

MINUTES

OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(arpchurch.org)

TWO HUNDRED FIFTEENTH STATED MEETING



JUNE 11-13, 2019
CONCURRENT SYNOD MEETING WITH
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NORTH AMERICA
GENEVA COLLEGE, BEAVER FALLS, PA

PROCEEDINGS

The 215th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) was held concurrently with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, June 11-13, 2019.

SPECIAL SYNOD WEEK ACTIVITIES

The Erskine Seminary Alumni Breakfast was held Wednesday at 7:15 A.M.

An ARP Women's Ministries Pool Party was hosted by Christ Presbyterian Church at the home of Rev. Matthew and Rebecca Harmon at 2:00 P.M. Wednesday.

An ARP Synod Pastoral Wives Gathering was held at College Hills Reformed Presbyterian Church on Wednesday from 9:30 until 11:30 A.M.

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019

Registration for the General Synod was held from 4:00 until 7:00 P.M. in Northwood 013. The ARP agency displays were opened for viewing at that time.

The *Pre-Synod Seminar on Psalmody* was held at 7:00 P.M. in Metheny Fieldhouse.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 2019

Registration continued at 8:30 A.M. in Northwood 013.

The *Orientation for New Ministers and Delegates* was led by the Principal Clerk at 9:00 A.M. in Northwood 007.

Presbytery Meetings were held during the morning.

At 11:00 A.M., a Joint Worship was led by RPCNA in Metheny Fieldhouse. Bruce Martin introduced President Troup of Geneva College who addressed the assembly. Mr. Martin then led the worship service.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 11, 2019

The ARPC Opening Worship and Communion began at 1:30 P.M. in Metheny Fieldhouse.

MINUTES OF SYNOD

OPENING WORSHIP
215th Annual Meeting
General Synod of the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
 Tuesday, June 11, 2019
 Metheny Fieldhouse/Geneva College
 Beaver Falls, PA

*Call to Worship	Phillip Malphrus, Sr.
* Invocation/Lord's Prayer	Patrick Malphrus
* The Constituting of the General Synod	Phillip Malphrus, Sr.
Memorial Service	Kyle Sims
The Listing of Deceased Ministers	
The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders	
*Song	<i>All Earth, With Joy</i>
Sermon	Kyle Sims
<i>Getting Back to the Basics: Acts 2: 42-47</i>	
The Administration of the Lord's Supper	Kyle Sims
	Patrick Malphrus
*Song	<i>As Pants the Deer</i>
*Benediction	Kyle Sims

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

Following a ten minute transition period, the meeting of General Synod continued.

The program was presented by Rob Roy McGregor, III. Two alterations were adopted. The program as amended was adopted.

The Principal Clerk noted that the Moderator had previously constituted the Roll of Synod.

*(See **Appendix** for the Official Roll of Synod.)*

The Principal Clerk called for the official reports of Synod's boards and Memorials from the presbyteries to be on the table for reference to the Moderator's Committees.

The Allocation of Synod's Funds was presented by Nathan Beard. The allocation **was adopted**.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP – 2019 Denominational Ministries Allocations
(Amounts shown in \$000 thousands)

AGENCY	2018 Approved	2018 Actual	(2) 2019 Approved	(3) 