008 and volleyball the following year. Collegiate competition is carried out in Conference Carolinas, which includes institutions from North and South Carolina. In addition to these official National

Collegiate Athletic Association sports, Erskine provides opportunities for students to play intramural sports. Excellent athletic facilities are also available.

c. Social programs

Many social programs for men and women are offered both on and off campus. Concerts, plays, musical recitals, dances, parades and games are just a few of those activities. Student organizations include the Student Government Association, the Student Christian Association, and numerous other clubs. Student publications, such as the newspaper and yearbook, and choral groups provide social interaction for many of the students at Erskine. The Hanger in the basement of the Erskine Building is an informal place for students to gather and talk.

6. **To determine the annual operational budget; to devise methods for increasing funds, resources and properties; and to care for, maintain, and secure the physical facilities.**

a. Annual operational budget

See section 3 for the budget process.

b. Increasing funds, resources and properties

A development staff of nine works in the area of Development and Alumni Affairs and raises more than \$2 million in the annual fund and secures many other gifts through estate planning. The recent acquisition of properties has added to the campus more than four acres and several buildings previously owned by the Due West Oil Mill as well as the former Robinson house located next to the President's Home. The Gold Campaign was completed on December 31, 2007, with more than \$40 million paid or pledged, exceeding the goal of \$36,800,000.

c. Maintain and secure physical facilities.

A staff of 30 workers maintains the physical facilities and the 90 acre campus. Twenty-four hour security is maintained by two full-time campus security officials as well as local law enforcement officials. Erskine has been ranked among the safest campuses in South Carolina. Recently, \$2.1 million was devoted to deferred maintenance projects in Belk Hall, the Erskine Building and the Watkins Student Center. A music-math complex has been completed along with the renovation of Memorial Hall.

7. **To hold in trust all endowments and titles to properties and to execute them in accordance with the stipulated purposes for which they were given, conveyed, or bequeathed.**

The Investment Committee of the Board oversees the endowment and makes decisions about how funds are invested. Smith Barney serves as investment consultant and assists the Investment Committee with its oversight and monitoring of the investment managers via the approved Investment Policy Statement. To guarantee that funds are used for the purposes for which they were given, Erskine creates agreements with the donor, signed by the donor and the President. These agreements control

the use of funds restricted for designated purposes, such as scholarships and professorships.

8. **To appoint such officers, administrators, and faculty members as may be necessary for the operation of the College and Seminary, and to set salaries of the administrative officers of the College and Seminary.**

The Board oversees the overall character and size of the faculty and staff and appoints administrative officers and approves all faculty appointments in the Seminary. The Board selects the President, the Executive Vice President and Dean of the College, the Executive Vice President of the Seminary, and the Treasurer. College faculty are chosen through a search process culminating in the approval of the Executive Vice President and Dean and the President. The size of the administration and faculty is controlled by the approved Board budget. The Executive Committee establishes the salary of the President who in turn sets the salaries of all administrative officers and faculty of the College and Seminary.

New Faculty for 2007-2008

Newly named College faculty for the 2007-08 academic year are as follows: Ms. Uliana Gancea, Visiting Lecturer of Modern Languages; Dr. John Makujina, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies; Mr. Lawrence McDonnell, Visiting Assistant Professor of History; Dr. Ekaterina Michonova-Alexova, Assistant Professor Physics; Dr. David Reiter, Associate Professor of Philosophy; Dr. Walter Rojas, Associate Professor of Modern Languages; Ms. Kelly Tracy, Assistant Professor of Education; Dr. Ashley Woodiwiss, Grady Patterson Professor of Politics; and Mr. Scott A. DeCiantis, Instructor and Program Director of Athletic Training.

The Seminary's two new professors for the 2007-08 academic year are Dr. Terry L. Eves, Professor of Old Testament (Due West campus) and Dr. Max F. Rogland, Assistant Professor of Old Testament (Columbia campus). Erskine has approximately 200 employees.

9. **To submit nominations to Synod's Committee on Nominations.**

A Board's Trustee Committee receives suggestions for Board service from Board members and other Erskine constituencies and then compiles a list of persons meeting the qualifications set forth in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*. The Trustee Committee then considers the particular skills or needs for the Board and determines the nominees best suited to fill these slots. This process is performed annually in the fall of the year before Synod's Committee on Nominations meets. Consent is secured from each person nominated.

10. **To make an annual report to the General Synod, to include a special section relating to the implementation of the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education.**

Reports are and have been submitted to the General Synod annually. The College and Seminary have recently revised their Mission Statements, and a deliberate effort was made to shape those statements in view of the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. In the College Mission Statement some of the language was borrowed directly

from the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher document. One of the requirements in the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education is that faculty and administrators affirm that they are evangelical Christians according to the definition set forth in that document. A written affirmation is required of all new College and Seminary faculty and of all administrators at the director level and above as part of the application process.

Each new Board member goes through an orientation process and receives a copy of the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education along with the related report and the *Manual of Authorities of Duties* section related to Erskine.

Erskine College Mission Statement

The mission of Erskine College is to equip students to flourish by providing an excellent liberal arts education in a Christ-centered environment where learning and biblical truth are integrated to develop the whole person.

Historical Perspective

In 1839 by the providence of God, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church established Erskine College. Many American colleges had abandoned their commitment to the historic Christian faith; however, from its inception, Erskine College has been committed to the principle that facts and values—learning and faith—are inseparable. This commitment is enshrined in the Erskine motto: *scientia cum moribus conjuncta* (knowledge joined with morals). As the arm of the Church for Christian higher education, Erskine strives to carry out the biblical mandate to redeem all of life, especially moral and intellectual life, under the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Our Commitments

Erskine College is committed to excellent liberal arts education.

At Erskine an excellent liberal arts education means that all students pursue a broad-based course of study including requirements in language and literature, visual and performing arts, natural and social sciences, Bible and world history; mathematics and technology. Students are encouraged to think critically, so that minds and hearts may be opened to truth. With this foundation, Erskine is committed to developing the whole person and to preparing students for life-long learning. Erskine is recognized nationally for excellence in these pursuits.

Erskine College is committed to a Christ-centered environment.

At Erskine, a Christ-centered environment is one that supports conformity to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Rooted in the Reformed tradition, Erskine provides for a holistic and transformational education that takes into account the intellectual and spiritual formation of students. This environment

fosters an educational ethos whose personnel, policies, and teaching are informed and animated by the sovereignty of God over all of the created order. Erskine encourages wholesome living and calls the entire community to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Erskine College is committed to the integration of learning and biblical truth.

At Erskine the integration of learning and biblical truth is an ongoing process of seeking to discern and develop the integral relationships between reason and revelation. In this process human learning informs the development of a Christian worldview, and biblical revelation informs the content and practice of human learning. Within this framework, faculty and students are free to engage in a genuine pursuit of truth and understanding and to strive to develop the highest and best use of their abilities.

With an Erskine education, graduates are equipped to flourish in all of life.

Miscellaneous Items

A copy of the 2008-2009 budget approved by the Board of Trustees follows the recommendations.

Erskine appreciates the \$50,000 allocated by the General Synod in June 2007 to assist with the renovation of an Alumni Guest House on campus. In the current year, Erskine launched a new Campus Master Plan study. To ensure the appropriate house is designated for the Alumni Guest House, Erskine has deferred this work until the completion of the Campus Master Plan.

In the event that additional funds are available in the current year, we would request the Board of Stewardship to consider assisting with the funding of the Campus Master Plan. This plan will ensure that any new facility, reuse of existing facility, or other campus improvements properly fit within the overall campus plan. Funding up to \$50,000 would assist with this project.

A supplemental report is provided on Erskine Theological Seminary.

Recommendation

Grateful to God and the General Synod for its faithful support, the Board offers the following recommendations:

1. That its budget request presented through the Board of Stewardship be approved as follows:
\$640,000 operating funds and
\$500 ARP Student Union.
2. That special days be designated when the work of Erskine College and Seminary can be presented to the congregations of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and when special offerings to support the ministries of this institution can be received.

3. That the educational opportunities at Erskine College and Erskine Seminary be promoted in local churches, presbyteries and denominational events such as conferences, retreats and other occasions. Special attention should be given the E.B. Kennedy Scholarship Program in the College and the lecture series offered by the Seminary.

Respectfully submitted,
 Guy H. "Chip" Smith III
 Chairman, Board of Trustees
 Randall T. Ruble
 President

REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Our Mission and Commitments

*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.***

***Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to love and serve God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.** We acknowledge that the Father has given Jesus Christ as head over all things for the Church, and by his grace and Spirit we seek to serve him faithfully by making disciples and equipping saints for the work of ministry, so that the body of Christ might be built up.*

***Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to the truthfulness, authority, and centrality of the Bible.** We affirm "the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the written Word of God, the only perfect rule of faith and practice." We seek to be faithful to the Bible by examining the Scriptures in the original languages, interpreting the Biblical texts faithfully, and applying the teachings of Scripture to all aspects of human life and to all people, both inside and outside the Church. The Bible holds the preeminent and central place in all facets of Erskine Seminary's scholarship, teaching, and worship.*

***Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to the Reformed Tradition.** We believe that the tradition of Biblical interpretation, theology, and Christian practice stemming from the Calvinistic wing of the Protestant Reformation is faithful to Scripture, and that this tradition can speak truthfully and powerfully to the contemporary world. As a part of this commitment, Erskine Seminary seeks to be faithful to the doctrinal standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, as set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and by the following affirmations of the General Synod,*

"The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God without error in all that it teaches,"¹ and "We believe that the Holy

Spirit reveals Christ to us through the Holy Scripture which is the Word of God written. While we do not have the original autographs as evidence, we believe on faith that God's Word in its entirety was accurately recorded by the original writers through divine inspiration and reliably transmitted to us."²

"The Bible reveals God as the source of all truth. Reverence for Him and commitment to Him is the beginning of wisdom."³

"In Thy light shall we see light." ⁴

¹ *Minutes of the General Synod*, 1979, p. 23.

² *Minutes of the General Synod*, 1979, p. 76.

³ "Manual of Authorities and Duties," p. 42.

⁴ Ps. 36:9b; c.f. "Manual of Authorities and Duties," p. 44.

Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We believe that faculty members, staff, and students from non-Reformed denominations are an important part of our community, and we respect the diversity of denominational distinctives and doctrinal stances as we seek to prepare candidates for ministry. Similarly, we recognize that men and women from a variety of ethnic, economic, geographical, and cultural backgrounds have important contributions to make to the task of theological education. We are convinced that the varied perspectives represented in the Erskine community help enable all of us to see more clearly the multi-faceted diamond which is the universal Church. At the same time, we affirm that our common ground is more fundamental than our differences, and we seek to explore that common ground by providing a core curriculum to all students, a curriculum that includes the traditional emphases on the Bible, theology, Church history, and ministerial functions.

Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to the needs and spiritual growth of its students. We seek to create an educational climate that brings about growth in Christian character and fosters the spiritual formation of students, faculty, and staff. We believe that collegiality is an important mark of such a climate, and we seek to foster close relationships within the community by restricting classes to small enrollment, by ensuring easy student access to faculty, and by worshiping together regularly. Moreover, we recognize that there are many students for whom traditional theological education would not be a viable option, and we seek to meet the needs of these students by providing a program of distributive education that includes courses taught both at off-campus sites and through distance education.

Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to its role as a resource for the whole Christian Church. We seek to minister to the broader Church by provid-

ing a program of continuing education (conferences, seminars, and special lectures) addressing the needs of both clergy and laity in the Church. Our faculty and staff members seek to be engaged fully in the Church's life and activities through teaching and serving ministries in their own and other churches, denominations, and missions agencies. Our faculty members also seek to advance the Gospel by contributing at a scholarly level to the Church's discussions about theology, history, culture, and ministry.

All Erskine faculty subscribe ex animo to the General Synod's definition of an evangelical Christian. The following definition of an evangelical was adopted by the 1976 General Synod:

"The word 'evangelical' comes from a Greek root meaning 'good news' and it refers to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In a broad sense, evangelicals are people who believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word and that an individual can become a Christian only by accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Evangelicals believe:

- 1. The Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God.*
- 2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- 3. In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His Virgin Birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through the shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.*
- 4. That for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.*
- 5. In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.*
- 6. In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; that they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.*
- 7. In the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Erskine Theological Seminary exercises its duties as outlined in the "Manual of Authorities and Duties" through the affirmation of our Mission and Commitments listed above and through the activities and ministry of our faculty, staff, and students listed below.

Fathers and Brethren:

- Enrollment exceeded 450 students for the 2007-08 academic year. 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 2008 commencement promoted 58 graduates. The breakdown by degree was as follows: 31 Master of Divinity, 4 Master of Arts in Christian Education, 6 Master of Arts in Theological Studies, 4 Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, 1 Master of Church Music, and 12 Doctor of Ministry. The commencement speaker was Chaplain (Major General) David H. Hicks, USA Ret.
 - The Seminary received \$669,207 for new and existing endowed scholarships, \$121,766 for annual scholarship funds, and \$1,144,394 for professorships for the period January 1 – December 31, 2007.
 - Permanent teaching faculty members for the year included Bible professors Terry Eves, James Hering, Loyd Melton, Max Rogland, 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 Alan Avera, John Blumenstein, Brad Christie, Joyce Coggins, Jennifer Fairbairn, Leslie Holmes, Merwyn Johnson, Randy Kowalski, Mary Lowe, James McGoldrick, and Michael Wolfe.
 - A search committee, chaired by Dr. Loyd Melton, is interviewing candidates for a New Testament professor, who will be based in Columbia. The search will remain open until a candidate is called.
 - New administrative staff include Robin Broome, Secretary/Receptionist; Andria Carpenter, Registrar; Lee Duffie, Director of Admissions and Marketing; Mary Stephens, Student Services Coordinator; and LaShelia Wyatt, Director of Financial Aid.
 - In appreciation of 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 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 Seminary is sponsoring five students from the Kenyan Presbyterian

Church of East Africa (PCEA). The students have spoken at various ARP churches, giving testimonies and stating how they plan to use their seminary degrees. They are also working with Kenyan ARP churches in Atlanta and Charlotte in conjunction with Outreach North America.

- A military chaplain from Ghana arrived in August 2007 to study in the D.Min. Program at Erskine Seminary.
- Erskine Seminary is now offering the M.Div. degree in a modular schedule, in addition to our current offerings of the degree on campus and at the extension centers. In this modular schedule, there are six periods for intensive seminars (two weeks in January and two weeks in June over a three-year period). In this scheme, 12 core courses (36 hours) are offered in intensive seminar form on campus over that period.
- The faculty has approved a cooperative agreement between Erskine Theological Seminary and Ecole Biblique in Cayes, Haiti.
- Dr. Dale Johnson is teaching a three-week class and study tour of Martin Luther and the German Reformation in Wittenberg, Germany from July 13 – August 3, 2008.
- The Seminary is working with Andrew Brunson, a missionary in Turkey, to develop and teach a course on the book of Revelation as a J-Term 2009 elective in Turkey.
- The Financial Aid Office will implement online student-initiated borrower certifications during the 2008-09 academic year. The certifications will be with Erskine Seminary's three preferred lenders: SCSLC, Wachovia, and Chase.
- The online campus bookstore became available in January 2008.
- The Institute for Reformed Worship relocated to Columbia in January 2008, and is now under the leadership of Dr. Mark Ross, Associate Dean of the Columbia Campus and Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old, Dean of the Institute for Reformed Worship.
- The Thirteenth Biennial Calvin Colloquium was held at Erskine on January 25th and 26th, 2008. Co-directors were Dr. Richard Burnett and Dr. Michael Bush. The following speakers presented papers: Dale Johnson, Professor of Church History at Erskine Theological Seminary; Raymond Menzer, Daniel J. Krumm Family Chair in Reformation Studies at the University of Iowa; Douglas F. Kelly, Richard Jordan Professor of Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte; and Gerhard Sauter, Professor of Systematic Theology in the Protestant Theological Faculty of the University of Bonn.
- 2007-08 Erskine Lecture Series speakers included Dr. Alan Avera, Executive Director of Outreach North America, for Fall Missions Emphasis Week; Dr. Howard Snyder, Distinguished Professor, Chair of Wesley Studies at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, for Church Renewal

in the 21st Century; Dr. Gary Goforth, Director of Medical Education and Family Medicine Residency Program at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, South Carolina, for Christianity and Public Service; Mr. Frank Van Dalen, Executive Director of World Witness, for Spring Missions Emphasis Week; Dr. Gordon Fee, Professor Emeritus of New Testament Studies at Regent College, for Holy Spirit in Pauline Theology; Dr. Marvin A. McMickle, Senior Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio and Professor of Homiletics at Ashland Theological Seminary, for Sermon on the Resurrection; Dr. Richard Allen Farmer, classically trained pianist, concert artist, and Bible expositor, for the *Annual Spring Conference (Whitesides Pastors' Institute)*; and Dr. Peter W. Flint, Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, also for the *Annual Spring Conference (Robinson Lecturer)* .

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

Following announcements, a prayer for Clyde T. McCants by James C. Barker, and a prayer for the nominating process by Dean Turbeville, General Synod recessed for the morning break.

A motion carried that the General Synod go on record that the position of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church on Scripture is that the Bible alone, being God-breathed, is the Word of God Written, infallible in all that it teaches, and inerrant in the original manuscripts.

Juan Carlos Bonilla offered prayer on behalf of Bonclarken staff member, Marcissa Pace, who was injured in an accident and is facing serious surgery.

Randall Ruble expressed the thanks of Erskine and himself personally for the prayers and support of the Church, inviting all to visit the campus.

During the debate on a proposed motion, Jim Corbett led the Synod in prayer for God's guidance with regard to the issue being debated.

A motion carried that the position statement adopted by the 2008 Synod on the Bible be forwarded to the Committee to Revise the Form of Government, and that this statement be included in the ordination vows for Ministers and Elders at the appropriate places.

A motion carried that the Moderator and Moderator-Elect work closely with the President of Bonclarken and/or his staff to make assurance that the public address system for future meetings of the General Synod meeting place work properly and that provisions be made for pages to place microphones in the hands of persons wishing to speak from the floor.

A motion carried that the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, page 9, the definition of an evangelical, item 1, "The Bible to be the inspired, the infallible authoritative Word of God" be replaced by the position statement adopted by the 2008 General Synod on the Bible.

Noting the order of the day, the Moderator called on John Dorr to offer the prayer and blessing for the meal.

**Thursday, June 12, 2008
2:00 P.M.**

William Marsh introduced Mark Bolhofner who led the afternoon devotional.

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 1-4 be adopted.
 2. The Recommendation #5 not be adopted.
- In addition, the committee recommended:
6. To sustain the actions of the Executive Board in regard to the sale of ARP Center property.
 7. As follows:
 - a. That General Synod reaffirms the supervisory role of Synod-appointed boards over their designated agencies including the administrative and financial interest of the General Synod.
 - b. That General Synod reaffirm that Central Services is a support agency of the General Synod, and does not have a supervisory function over other agencies.
 - c. That the appointment of financial staff within Central Services not infringe upon the authority of Synod-appointed boards to oversee and administer finances of their specific agencies, except as specifically requested by the agency.
 8. That actions of the Executive Board, other than the above identified paragraph, be sustained as reported.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

The Executive Board of the General Synod is the agency empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of 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 once since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its actions and activities and presents the recommendations of the Executive Board to the General Synod.

There were no actions deemed to be emergency situations. In its duty to implement directives of the General Synod, coordinate the work of the Synod and supervise Central Services and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, the Executive Board reports the following actions:

With regard to the Pacific Presbytery, the Executive Board heard from representatives of the Presbytery, engaged in discussion and accepted questions and answers. As a result the Board relieved the Ecclesiastical Commission of any responsibility in the matter of Pacific Presbytery and advised the Pacific Presbytery to contact Northeast Presbytery with regard to the matter of Korean churches within the bounds of Northeast Presbytery.

A motion carried that with regard to all matters concerning Pacific Presbytery and its relationship with Rev. Paek, all communications will be directed to the Principal Clerk of General Synod in the English language.

The Executive Board acted to adopt the recommendations of its Center Facility Committee as follows: The Center Facility Committee was authorized to sell the existing location, and upon the sale of the existing facility the existing Center Facility Committee is commissioned to locate and purchase a new facility. The Committee will be responsible for all aspects of design and layout following the input of the directors of each agency.

As a result of the report of the Special Committee on the Coordinator, the Executive Board adopted the following policy concerning the responsibilities of the Executive Director of Central Services.

In the absence of a Coordinator, the Executive Director of Central Services shall:

- a. Serve as a consultant to and advisory member of General Synod's boards and committees in the process of coordinating their work and assisting them in the tasks assigned to them by the General Synod; and including the responsibility of advising and encouraging agency directors in their responsibilities;

- b. Assist and advise any search committee in the hiring of new or replacement administrators;

- c. Maintain a close relationship and communication with the Moderator and Moderator-elect to provide information to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities and to make them aware of the workings of the boards and committees of the General Synod;

- d. Continually evaluate the effectiveness of the organization structure and administrative practices of the General Synod and report his findings to the Executive Board.

The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Inc. met and had no business before it.

In the field of publications, a Publications Director is to be hired.

The handbook for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center has been revised.

The Board approved the beginning of the process to hire a Chief Financial Officer. In its report to the Executive Board, the Committee on Administration affirmed that the Executive Director of Central Services is accountable for the administrative interests of the General Synod with regard to its agencies and boards. He reports to the Committee on Administration of the Executive Board.

The Mississippi Valley Commission on Hurricane Relief was advised that they are to continue the process of disseminating the remaining funds in their hands.

The Board notes that the resignation of Dr. Wilf Bellamy was effective May 31, 2008 and the Executive Board expressed its thanks to God for all Dr. Bellamy's service, and confirmed its prayers and best wishes for his continued endeavors.

Recommendations:

1. That all communications from all presbyteries be sent in English, including, but not limited to Minutes of Presbytery, official reports and official communications of both Presbyteries and local churches.
2. That the proposed budgets for Central Services, ARP Center Facility and the Executive Board be approved.
3. That the Emphasis for 2008-2009 be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination.
4. That the position of Coordinator of the General Synod not be filled at this time.
5. That all other actions of the Executive Board as reported herein be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles F. Edgar, Moderator
C. Ronald Beard, Principal Clerk

CENTRAL SERVICES BUDGET PROJECTIONS

	2008 Revised	2009 Proposed
Current Fund Receipts	9.88%	23.52%
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$220,148	\$ 271,933
Allocation from GS Contingency		
Allocation of Invested Reserve	\$ 63,242	\$ —

AS Expense Reimbursement	\$ 37,750	\$ 37,750
Miscellaneous Sales & Services	\$ 3,864	\$ 3,979
Miscellaneous Gifts		
Sub-Total	\$325,004	\$ 313,662
Agency Support		
Annuities & Relief	\$ 97,332	\$ 120,123
Additional Allocation for 2006		
ARP Foundation	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750
W. H. Dunlap Fund	\$ 4,250	\$ 4,250
Other Agencies	<u>\$ 950</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Sub-Total	<u>\$106,282</u>	<u>\$ 129,123</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$431,286</u>	<u>\$ 442,786</u>
DISBURSEMENTS	3.00%	3.00%
Executive Director Central Services		
Salary	\$ 74,160	\$ 76,385
Phone Allowance (Taxable)	\$ 420	\$ 420
Retirement	\$ 6,339	\$ 6,528
Insurance	\$ 14,564	\$ 15,729
Employer Tax	<u>\$ 5,705</u>	<u>\$ 5,876</u>
Executive Director Central Services	<u>\$ 101,189</u>	<u>\$ 104,938</u>
Support Staff Sub-Total	<u>\$ 210,546</u>	<u>\$ 300,493</u>
Staff & Program		
Workman's Compensation	\$ 1,612	\$ 2,136
Director Travel & Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 750
Staff Travel & Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Training	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,750
Contract Employees		
Former Admin Assis Consulting	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Former Director Consulting	<u>\$ 3,500</u>	<u>\$ 1,700</u>
Staff & Program	<u>\$ 10,362</u>	<u>\$ 8,336</u>
Equipment		
Lease		
Copiers	\$ 19,204	\$ 19,780
Postage Meter/Scales	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,575
Equipment Purchase	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Equipment	<u>\$ 24,204</u>	<u>\$ 24,855</u>
General Office		
Software Maintenance	\$ 2,122	\$ 2,186
Internet	\$ 801	\$ 674
Online payment service fees	\$ 840	\$ 865
Basic Telephone	\$ 3,521	\$ 3,658
Long Distance	\$ 100	\$ 100

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

519

ARP Synod Web Page design & maint	\$ 3,600	\$ 742
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,118	\$ 7,474
Advance Purchase for Services		
Copier Usage		
Postage	\$ 18,389	\$ 19,309
UPS	\$ 3,780	\$ 3,969
Paper	<u>\$ 2,757</u>	<u>\$ 2,895</u>
General Office	<u>\$ 43,029</u>	<u>\$ 41,872</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 389,328</u>	<u>\$ 480,494</u>
Income Over (Under) Expenditures		
Minus Reserve Application	\$ 41,957	\$ (37,708)
Beginning Unencumbered Reserve	<u>\$ (4,249)</u>	<u>\$ 37,708</u>
Ending Fund Reserve	\$ 37,708	\$ 0.00

ARP CENTER FACILITY

BUDGET PROJECTIONS

	2008 Revised	2009 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Rent		
CEM	\$ 9,318.67	\$ 9,513.04
Outreach North America	\$ 8,699.04	\$ 8,880.48
The ARP	\$ 5,592.24	\$ 5,708.88
World Witness	\$ 18,388.80	\$18,772.35
Non-Synod Agencies		
200	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
201	\$ 1,553.65	\$ 1,587.43
202	\$ 5,584.40	\$ 5,705.80
203	\$ 806.04	\$ 822.85
204	\$ 3,007.53	\$ 3,077.33
Interest and Miscellaneous		
Interest	\$ 759.06	\$ 738.30
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Intra-Fund Transfers	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Building, Equipment & Furniture		
Purchased for Depreciation	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 69,709.44</u>	<u>\$ 70,806.45</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Facility Management		
Staff & General Office	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Expendable Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Facility Management	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>

Garbage Pick-Up	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Yard Maintenance	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 5,100.00
Heating & Air Conditioning	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,750.00
Janitorial Services	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 12,000.00
Facility Non-Contract Labor	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Security Monitoring Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Taxes	\$ 811.44	\$ 850.00
Pest Control	<u>\$ 310.00</u>	<u>\$ 310.00</u>
Facility Maintenance	<u>\$ 24,121.44</u>	<u>\$ 22,410.00</u>
Electricity	\$ 16,480.00	\$ 21,000.00
Gas	\$ 16,885.69	\$ 14,000.00
Water & Sewer	<u>\$ 900.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Utilities	<u>\$ 34,265.69</u>	<u>\$ 36,000.00</u>
Equipment		
Renovations for Depreciation		
Building, Equipment & Furniture	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Contingency	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 0.00
Depreciation - Current Period Adjustment	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 66,887.13</u>	<u>\$ 64,910.00</u>
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	\$ 2,822.31	\$ 5,896.45
Beginning Operating Reserve	<u>\$ 7,082.05</u>	<u>\$ 9,904.36</u>
Ending Operating Reserve	<u>\$ 9,904.36</u>	<u>\$ 15,800.80</u>

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

RECEIPTS

	2008 Revised	2009 Proposed
Current Fund Receipts		
General Synod Allocation	\$127,121.12	\$136,680.04
GS Contingency Allocation	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Contingency transferred to Central Services		
Minutes & Plan Book Sales	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00
General Synod Registration	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 3,675.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$156,796.12</u>	<u>\$166,105.04</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
General Synod Officers		
Moderator	\$ 3,867.00	\$ 4,000.00
Vice-Moderator	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Moderator-Elect	\$ 3,094.00	\$ 3,094.00
Vice-Moderator Elect	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Principal Clerk	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,150.00

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

521

Treasurer	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 3,675.00
General Synod Officers Sub-Total	<u>\$ 16,636.00</u>	<u>\$ 16,919.00</u>
Synod Coordinator		
Consulting Fees	\$ 51,305.12	\$ 52,844.28
Reimbursed Expenses	\$ 6,180.00	\$ 6,365.40
Synod Coordinator Sub-Total	<u>\$ 57,485.12</u>	<u>\$ 59,209.68</u>
General Synod Meeting		
Program & Preparation	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 6,500.00
Honorariums	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pre-Synod Conf Honorariums	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Staff Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
General Synod Meeting	<u>\$ 12,600.00</u>	<u>\$ 13,000.00</u>
Executive Board Meeting & Office		
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 5,513.00	\$ 5,513.00
Strategic Planning Committee		\$ 8,000.00
General Office & Miscellaneous	\$ 1,524.00	\$ 500.00
Committee to Plan Emphases	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Leadership Orientation (new Board Chairmen)	<u>\$ 1,200.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Executive Board	<u>\$ 9,737.00</u>	<u>\$ 15,513.00</u>
Promotion & Services		
Insurance		
Umbrella Liability	\$ 6,942.00	\$ 1,700.00
Multi-Peril Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,500.00
Insurance	<u>\$ 6,942.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,200.00</u>
Orientation Program	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>
Historial Concerns		
Historian Honorarium	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Historian Reimbursements	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Curator of ARP Materials	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
General Office Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Presbyterian Study Center- materials preservation	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>
Historial Concerns Sub-Total	<u>\$ 5,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,500.00</u>
New Member Subscriptions-THE ARP	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Promotion & Services Sub-Total	<u>\$ 17,442.00</u>	<u>\$ 18,700.00</u>
Minutes of Synod		
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 5,754.00	\$ 1,494.22
Printing	<u>\$ 9,016.00</u>	<u>\$ 13,036.71</u>
Minutes of Synod	<u>\$ 14,770.00</u>	<u>\$ 14,530.92</u>
Plan Book		
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,121.96

Printing	<u>\$ 1,926.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,110.48</u>
Plan Book	<u>\$ 3,126.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,232.44</u>
Contingency	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$156,796.12</u>	<u>\$166,105.04</u>
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

EMPHASES

July 2008 – June 2009

The Indispensable Word

Theme verse: Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. (Deut 8:3 & Mt 4:4)

The Proposed Emphases are:

July -- Food vs. Word – Which One is Optional? (Deut 8:3/Mt 4:4)

August -- Help, We are Clueless! (Is 55:8&9)

September -- Swearing: the Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth (John 18:37)

October -- Where are You Going? (Ps 119:105)

November -- Darwinism Reversed (John 1:1-3)

December -- Communication and the Communicator (John 1:14)

January -- Scripture: Comparable to What? (Luke 8:4-15)

February -- Knowing What to Do (1 Thess 2:13)

March -- Are You Listening? (Matt 6:9a)

April -- Which Comes First: Word or Faith? (Rom 10:14-17)

May -- Are the Lights Out? (Prov 6:23)

June -- Jesus: Truth or Consequences (John 8:32)

The Report of The Associated Reform Presbyterian was presented and adopted. The **Moderator's Committee on The Associate Reformed Presbyterian** recommended that recommendations 1-13 be adopted. The committee further recommended:

14. That Synod commend the board & staff of the ARP Magazine for their work during the 2007- 2008 year.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

The Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* gives thanks to our gracious Lord for His blessings of this year and expresses to the court and church our gratitude for your prayerful support. We make the following report of our actions of the past year and our plans for the future.

Editor's Report

While subscriptions have not increased significantly, they have not declined – and remain at about the same number as this time last year. As we have done for many years, once again we ask for your help in getting the magazine to more families in the ARP church. We ask that you address this issue and help increase readership – bringing the denomination closer through news from churches as well as spiritually uplifting and biblically sound articles, found in the pages of The ARP Magazine.

The number of magazine agents has dwindled significantly and a recent survey shows that churches have not replaced them. A recommendation that has been approved for years is that each Session is to appoint an agent to promote and handle subscriptions, if one is not already in place. This has not been accomplished in our churches – and may be an important link to the decline in subscription numbers.

Our goal is not just about numbers, but to create interest and knowledge about the work of the ARP Church and its agencies, institutions and churches. In the past year, the magazine has undergone subtle changes in design, the addition of new, “themed” pages and sharper, bolder color and print.

Renewal envelopes placed in the magazine at the time of expiration was successfully implemented in the fall, with positive feedback from individual subscribers. Only those who subscribe through their church on club plans do not receive renewal envelopes. “The yellow reminder envelope is a great help and a wonderful idea,” writes Florence Nelson of First Presbyterian Church (ARP), Lake Wales, FL.

The Editor plans to continue publishing articles for the entire family. The addition of Kids Talk, a page for the youth of the church, which includes a devotion, puzzle and question of the month, has received good reviews. Some adults say they too enjoy the page. The editor also promoted the magazine at many venues in 2007, including churches, conferences, presbytery and presbyterial meetings.

An ARP Magazine Workshop was held at the Family Bible Conference for agents who help promote and work with subscription renewals in their church each year, led by the editor. She also spoke at the annual meeting of Women's Ministries, with the offering going to The ARP.

ARP Magazine Sunday in the month of November was revived, and many churches held successful promotions for members to sign-up to take the magazine on that day. A spring promotion targeting 12 ARP churches in a “test market” situation will be implemented to see if successful results can be obtained using several marketing strategies.

The ARP Magazine is no longer responsible for ordering, selling, mailing and bookkeeping for the Women's Ministries study books. Women's Ministries Administrator Elizabeth Burns will assume responsibility for this in 2008.

Administrative Assistant Gail Griffin's retirement has slowed progress somewhat since October. However, with the hiring of a replacement in August, the Editor hopes to be able to provide Web site training for church agents as well as visit churches and speak with church leaders about the importance of providing the magazine to church families.

We now have a pay-online subscription program and have redesigned our Web site.

Actions of the Board

In its efforts to oversee the publication of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* and to supervise the Editor, your board met in September, 2007, and March, 2008. In addition, there were meetings of the Executive Committee in Greenville and by telephone.

We report the following actions:

The Board :

- * Approved a recommendation that the office of The ARP no longer handle the sale of the Women's Ministries study book.
- * Approved a change to *The Manual of Authorities and Duties* for submission to Synod.
 "That the following words be added under "Membership" after the word "publishing": "(e.g. circulation, marketing, editing, or advertising or other needed skills.)"
- * Approved a change to *The Manual of Authorities and Duties* to add the description of the administrative officer.
- * Established an Editorial Advisory Panel to provide assistance to the Editor.
- * Prepared the 2009 budget for submission to the Board of Stewardship.
- * Requested that the Board of Stewardship extend the balance of the allocation for promotion of the magazine until 2009 and provide an additional \$2,000 for this purpose.
- * Reviewed the Board policy on publication of letters to the Editor.
- * Addressed issues regarding postage in US and Canada.
- * Approved plans by the Publications Committee for targeted efforts to promote magazine subscriptions.
- * Approved plans to increase the number of churches with agents to provide news and promote the magazine.
- * Approved plans to aid churches in providing subscriptions to the magazine for new members.
- * Approved plans to develop an online subscription program.
- * Will provide additional materials to churches that can be used in bulletins and newsletters to promote the magazine.
- * Noted the redesign of The ARP Magazine Web site.
- * The Board noted with great concern that there were no names submitted to the Committee on Nominations for service on the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*. The Board needs additional members with skills in

the publishing circulation, marketing, editing, or advertising fields.

- * The Board was advised of the retirement of Gail Griffin.
- * The Board concurred with the Editor's hiring of Susan Lever as Assistant Editor in August, 2008.
- * The Board elected the following officers for 2008-2009:
 - Chairman: Mr. Walter F. Payne, Jr. (First Gastonia)
 - Vice-Chairman: Mr. Oran P. Smith (First Columbia)
 - Secretary: The Rev. John M. Rogers (Edwards Memorial)
- * The Board thanked retiring Board member, Greg Slater, and retiring Chairman, Max Bolin, for their service.

Recommendations:

The Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* recommends:

1. That Synod designate the first Sunday of November (November 2, 2008) as **ARP Magazine Sunday**, and that in the weeks to follow, special emphasis be given in churches to obtain subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* for the year 2009.
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 Sessions of the denomination provide to the Board and the Committee on Nominations the names of persons with the needed skills in the broad area of publishing such as circulation, marketing, editing, or advertising fields.
7. That the General Synod express its appreciation to Gail Griffin for her many years of service to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* and to the denomination.
8. That the proposed 2009 budget be approved.
9. That *The Manual of Authorities and Duties* be amended by the following addition to the paragraph entitled **Membership**:

After the word "publishing" add "(e.g. circulation, marketing, editing, or advertising or other needed skills.)."

The revised paragraph would read:

Membership: At Large: Nine members. At least two shall be women; two shall be ruling elders; two shall be teaching elders, three shall have skills or experience in publishing": "(e.g. circulation, marketing, editing, or advertising or other needed skills.)" Ex-officio: Representative from ARP Women's Ministries. Advisory: Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presby-*

terian, Moderator of Synod, Moderator-Elect of Synod, Coordinator of the General Synod.

10. That *The Manual of Authorities and Duties* be amended by the addition of the following description of the administrative officer:

Administrative Officer: The Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Magazine* shall be the administrative officer of the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.

A. Qualifications:

The Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* shall select the Editor who shall be chosen with regard to Christian commitment and demonstrated abilities.

The Editor will be, or be willing to become, a member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, be active in a congregation of the denomination, and be in agreement with a Reformed Biblical World and Life View.

The Editor is responsible for all functional aspects of the magazine's production, including, but not limited to, writing, editing, photography, graphics and management of personnel and business relationships. Computer skills relative to the position are essential.

The Editor must be a skilled strategic thinker/planner, able to map out the magazine's year, target special events and issues, and in general present them to the church in an enthusiastic and appealing manner.

The Editor, being one of the church's leaders, must not only be able to work well alone, as a self-starter, but also to work in harmony with other members of the leadership team.

The Editor's position is one of high visibility and consequently must have well-developed inter-personal skills, a winsome personality, and congenial disposition. The Editor must be articulate, comfortable in making public presentations, addressing meetings, and developing relationships beyond the bounds of the office environment.

B. Duties:

1. To communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to encourage the application of the truths of Scripture to life, and to build up the Church.
2. To publish monthly in printed form, *The ARP Magazine*.
3. To make appropriate material available on a Web site.
4. To have editorial control of the content and form of the magazine and Web site in accordance with the policies of the Board and with guidance from the Editorial Advisory Panel appointed by the Board.
5. To exercise oversight of advertising in accordance with the policies of the Board.
6. To effectively execute the daily operations of *The ARP* office.
7. To hire, supervise, and dismiss employees.
8. To manage the financial matters of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
9. To carry out the tasks assigned by the Board of *The ARP*.

10. To present a written report to the Board at each regular Board meeting.
11. To present to the Board new and innovative ideas for the ministry of the Board.
12. Through the Magazine and Web site, to report the news of the denomination, and to promote the vision and work of the Synod and its agencies, working cooperatively with the agencies of the denomination.
13. That the report of the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* be approved.

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

Budget of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*

Income	2008	2009
Denominational Ministries Allocation	\$104,941	\$ 111,903
Women's Ministries contributions	3,000	3,000
WM study books income	20,600	0
Subscription income	68,359	70,410
Advertising income	15,000	15,450
Interest Allocation	1,765	1,818
Total Income	\$ 213,665	\$ 202,581
Expenses		
Payroll & Staff Benefits		
Editor		
Salary	\$ 56,644	\$ 58,343
Retirement	4,815	4,959
Insurance	6,321	5,750
Employer Tax	4,333	4,463
Total	\$ 72,113	\$ 73,515
Support Staff	\$ 44,038	\$ 41,860
Workman's Compensation	601	619
Staff & Board Expenses		
Editor Expenses	\$ 2,994	\$ 3,084
Staff Expenses	514	530
Board Meeting & Travel Exp	2,500	2,575
Dues & Membership Fees	186	191
Publicity & Promotion		
Publicity & Promotion	\$ 515	\$ 530
ARP News Update 800 charges	44	45
"The ARP" Web page	21	22
Communications		
Internet Services	\$ 445	\$ 458

Long Distance	361	371
Miscellaneous		
Rent	\$ 5,632	\$ 5,801
Office Supplies & Misc.	2,671	2,753
Contingency	500	500
Production Expenses		
Preparation & Printing	\$ 46,650	\$ 48,049
Labels & Postage	11,175	11,510
Materials & Supplies	833	858
Photography Expenses	103	106
Design Services	4,800	4,944
Other Expenses		
Clerical Help		4,260
WM Study Books	16,969	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 213,665	\$ 202,581
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 0	\$ 0
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$ 0	\$ 0
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$ 0	\$ 0

The **Report of the Board of Benefits** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Benefits** recommended the adoption of all recommendations, and in addition, the committee recommended:

6. That the Board be commended for its consistent and diligent work.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF BOARD OF BENEFITS

The Board of Benefits (Board) is the agency of General Synod charged with providing opportunities for security to the individuals and families it serves in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement, and of providing assistance to ministers and churches in the areas of compensation planning and tax reporting (Synod, 1995). The Board is comprised of, and seeks, members who have experience in the areas of service noted above and who regard it as a ministry to use their experience to serve members of our denomination. In addition to its full members, the Board finds particularly helpful the perspective of its advisory members from presbytery committees on Minister and His Work, Erskine College, Bonclarken, World Witness, and Due West Retirement Center. These advisory members represent the voice and views of those who participate in Synod's benefit programs.

The Board met twice since the 2007 meeting of General Synod—in November 2007 and in April 2008. The Board wishes to express sincere appreciation to retiring members Earl Linderman and Charlton Law for their six (6) years of faithful service.

The duties of the Board are outlined in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

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 primary work of the Board falls into three (3) areas of responsibility: benevolence, insurance, and retirement.

Benevolence

[The gift from the Christmas Benevolent Fund] was many things: a delightful surprise, a fabulous gift, a tremendous help, a very special reminder to me of the countless, numberless occasions when [our family] and I were showered with love, with kindness and genuine concern, abundant provision for our every need, and not a few extra blessings such as this gift was to us all. I always regretted that distances made it impossible to thank each one personally, and even now I would prefer to somehow know each donor and acknowledge each gift. Excerpt from a letter from a recipient of a Christmas Benevolent Fund gift in 2007.

Contributions from Associate Reformed Presbyterians to the annual Thanksgiving Offering, income from the J. C. Lott Endowment, interest on the Benevolent Fund Endowment, and special gifts for benevolence are combined each year to provide financial assistance to retired ministers, missionaries, and Synod employees or their widows. One hundred percent (100%) of all funds collected are distributed to qualified recipients; no funds are received through allocations from General Synod.

The collected funds are used:

- To continue support for widows who had been receiving support from the Widow's Benefit Fund which was exhausted in 2000.
- To provide support to qualified retired individuals or spouses of those individuals. Information regarding qualifications is mailed to retirees each year.
- To provide Christmas love gifts to individuals or surviving spouses of individuals who served as ministers, missionaries, or Synod agencies employees and who were eligible for Synod's retirement benefits.

The Board contacts all eligible participants each Fall to determine if they wish to apply for support on the basis of financial need. After funding the Widow's Benefit Fund distributions, priority is given to those who demonstrate financial need, as determined by the difference between total family income and 200% of the Government Subsistence Level. There is a maximum monthly benefit of \$500. Funds remaining after the two aforementioned obligations are met are then available for distribution as Christmas Benevolent gifts.

For 2008, a total of \$71,620.62 was available for distribution. \$6,264.36 was designated for recipients of the Widow's Benefit Fund, and \$12,000 for those

with demonstrated financial need. The remaining \$53,356.26 was distributed equally to 97 retirees as a Christmas gift from our denomination.

Income from the Helen W. Carson Fund is 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. If funds are not needed for this purpose, a portion equal to the Consumer Price Index is added to the corpus, and the balance of the unused income is allocated for widows in the Widow Benefit Fund as long as funds are needed for that purpose.

Insurance

The Board seeks to provide meaningful security in the area of insurance at a cost churches and Synod agencies can afford without causing undue hardship on participating employees. Gallagher Benefits, Inc. has been the consultant and broker for our insurance programs for a number of years. Effective May 1, 2008 the Board has engaged the services of Corporate Benefits, Inc. of Greenville, SC as the consultant and broker. Corporate Benefits will review our insurance coverage and carriers on an on-going basis, advise the Board on recommended plan design changes, and seek competitive bids at least annually in an effort to control costs and provide adequate services.

The group insurance benefit provides the following coverage:

Coverage & Eligibility	Medical	Dental	Life	AD&D	LTD
ARP Minister Serving					
Under a 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.

** 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 requirement 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 Due West Retirement Center must be considered full-time (30 hours/week) to be eligible.

All eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the life (and dependent life if the employee has dependents), accidental death, and long term disability programs. Medical and dental insurance coverage is conditional on the employee enrolling within the first 31 days of eligibility. Employees should contact the Benefits Assistant in Central Services for specific eligibility and enrollment policies. **All eligible employees must be given the opportunity to enroll in the insurance program, and it is critically important for employees to be enrolled in benefit programs in a timely manner. The Office of Central Services needs to be notified when a new, full-time employee is hired.**

Medical Plan

The denomination continues to be blessed by the Lord with good claims experience. Premiums have exceeded medical costs for a number of years, allowing the medical and dental premiums to remain stable since October 2003, and permitting a premium holiday for medical coverage in December 2006 and December 2007. In addition, our insurance claim reserves have increased. Increases in actual medical costs have been absorbed by the reserves for the past four (4) years, meaning that there has been no increase in costs to churches and agencies in that time. The Board does not anticipate any increases in costs before January 1, 2009.

Medical costs and the costs of drugs will continue to increase, but participants in the plan can help to control costs by:

- taking advantage of the \$1000 wellness benefit for annual physicals
- proactively addressing health issues identified by their health care professionals
- enrolling in wellness management programs offered by the plan
- monitoring claims to ensure that charges are justified and accurate
- asking physicians to explain the rationale for recommended tests

HealthStat, a Health Risk Management program, was launched at Erskine

College in January 2004. Open to all participants in the insurance plan, the program's primary objective is early detection and management of serious health risks. An initial health risk assessment (HRA) is conducted by Health-Stat personnel, with the cost of the assessment covered by our insurance plan. The Board is considering ways to make HRA's available to a broader group of participants, perhaps at presbytery meetings or at the annual meeting of the General Synod.

The medical insurance plan is renewed annually in August, and it has been the practice of the Board to delay implementation of cost increases, if any, as long as possible. The projected costs for 2009 will be submitted to churches and agencies as soon as possible after the August 1, 2008 renewal date.

Another blessing to the plan has been that our enrollment has increase from 370 in 2007 to 405 in 2008. Expected per employee claims costs are enhanced with increases in younger, healthier participants, making the plan more viable for all participants.

Additional information regarding the group insurance plan is available through our Web site: www.arpchurch.org.

Dental Plan

Synod's dental program is a self-insured plan with Kanawha serving as the Third Party Administrator for claim payment. No change in dental coverage or premiums is expected for 2009.

Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, and Long-Term Disability

These programs are fully insured and cover all eligible employees.

HIPAA Privacy

Because ours is a self-insured plan, our primary focus 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, and security policies and procedures are in place. Business Associate Agreements conforming to HIPAA requirements are in effect.

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 terms of a Call approved by a Presbytery of the Church, career missionaries appointed by World Witness, and salaried employees of General Synod or a Synod agency serving in a supervisory capacity. The Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits serves as Administrator of the plan.

Eligible employees are required to complete an enrollment form for formal entry into the plan. Under the provisions of the plan, the employees listed

above are Participants in the plan during their first year of service, even if the church or agency fails to make contributions or if the employee does not enroll. 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 surviving spouse would not receive the lump-sum death benefit nor the survivor income benefit payable to age 65. (Survivor benefit is equal to 20% of monthly Earnings to a maximum of \$800/month. An additional 10% of monthly earnings is available while there is a dependent child or children in the home, for a maximum total monthly benefit of \$1200.)

Employees of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are not included in the ARP Retirement Plan as Erskine has a separate plan for its employees. Effective January 1, 2004, employees serving in a pastoral ministry outside the United States are not eligible for enrollment in the plan. Those persons serving outside the United States who were previously enrolled in the plan and have not been terminated from it continue to accrue 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.

The Board reminds churches and presbyteries within the United States that the *Form of Government* (Chapter X. E. 11) requires a Call to have provisions 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 Leave of Absence status if the terms of the Call with respect to Retirement Plan contributions 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 one-year period from the date of notice will result in the placement of the participant on Leave of Absence status until the terms of the Call have been met. On 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.

While the plan defines Normal Retirement Age as 65, participants may retire as early as age 60. Participants who are at least age 64 and 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 to the participant on a monthly basis for his/her lifetime. Survivor benefits ("joint and survivor annuity") may be paid at one-half continuation rate, 2/3, 3/4, or full continuation rate. Policies regarding the election of survivor benefits are outlined in the Retirement Plan

document which is available from the Office of Central Services or online at www.arpchurch.org. It is also possible for the spouse to reject the joint and survivor annuity, with the participant receiving a lifetime annuity. The Board urges 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 utilized for that purpose. The Board has established procedures for third-party verification of ministerial status at the time of retirement for former Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers.

Actuarial Valuation

Stanley, Hunt, DuPree, Rhine, Inc., (SHDR) a subsidiary of BB&T, serves as the plan actuary. Board policies require that an actuarial review of the plan is conducted every three years to determine the minimum contribution level necessary to maintain the plan on an actuarially sound basis and to determine if a change in benefits is feasible. The next scheduled review is January 1, 2009.

Duty 3. To assist individuals and families in preparation for retirement.

The Board, through the Office of Central Services, assists persons who are preparing for retirement by maintaining records of Service and Earnings; providing retirement plan income projections for planning purposes; and at the time of retirement, providing calculations of actual retirement plan payments. The staff of Central Services is working with SHDR to provide an on-line program by which participants may generate their own retirement income projections. The chairman of the Board's Retirement Committee serves as a liaison with SunTrust, Inc. to coordinate payments to retirees.

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

Because General Synod has taken the position that there is nothing in the Standards of the Church that would support the "religious principles test," denominational benefit programs are structured to anticipate the benefits provided by Social Security. If a minister opts out of the program as provided for in Section 1402(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, he should have a plan to replace lost benefits so as not to create an undue hardship on his family.

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 deadline for filing the exemption 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 who plans to file for exemption must inform "the ordaining...body of the church...that he is opposed" prior to the time the exemption is filed. The apparent rationale for this requirement is to offer the ordaining

body and the denomination the opportunity to counsel applicants regarding the implications of such a decision. In the ARP Church, ministers planning to opt out of Social Security must notify the ordaining presbytery.

Post Retirement Medical Coverage

General Synod's medical and dental coverage terminates at retirement for those who have reached the age of Medicare eligibility. Persons retiring prior to attaining Medicare eligibility may continue coverage under certain conditions. Ministers opting out of Social Security and who did not qualify for benefits before opting out must pay a premium to participate in Medicare. The Board urges employees to make post-retirement coverage plans well before retirement.

Duty 8. To assist ministers and churches in the areas of compensation and tax planning/reporting by providing: (a) on an annual basis, a tax guide; (b) on a periodic basis, a request form for Social Security estimates of earnings and benefits.

This duty was assigned to the Board before such information was readily accessible on the internet. The Board posts links in the "Employee Benefit" section of the General Synod Web site. Links are not endorsed, and caution should be exercised in their use.

The Board annually provides information for budgeting, CPI information, and a general compensation survey to churches for use in financial planning. In addition, as mentioned previously, the Board works closely with presbytery chairmen of the Committees/Commissions on Minister and His Work.

Duty 2. To oversee the collection and investment of financial resources contributed and designated by individuals, churches, and the General Synod for these purposes.

Insurance

Central Services administers accounting functions for the Board and is the vehicle by which gifts for benevolent purposes, retirement contributions, and insurance premiums are received, recorded, and disbursed.

The following chart shows insurance premiums collected, fees disbursed, and the claim reserve balance for calendar year 2007.

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Total Medical/Dental				
premiums collected	3,709,591	3,561,495	3,614,777	3,445,043
Fees paid to Medical/				
Dental providers	345,112	340,757	378,764	402,710
Paid Medical and				
Dental Claims	2,640,707	2,185,020	2,822,978	2,993,789
HealthSTAT fees	32,891	40,018	38,368	39,477
Administrative Costs *	36,495	35,303	45,311	47,079
Balance of claim reserve	1,673,241	2,693,412	2,999,062	3,052,779

*General Office plus Insurance portion of Central Services budget.

Retirement

Contributions for the retirement plan, except for designated administrative costs, are sent to the Retirement Plan Trust. Funds added to the Trust may only be used for benefits paid to a plan participant or the spouse of a plan participant.

General Synod's Investment Committee oversees the investments of the Retirement Plan Trust, and SunTrust Bank, Atlanta serves as Trustee and Custodian of the plan assets. The chairman of the Board's Retirement Committee serves as the Board's advisory member to the Investment Committee.

A weak economy and stock market in the first quarter of 2008 have resulted in some loss of principal, but an upturn in the market in April have given cause for a degree of optimism for the remainder of the year. The current market value of invested assets for benefits is \$39,968,307.00.

General Synod funds the plan primarily from contributions made by churches and agencies of the Synod and establishes guidelines to ensure adequate funding based on recommendation from the Board. Currently, churches and agencies contribute 8.5% of the participant's Earnings. Regulations governing qualified plans limit the amount of Earnings that can be recognized for Highly Compensated Employees, subject to annual adjustment by the Internal Revenue Service.

Audit

The independent certified public accounting firm of Millard & Moore, PA 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, is submitted with the official report of the Board to the General Synod, and is available for review at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. All financial activities of the Board are included in the General Synod audit.

Administrative**Duty 5. To prepare and recommend to Synod each year a budget for the work of the Board.**

The 2009 Operating Budget for the Board is attached and reflects allocations recommended by the Board of Stewardship to cover Board and meeting expenses and general office expenses of the Board. Administrative support for the Board is provided by Central Services, and the Board's practice for a number of years has been to provide 25% of Central Services' operating funds as approved by the Executive Board of Synod. The Board of Benefits has approved funding 50% of its commitment from resources for the insurance program and 50% from contributions for the retirement program. The balance of the budget is an estimation of funds received and 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 has appointed the executive director of Central Services as its administrative officer.

Miscellaneous

Officers for 2008 – 2009

Chairman: Guy H. Smith, Jr.

Vice-Chairman: W. T. (Tom) Clary

Secretary: John M. Hill

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

Administrator: J. Paul Bell

Meeting Dates

November 6-7, 2008, Bonclarken

April 16 – 17, 2009, Bonclarken

Recommendations

1. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering be continued and that it be taken during 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 and clerks, 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 presbyteries 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 dismemberment, and long-term disability plans.
4. That the proposed budget for 2009 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

Retirement Plan Appendix

The following persons may be eligible for Retirement Plan participation at year's end, but have not completed enrollment procedures. Benefits jeopardized or forfeited by non-enrollment are discussed in the body of the Board of Benefits report: **Catawba:** None. **First:** John Currid, Eugene Frady, Hyo Youn Hwang, Randy Jenkins, Don Jordan, Chong P. Kim, Eon Joo Kim, Hyo Gon Kim, Eung Chu Lee, Juan Carlos Unda, Roger N. Wiles. **Florida:** Kent Adrian, Jeun Jian Liu, Brian Phillips, John D. Spence. **Mississippi Valley:** Moises Chan, T. J. Gentry, David M. Stormont. **Northeast:** Young Han Bae, Joseph J. Kim, Peter Tae Mun Lee, Geom Nam Lee, Sung Chui Lee, Sang Kil Lee, Ji Kag Pang, Chong Ku Rhee. **Pacific:** James Woochul Baek, Chong Hun

Byun, Enoch Cho, Hoo Yon Cho, Young Soo Choo, Sun Min Hwang, Sam Kue Whan Joung, Stephen Kim, Jin Hwa Kim, Jong Gil Ko, Bon Suk Koo, Sang Kil Lee, Ro Sung Myung, Sung Sub Yim. **Second:** Patrick Malphrus. **Tennessee-Alabama: None. Virginia:** Roy Swisher **General Synod Agency:** None

Board of Benefits

	2008 Budget	Proposed 2009 Budget
RECEIPTS		
Unrestricted for Operations		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 6,795	\$ 6,795
Undesignated Receipts	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Unrestricted Sub-Total	<u>\$ 6,795</u>	<u>\$ 6,795</u>
Designated Estimates for Benevolence		
Christmas Benevolent Fund Special Offering	\$ 58,172	\$ 65,695
Christmas Benevolent Fund Interest	\$ 2,365	\$ 3,404
Lake Wales Christmas Benevolent Fund	\$ 899	\$ 0
J. C. Lott Trust	<u>\$ 7,433</u>	<u>\$ 7,378</u>
Benevolent Sub-Total	<u>\$ 68,869</u>	<u>\$ 76,477</u>
Group Insurance Resources		
Group Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,614,777	\$ 3,445,043
Group Insurance Misc	<u>\$ 72,178</u>	<u>\$ 61,186</u>
Group Insurance Sub-Total	<u>\$ 3,686,955</u>	<u>\$ 3,506,229</u>
Retirement Plan Resources		
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,849
ARP Retirement Plan	<u>\$ 1,031,824</u>	<u>\$ 1,003,360</u>
Retirement Plan Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,033,393</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,209</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 4,796,012</u>	<u>\$ 4,594,710</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Board and General		
Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 3,040	\$ 3,040
Office and Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 3,755</u>	<u>\$ 3,755</u>
Board and General Sub-Total	<u>\$ 6,795</u>	<u>\$ 6,795</u>
Benevolence		
Benevolence Sub-Total	<u>\$ 68,869</u>	<u>\$ 76,477</u>
Group Insurance		
Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve	\$ 3,642,584	\$ 3,460,488
Group Insurance Administrative Support	<u>\$ 44,371</u>	<u>\$ 45,741</u>
Group Insurance Sub-Total	<u>\$ 3,686,955</u>	<u>\$ 3,506,229</u>
ARP Retirement Plan		
Audit	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,000
Actuarial Fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 0

Administrative Support	\$ 44,371	\$ 45,741
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 150
Transfer to Trustee	<u>\$ 985,222</u>	<u>\$ 957,318</u>
ARP Retirement Plan Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,033,393</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,209</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 4,796,012</u>	<u>\$ 4,594,710</u>
Disbursements Over (Under) Receipts	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

The Report of the **Board of Bonclarken** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken** recommended that recommendations 1-4 be adopted.

In addition the committee recommended:

5. That the General Synod commend the Board, the President, and Staff of Bonclarken for their labors in the service of the Lord.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Bonclarken Conference Center continues to be honored to serve as the conference center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Nearly 15,000 guests entered our gates during 2007, with these guests being made up of a nearly equal number of youth and adults.

The key indicators of the health of Bonclarken continue to remain positive. 2007 included an increase in adult attendance, slightly more operational revenue than expense, a wonderful and dedicated staff, and several facility improvement projects. More importantly, Bonclarken's mission to serve as an environment where young hearts are inspired to accept the call of the Holy Spirit and mature hearts find renewal continued to be witnessed on many occasions.

The facility projects were highlighted by the construction of The Lodge. Construction began on this 25,000 square foot facility which includes 35 guest rooms and a large conference room in August 2007 and will (prayerfully at the time of this writing) be open for Synod 2008. Other projects included the renovation of the Music Room, a new President's Home, a new exterior for the gym, and improved roadways.

The Bonclarken Board is thankful for the financial support received from Synod and praises God for His great faithfulness to Bonclarken.

General Synod has vested the Board of Bonclarken with the authority for the overall management of the Center, including all properties owned. In the exercise of this authority, the Board implements the four duties as reflected in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

These duties are:

Duty #1:

To be responsible for carrying out the PURPOSE of Bonclarken: "To serve God through the ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod by providing for the denomination opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship; by assuring a wholesome atmosphere for Christian development; and by making facilities available to the agencies and institutions of Synod, its Presbyteries and local congregations to fulfill their missions and goals." In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits.

Response to this duty:

- *Opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship* are provided by Bonclarken through wonderful facilities that God has blessed us to have. The Board constantly reviews needs and creates plans for keeping these facilities in condition to maximize these opportunities.
- *Assuring a wholesome atmosphere for Christian development* is the primary duty of the staff of Bonclarken. The staff seeks to remove obstacles so our guests will be prepared to receive the call of the Holy Spirit. This duty is accomplished through work in areas of Guest Services, Food Service, Maintenance, and Recreation.
- Bonclarken is open year-round, thereby *making facilities available to the agencies* and institutions of Synod, its Presbyteries and local congregations to fulfill their missions and goals. In 2007, Bonclarken hosted 93 ARP events, which included General Synod, Family Bible Conference, Bonsenior, Horizon, Quest, Music Conference, two sessions of Camp Bonclarken, three sessions of Camp Joy, Presbytery youth retreats, individual church weekends, and some type of event from almost every agency of Synod.
- *In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits.* Over 150 non-ARP events were hosted in 2007.

Duty #2:

To elect officers and employ and supervise such persons as may be necessary for carrying on the work of Bonclarken.

Response to this duty:

- The following officers were elected to serve in 2007-2008: Bill Patrick, Chairman; Reid Tribble, Vice-Chairman; Lou Ann Aheron, Secretary; Floy Jumper, Treasurer. Committee Chairs for this year are: Jim Ashburn, Administration Committee; Bill Stanley, Building and Grounds Committee; and Calvin Draffin, Promotion and Services Committee.

- The Board employs and supervises Chip Sherer as President of Bonclarken. Mr. Sherer has the responsibility of carrying out the policies of the Board and managing the day-to-day operations of the Center. See attached position description for the Bonclarken administrative officer.

Duty #3:

To make such rules and regulations for its own government as may be consistent with the Constitution of Bonclarken Conference Center and the policies of Synod.

Response to this duty:

- See list of actions set forth below.

Duty #4:

To manage, sell, or lease any of the property under its control

Response to this duty:

- The Board continued to assure that all property owned by Bonclarken was appropriately managed and took the following significant actions from April 2007 through March 2008.

Administrative Information

Action taken by the Executive Committee on April 25, 2007 via conference call:

- Authorized the President to execute a commitment letter with First Citizens Bank for funds for the construction of the New Adult Housing Facility.

Actions taken at the May, 12, 2007 Board meeting:

- Approved Trehel Corporation of Clemson, SC, as the design/build contractor for the Adult Housing Facility at a Guaranteed Maximum Cost of \$2,547,868.
- Approved Hendersonville Homes as the contractor for a new President's Home to be built at 15 Dirk Lane.
- Approved Terry Wallace as Assistant Treasurer and Holly Moore as Assistant Secretary.

Action taken by the Executive Committee on June 27, 2007 via conference call:

- Authorized the Administration to take all steps necessary to move the management and custody of Bonclarken's endowment and gift annuity funds from Morgan Keegan to Dividend Growth Advisors (as manager) and Countybank (as custodian).

Action taken by the Executive Committee via unanimous consent on August 29, 2007:

- Authorized the sale of house at 101 Kinross.

Action taken by the Executive Committee via unanimous consent on September 24, 2007:

- Approved plans for home construction at 208 Sycamore.

Actions taken at the October 13, 2007 Board meeting:

- Authorized the President to sell the southernmost Bonclarken Court lot.
- Established a Property Acquisition Fund.
- Authorized the Administration to use funds from the Property Acquisition Fund for short-term borrowing needs for operations not to exceed a time frame of one year to be repaid with interest at a money market rate.
- Approved revised Policies for Property Owners.
- Authorized the Administration to transfer, if needed, up to \$25,201.60 from the Non-Operating Budget to the 2007 Operating Budget.
- Passed the 2008 Operating Budget.
- Passed the 2008 Non-Operating Budget.

Actions taken at the January 18, 2008 Board meeting:

- Created a special committee of the Board to study and make recommendations to address declining youth attendance at camps and conferences.
- Authorized the Board Chairman to send Trehel Corporation a letter expressing appreciation for their work but concern that they are about three weeks behind schedule.
- Authorized the President to accept an offer to purchase the southernmost Bonclarken Court lot.
- Authorized the President to accept an offer to purchase the centermost Bonclarken Court lot.
- Authorized the President to contract with Green River Cabins for a new camp cabin.
- Authorized the President to contract with Grace Construction Company to replace the exterior panels on the gym.
- Amended the 2008 Non-Operating Budget to include the \$24,662 that had been allocated to meet an anticipated 2007 Operating Budget deficit. (2007 Budget finished barely in the black so that these funds were not needed.)
- Authorized use of \$25,000 from unrestricted funds for the exterior panel work on the gym.

Action taken by the Executive Committee via unanimous consent on March 3, 2008:

- Changed the date of the Fall meeting of the Board to October 31-November 1, 2008.

Recommendations

We make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That General Synod continue to support Bonclarken in the allocation of

- Synod funds and in the annual Easter offering.
2. That General Synod continue to encourage all presbyteries, boards, and church organizations to choose Bonclarken for their retreats and conferences.
 3. That the meetings of General Synod for 2009 and 2010 be held at Bonclarken beginning on June 9, 2009 and June 8, 2010.
 4. That Duty #2 for Bonclarken in the *Manual for Authorities and Duties* be changed from “elect officers and employ and supervise such persons as may be necessary for carrying on the work of Bonclarken” to “elect officers and employ and supervise the President of Bonclarken, who in turn will employ and supervise such persons as may be necessary for carrying on the work of Bonclarken in accordance with the policies established by the Board.”

Respectfully submitted,
 William B. Patrick, Jr., Chairman
 Board of Trustees
 Bonclarken Conference Center

Position Description
President, Bonclarken Conference Center
January 30, 2006

Qualifications

Must be an evangelical Christian who has made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, and one who adheres to the position taken by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian General Synod relating to scripture.

Must be an active participant in an Evangelical Church, preferably an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Must be a good organizer with sound business ability.

Must have an understanding of the importance of conference center ministry, and must desire to serve Christ through the work of Bonclarken Conference Center.

Must possess an optimistic and enthusiastic attitude and a personality which will assist him/her in dealing effectively with people.

Must possess managerial skills which will enable him/her to effectively manage and supervise the work of a diversified staff.

Should view the position of President as a calling rather than just a job.

General Responsibilities

The President is responsible for every aspect of the work of Bonclarken on a day-to-day basis. This includes the supervision of all the conference center employees, the implementation of all board directives, and coordinating all the various programs and functions of the conference center so as to provide a meaningful experience for all who visit Bonclarken. The President will work with the Vice President for Guest Relations and the Vice

President for Finance and Property in the accomplishment of the efficient day-to-day management of the conference center. The President will also work with the Board of Trustees in accomplishing the goals of Christian experiences, growth, education and recreation in regards to the operation of Bonclarken. Additionally, the President shall be actively involved in fund raising to meet immediate and long-range goals and objectives. All the functions of the President shall be carried out in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Board of Trustees and in keeping with the philosophy and standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Reports to: The President reports to the Board of Trustees.

Specific Duties:

1. Recommends a detailed annual budget for the approval of the Board of Trustees. A general budget for the coming year will be prepared for General Synod purposes in March, a preliminary budget will be prepared for presentation to the Board in September, and a final budget will be presented to the Board or the Executive Committee of the Board no later than the following January.
2. Provide detailed reports, both financial and other, at each Board of Trustees meeting, and make interim reports to the Chairman of the Board and/or the Executive Committee between board meetings.
3. Recruit, select, supervise, evaluate, administer salaries and be responsible for the training of all center employees.
4. Is responsible for all matters associated with personnel and the day-to-day operation of Bonclarken. This is to be done within the guidelines established by the Board of Trustees.
5. Will meet periodically with the Vice President for Guest Relations and the Vice President for Finance and Property and will work closely with these employees in all matters relative to the accomplishment of the efficient operation of Bonclarken on a day-to-day basis.
6. Approves all expenditures of funds for capital and operating purposes including payroll.
7. Must assist the Board of Trustees in the establishment and development of all goals and objectives with strategies for reaching these objectives.
8. Must be responsible for hiring all summer staff.
9. Must promote and represent Bonclarken before the individual churches, agencies and organizations of the denomination and the general public at large.
10. Will contact potential donors, maintain complete records of gifts and receipts, maintain contact and correspondence with donors, and will give emphasis to planned giving.
11. Must develop and maintain a level of cooperation with the private property owners on the grounds of Bonclarken, coordinate all ac-

- tivities which will involve both the conference center and private property owners, communicate with the private property owners regarding matters of concern and interest, and must address the property owners at their annual meeting.
12. Must promote and publicize the services and activities of Bonclarken through articles in the ARP Magazine, brochures and the Bonclarken Newsletter.
 13. Must continually evaluate the methods by which Bonclarken conducts its business and serves its many guests in an effort to stay current and up-to-date in effective conference center ministry.
 14. Has the authority to spend funds for repairs, equipment, supplies, etc., provided the necessary funds are covered in the operating budget and/or capital budget or by specific gifts. Any construction or renovation projects must receive prior approval of the Board of Trustees.
 15. Other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Board of Trustees.

	2007 `	2008	2009
	Actual	Budget	Proposed
Operating Revenue:	(12/31/07)		
Rooms	\$ 549,380	\$ 607,700	\$ 565,161
Activity Fees	\$ 216,997	\$ 236,000	\$ 243,080
Programs	\$ 44,921	\$ 47,200	\$ 48,616
Camps	\$ 42,691	\$ 44,840	\$ 46,185
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	\$ 39,541	\$ 36,000	\$ 38,000
Property Owners	\$ 39,433	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 26,060	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Total Op. Revenue	\$ 1,439,634	\$1,585,440	\$ 1,631,973
Non-Op. Revenue:			
General Synod	\$ 146,000	\$ 151,840	\$ 154,877
ARPWM	\$ 9,827	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Mountain Club	\$ 116,529	\$ 118,200	\$ 120,816
Churches/Easter Off.	\$ 14,372	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
Total Non-Op. Rev.	\$ 286,728	\$ 294,040	\$ 299,693
Total Revenue			
Operating Expense	\$ 1,726,362	\$ 1,879,480	\$ 1,931,666
Cost of Sales:			
Food Service	\$ 192,414	\$ 219,480	\$ 231,716
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	\$ 12,294	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Total Cost of Sales	\$ 204,708	\$ 229,480	\$ 241,716
Payroll & Benefits:			
Administration	\$ 256,920	\$ 286,000	\$ 294,580

Maintenance	\$	127,514	\$	146,000	\$	150,380
Food Service	\$	137,619	\$	161,000	\$	165,830
Housekeeping	\$	100,802	\$	114,000	\$	117,420
Programs	\$	79,879	\$	80,000	\$	82,400
Promotion/Marketing	\$	25,951	\$	0	\$	0
Other	\$	29,842	\$	30,000	\$	30,900
Taxes & Benefits	\$	220,211	\$	258,000	\$	265,740
Total Pyrl/Benefits	\$	978,738	\$	1,075,000	\$	1,107,250
Other Expenses:						
Administration	\$	76,586	\$	80,000	\$	81,000
Maintenance	\$	35,839	\$	45,000	\$	46,000
Food Service	\$	24,420	\$	25,000	\$	25,000
Housekeeping	\$	52,215	\$	70,000	\$	71,000
Programs	\$	59,104	\$	60,000	\$	60,000
Marketing	\$	59,180	\$	50,000	\$	50,000
Property Insurance	\$	51,315	\$	65,000	\$	66,300
Utilities	\$	147,116	\$	170,000	\$	173,400
Summer Staff	\$	-	\$	5,000	\$	5,000
Other Expenses	\$	3,409	\$	5,000	\$	5,000
Total Other Expenses	\$	509,184	\$	575,000	\$	582,700
Total Op. Expenses	\$	1,692,630	\$	1,879,480	\$	1,931,666
	\$	33,732	\$	-	\$	(0)

The **Report of the Board of World Witness** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on World Witness** recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-6. In addition, the committee recommended:

7. That the General Synod express their appreciation to Frank van Dalen and the entire staff of World Witness for their service for the Lord and the ARP Church in world missions.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

**THE REPORT OF WORLD WITNESS.
THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS,
TO THE 2008 MEETING OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OF
THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

"In obedience to the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, all ARP churches must be engaged in proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples among the nations. World Witness, the Board of Foreign Missions, serves as a resource for local churches and coordinates the mission programs of the General Synod outside the U.S. and Canada." (Manual of Authority and Duties, p. 76)

This mandate devolves into the following list of duties:**1. To employ an Executive Director and to supervise the work of this person.**

Rev. Frank Van Dalen, the Executive Director of World Witness, is assisted by an office staff of 7 full-time and 3 part-time personnel to support 41 World Witness missionaries, 16 co-operative missionaries, and 7 volunteers. The World Witness Board meets twice per year (March, October) to review and supervise this ministry. During its twice-a-year meetings, the Board reviews financial matters and provides necessary guidance to the staff. Additionally, monthly reports are sent to Finance Committee members. Finally, specific meetings, phone calls and written correspondence are between the Executive Director and the Board Chairman during the year. The annual evaluation of the Executive Director was conducted at the March, 2008, meeting of the Board.

2. To receive, maintain, and disburse all funds contributed to World Witness.

The careful stewardship of gifts has always been a core mission of World Witness. The National Council of the Churches in the USA provides a yearly summary of the amount of giving denominations make to overseas missions. This includes not only gifts directly through a specific denominational agency but also gifts through other channels. In their recent State of Church Giving report, the NCC reports on 33 major denominations and finds that in 2004 and 2005, ARP overseas missions donations totaled approximately 8.9 percent of all ARP giving. World Witness continues to have a goal of this reaching a 10 percent ("tithe") level.

World Witness has always been blessed to have several sources of funding. The General Synod Allocation provides approximately 15 percent of total income and supports administrative expenses. Approximately 64 percent of donations come directly from ARP churches and individuals. Some 20 percent of donations come from individuals and churches outside the ARP denomination. Most donations which come to World Witness are specifically designated for a missionary or program. Only about 10 percent of gifts are available for "where needed most."

The complete financial records of World Witness are audited annually. The 2007 records again received an "unqualified opinion" rating from the firm of Dixon Hughes PLLC. The Dixon Hughes representatives met personally with the Board during its March meeting to review their audit, answer questions, and discuss financial options. Further external oversight is provided through the membership of World Witness in the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. The ECFA reviews participating organizations annually to monitor compliance with its standards. Again in 2007, World Witness was recognized as "among those organizations that set the example of integrity within the evangelical community."

In 2007 World Witness suffered an operating loss of \$162,000. This deficit can be attributed to the following factors:

(i) A significant decline in the value of the US dollar in key mission fields (Germany, Spain, Russia, Wales, Turkey). In April, 2007, the Euro was valued at \$1.35; by the end of the year the value of the Euro was \$1.48. Although currency fluctuations are always expected, the continued decline of the US dollar has greatly increased expenses.

(ii) A decrease in year-end giving relative to previous years. It is normal for any cyclical operating deficit to be made up in December donations. However, in December, 2007, gifts to World Witness ministries totaled \$515,000 compared to \$784,000 in 2006.

(iii) The continued development of support for the Mobile Theological Training Team program. It is normal for any new program to develop recognition and support over time. The ARPConnect program took approximately five years to develop to the point where it is almost completely supported. The MT3 program is only in its second year of development.

(iv) A continuing decrease in support for the OPORA ministry.

(v) Continuing costs associated with the 2005 re-opening of the Pakistan mission field.

In response to these financial difficulties, the World Witness has voted to transition the OPORA program to full Russian control and funding over the next two years. The Board has also ended its missionary presence in Kazakhstan and transferred its missionaries to Ukraine where they joined an existing ministry. World Witness is also continuing its aggressive program to develop the Christian Hospital, Sahiwal, in Pakistan into a self-funded ministry. The World Witness subsidy for the hospital and nursing school has been decreased in recent years from \$30,000 per month in 2005 to less than \$13,000 per month in 2007. Future contributions are planned to support capital and equipment replacement projects as well as the hospital charity program.

It is anticipated that 2008 will be a difficult year. All existing programs are being re-evaluated to create a tiered structure where core, critical functions are planned to be met by a historically supported funding level which could be sustained even in an austere environment. This forms the basic budget. Then, additional programs are identified for funding if, and only when, donations reach a level where they can be supported. This constitutes the "Work Special" category in the budget plan and allows restructuring on a small scale throughout the year.

3. To consider applications from missionary candidates and, upon appointment of the candidates, to direct and supervise their preparation for foreign work and to conduct a commissioning service.

In 2007 World Witness anticipated a significant overlap of new candidates and retiring missionaries. Several of these candidates were involved in support-raising in 2007. Eric and Ginger Lockamy will replace Bill and Kathy

Warner in Mexico. Geoffrey and Christine Fogus have been appointed as resident missionaries in Sahiwal, Pakistan, to fill a void currently serviced by volunteer missionaries, Rev. Gary and Joyce Letchworth. Terry Schultz will be departing for the Pakistan mission field in 2008 to fill the field-missionary vacancy in Karachi, a vacancy which has existed since 1998 when the Van Dalen's left that field. Rev. Fariborz Khandani has been appointed to the Persian field in anticipation of Tat Stewart's retirement in approximately four years time.

In addition to these "replacement candidates," the Board has appointed Joshua and Vonja Thomas, and Sebastien and Patti Benicourt as missionaries to the growing mission field in Turkey. It is anticipated that they will depart for the field at the end of the summer, 2008. Judy Buis has received the support of the women of the ARP denomination as a "Jubilee Birthday lady" and has been appointed to serve in the Child Evangelism Fellowship (UK) office in Glasgow, Scotland.

4. To supervise the work of the missionaries on the field.

The denomination continues its two traditional mission fields of Mexico and Pakistan. While both of these areas have matured with over a century of work, a significant mission still exists in each country for US missionary involvement. The partnership with the ARPSynod of Mexico (IPAR) continues to develop with the establishment of a joint ministry committee involving World Witness, IPAR, and Inter Church Relations Committee representatives. This committee will work towards improving the flow of communications, as well as the planning and implementation of mission programs in Mexico. The World Witness Board has appointed Rev. Boyce Wilson as its Ministry and Strategy Coordinator for Mexico in order to assist with this process.

An exciting development in Pakistan has been the agreement of the government of Pakistan to return four out of ten ARP Christian schools which were nationalized in 1972. After nationalization, ARP Christian children have been indoctrinated in the Islamic faith in these nationalized schools. For that reason, although the new Christian school program will be a major financial investment in Pakistan, World Witness believes that its Kingdom value far outweighs the cost.

World Witness has missionaries serving in Spain, Ukraine, and Turkey. In cooperation with other foreign missions World Witness has also sent missionaries to Germany, Wales, and Scotland. Working with Outreach North America, World Witness supports the ARPConnect ministry to Muslims in the US. The Persian ministry via television, the internet, evangelistic outreach and training seminars has continued to grow and see much fruit when compared to other ministries to Muslims.

The Mobile Theological Training Team ministry takes the gospel overseas to train national Christian leaders in their own country and culture by partner-

ing with theological institutions in developing countries. Finally, short-term missions are sponsored to several fields for church groups of varied size and for varied durations.

5. To take charge of and administer any property, in this or foreign countries, that may be given or acquired for the advancement of the work.

As of September, 2007, World Witness no longer had permanent missionary personnel operating in Russia. Rev. Chip Taylor had been contracted as the US Director for OPORA, functioning as the World Witness liaison and maintaining accountability with personnel in Moscow. However, after it had become apparent that a management conflict with Moscow personnel was irresolvable and US funding had not adequately materialized to sustain the ministry long term, he was released from ministry at the end of 2007. In March, 2008, the World Witness Board approved the following measures: the transfer of OPORA to a Russian-based ministry within two years; the sale of the existing OPORA offices (with the possibility of the purchase of smaller offices if the "Russian OPORA" program is successful); and the authorization of the Executive Director of World Witness to discontinue all WW funding to OPORA no later than December 31, 2009.

In January, 2004, a missionary residence in Sahiwal, Pakistan, was sold. The sale had the authorization of the Board of WW which recognized that continued funding of the Pakistan field, particularly the Nancy Fulwood Christian Hospital in Sahiwal, was dependent upon finding a source of income other than donations from the US which had once fully funded this work but were in decline. However, the sale was seen by some members of the Pakistan ARP Christian community to be contrary to their interests on the grounds that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain land for the Christian minority community. Consequently, two persons filed suit to prevent the completion of the sale. WW had received the full price of the property (\$900,000) by June, 2005, and had disbursed those funds by August, 2005. Therefore, World Witness was obligated to deliver free and clear title to the land. The Executive Director has been tasked with responding to at least six legal cases related to the sale of the property. All six cases have been won in the court of first instance and three have been won on appeal. A fourth appeal is in process at the present time. Thus far the cost to World Witness has been approximately \$70,000.

6. To present the challenge and needs of service on the foreign mission field.

The World Witness Board presents the following personnel needs on the foreign mission field.

All Fields: Individuals and families are needed who have exhibited the various spiritual gifts of the Church, and have demonstrated the passion to use them to advance the Gospel and the Reformed faith in foreign cultures. More information is available at www.worldwitness.org.

Muslim Fields

Pakistan

1. Physicians in fields such as general surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, and orthopedics (short-term & long-term)
2. Medical staff, including nurse practitioner, midwives, physician assistant, anesthesiologist, surgical nurse, and teachers (short-term & long-term)
3. Chaplain for the hospital which includes overseeing staff outreach to patients
4. Hospital Director

Turkey

1. TESOL teacher to teach Bible students English for two years
- 2.. Students interested in learning Turkish and building relationships with nationals
3. Persons with a heart for evangelism to be trainers/mentors in church planting teams
4. Certified teacher for missionary children
5. Church planters

ARPCConnect

1. Individuals with a burden to see Muslims come to Christ to work as Area Representatives of ARPCConnect

Secular Europe

Germany

1. Theologically trained person to help administer and develop multi-faceted training programs in theology, practical ministry, and church planter training
2. Children and youth workers, including one-year internships (e.g. in sports ministry)
3. Youth church planters for Marzahn ministry team

Spain

1. School teachers needed at Evangelical Christian Academy in Madrid – openings include TEFOL Program Developer, secretary, piano, computer specialist, NILD therapist, and various elementary and high school subjects. This school is especially for missionary children.

Wales/United Kingdom

1. Youth and children's workers
2. Christian Education Trainer/Developer
3. College interns for 1 to 2-year campus ministry

ARP Synods Overseas**Pakistan**

1. Theological Educators and trainers for Discipleship Training Programs

Mexico

1. Theological Educators and church planters
2. Church program trainer/developer (CE/Youth/Sunday School/Children's ministry)

Mobile Theological Training Team

1. There are no specific needs at this time as there are three professors fully dedicated to this work.

Short-Term Ministry

1. Churches can send groups to Mexico and Wales, plus there are English camps looking for Christian volunteers in Berlin. Medical professionals are needed in Pakistan.

CONTACT PERSON: John Hopkins – johnh@worldwitness.org or 864/233.5226 (O)

7. To prepare and present to the General Synod a budget for World Witness and the Board's operations.

The Board of World Witness has approved an overall budget of \$4,906,601 for the agency during 2009. This includes a recommendation that the Synod approve an allocation of \$716,000 from the Denominational Ministry Fund of the General Synod.

PROPOSED WORLD WITNESS 2009 BUDGET

	2008 (Rev. Oct 2007 WW Board)	2009 BUDGET
General Synod Allocation	\$ 716,000	\$ 716,000
Investment Withdrawals & Interest	\$ 85,500	\$ 85,500
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Missionary Support	\$ 2,689,933	\$ 2,663,388
Missionary Work	\$ 569,642	\$ 576,442
Pakistan Grants	\$ 300,000	\$ -
Misc. Bequests	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Short Term Trips	\$ 95,000	\$ 200,000
Other Income	\$ 475,477	\$ 565,271
TOTAL Income	\$ 5,031,552	\$ 4,906,601
Mexico Expense	\$ 478,962	\$ 480,743

Pakistan Expense - General	\$	697,759	\$	671,337
Pakistan Grants	\$	300,000	\$	-
Turkey Expense	\$	562,856	\$	638,880
German Expense	\$	498,872	\$	495,190
Russian Expense	\$	209,859	\$	48,000
Kazakhstan Expenses	\$	0	\$	-
Ukraine Expense	\$	103,912	\$	114,744
Spain Expense	\$	92,663	\$	92,762
Wales Expense	\$	267,695	\$	201,753
Scotland Expense	\$	0	\$	75,066
Persian Ministry Expense	\$	213,827	\$	212,833
ARPCConnect	\$	176,661	\$	139,717
Short Term Ministry	\$	95,000	\$	200,000
Cooperative Expense	\$	80,000	\$	100,000
United States Ministry Expense	\$	151,739	\$	201,342
MT3 Expense	\$	243,217	\$	272,607
WW + Board Expense	\$	858,531	\$	961,625
TOTAL Expense	\$	5,031,552	\$	4,906,601

Within the 2009 budget, the Board has identified approximately \$4,100,000 as supporting the current core missions of the agency. The other \$800,000 is identified as special projects which are considered to be of value to the mission fields but of a lower priority. World Witness' view of historical funding patterns to the agency, adjusted for the current economy, is that the money will be available to fund the missionaries and for the core programs. However, not until actual gifts are received above this core level will the Executive Director authorize spending on the special projects.

Recommendations

1. That the Report of World Witness, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be adopted and printed in the Minutes of General Synod.
2. That the presbyteries, sessions, congregations and members of the ARP General Synod be made aware of the increased costs associated with the foreign missions program due to the decreasing value of the US dollar and increasing costs overseas, and that they be encouraged to pray for the Lord's provision for His work in the coming year.
3. That the proposed 2009 Budget of World Witness as included in this report and as amended by the 2008 General Synod be adopted.
4. That special appreciation be extended to the ARP Women's Ministries for their financial contributions to the World Witness Jubilee Birthday ladies, Judi Hodges and Judy Buis.
5. That the General Synod continue to remember retired ARP missionaries (Mrs. P.G. Covone, Miss Dorothy Dagenhart, Mrs. Judy Doudoukjian,

Rev. and Mrs. Gary Letchworth, Mr. and Mrs. Don Schwencer, Mrs. Sarah Pressly, and Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds Young) in prayer.

6. That presbyteries, sessions, congregations and members of the ARP General Synod be made aware of the opportunities for missionary service in the US and overseas and that they be challenged to “ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.” (Matthew 9:38)

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 11, 2008, at 9:30 AM at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Following introductions Henry Bartsch gave a devotional message and led in prayer. The Committee met again by telephone conference call on April 17.

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

After procedural comments from Chairman Gerard, the nominations process began, working on a consensus basis. The Committee recessed at noon for lunch, with John Krieg asking the Lord’s blessing of the meal. Bill Harris and John Krieg were excused from the brief afternoon session.

Notes:

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

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, 2008, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

Benefits

- 2009 — Nathaniel [Nat] Stewart (Greenville) (Replacing Patricia Reavis)
- 2011 — T. Lamar Robinson, Jr. (Pisgah) (Replacing Edgar Long)
- 2014 — James Riley McLane (Abbeville), William J. [Joe] Summerville (First Gastonia)

Bonclarken

- 2014 — Dallas Hemp (Old Providence) (Replacing Dean McDonald)
 2014 — Frances Ramsey (Pinecrest), Shon McClung (Pressly Memorial, AL), Neil Stikeleather (Back Creek)

Christian Education Ministries

- 2014 — Evan English

Erskine

- 2009 — William S. Cain (Gastonia First) (Replacing Stephen L. Davis)
 2011 — Charles B. Evans (Replacing Clyde T. McCants)
 2014 — Joey Donahue, Richard Taylor (Greenville), David Johnston, Daniel Whitesides (Non-ARP), Judy Boyd (Non-ARP), and Jennifer Gilkinson (WM)

Executive Board of Synod**Outreach North America**

- 2014 — Maury Purcell (Greenville)

Stewardship

- 2014 — David W. Sides (New Sterling)

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian

- 2014 — Leslie Ann Milling (Greenville) (Skill/Experience)

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

- 2010 — _____(P)*

- 2012 — Jeff Bost (F)*

- 2014 — Ron Pritts (N)

(*Chosen by Presbytery and submitted to Committee)

World Witness

- 2014 — Glenn Smotherman (Peachtree Corners), David Walkup

Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs

- 2012 — Jack Kimball (Ebenezer, SC), Henry Parr (Greenville), John E. Hill (Teaching Elder)

Inter-Church Relations

- 2009 — Scott North (Christ Community, NC) (Replacing Charles Clendenin)
 2014 — R. J. Gore, Jack Whytock)

Investment Committee

- 2011 - Kenneth L. Richey (Columbia First) (Replacing John Knox McGill)
 2013 — Gary Gilmer (Due West)

Lay Ministry

- 2012 — Brenda Anderson (Skybrook Fellowship) (Laywoman), Gail Griffin (Devenger Road) (Laywoman), Jerry [Pete] Carriker (Coddle Creek) (Layman)

Theological and Social Concerns

2012 — Henry Bartsch, _____

Worship

2012 — Jack Heinsohn, Paul Mulner (Musician), Roger Wiles (At-Large)

Officers of Synod:

2012 — **Principal Clerk:** Ron Beard

Bill Clerk: Leland Beaudrot

Treasurer: Guy H. Smith, III

Historian: Bryan McKown

The following Presbytery appointees/representatives are reported as information:

Christian Education Ministries

2009 — Charles Kocisek (T), Clint Davis (C), Tim Watson (F), Anthony Locke (S)

2010 — William B. Everett (M), Robert Whittet (N)

2012 — David Vance (V)

Unknown: _____(P), _____(A),
 _____(FL)

Executive Board of Synod

2009 — Gary Clowers (M), David Hawes (N)

2010 — Guy Smith (C), Jeff Kingswood (A), R. Paul Johnston (FL)

2011 — H. Max Bolin (V)

2012 — James S. Kidd (T)

Unknown: _____(P), _____(FL)

Outreach North America, The Board of Church Extension

2009 — Steve Woods (M), Billy O. Fleming (C), William E. Slattery (S)

2010 — Teddy Ray (T), Hae Soung Kim (P)

2011 — James Wittke (N), Brian Murray (A)

2012 — David Wharf (V)

Unknown: _____(P), _____(F)

Board of Stewardship

2009 — David Walkup (FL)

2010 — Martha Dees (M), Eldredge Kelley (S)

2011 — H. Paul Matthews (N)

2012 — John Shearouse (A), J. Barry Dagenhart (C)

2013 — Don Hampton (V)

Unknown: _____(P), _____(C),
 _____(F)

Committee on Minister and His Work (Includes Chairmen of Candidates/Students if duties are divided)

2009 — David Lauten (C), Fred Carr and William Sutherland (N)

2010 — Lee Shelnuitt (F), Rick Barnes (A)

2011 — Charles Todd (M)

2012 — David Blugerman (V), John Cook (S), Calvin W. Todd (T)

Unknown: _____ (P), _____ (FL)

Committee on Nominations

2009 — Andrew K. Putnam (C), C. Earl Linderman (F), Nancy Corbitt (WM)

2010 — Tom Shoger (S), Fred Hartin (T), David Griffin (M), G. J. Gerard (N)

2011 — Bill Harris (V), Henry Bartsch (A)

Unknown: _____ (P), _____ (FL)

Officers for July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009:

G.J. Gerard, Chairman

Earl Linderman, Vice-Chairman

David Griffin, Secretary

The Nominations packets for 2009 will be mailed in September 2008. The deadline for submission of nominees will be January 2, 2009. The Committee will meet February 9, 2009, 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 \$6,000 for Committee expenses in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
G. J. Gerard, Chairman

The election of Moderator-Elect of the General Synod 2009 was held by written ballot. John R. DeWitt was elected, escorted to the podium by the Vice-Moderator, and expressed his thanks to the General Synod.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2009.

Moderator-Elect DeWitt nominated Steven J. Maye. Mr. Maye was elected by acclamation and spoke to the Synod.

A motion carried that as of next year the moderator's committee recommendations be put into writing for better examination by the Synod as they are presented.

A prayer was offered by Boyce Wilson for God's blessings on the deliberations of the General Synod and its members.

Various announcements were made.

A motion carried 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 John Carson.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gordon S. Query, Moderator
William C. Marsh, Vice-Moderator
C. Ronald Beard, Principal Clerk
Charles F. Edgar, Reading Clerk
Leland R. Beaudrot, Bill Clerk
John D. Cook, Assistant Clerk
Andrew K. Putnam, Parliamentarian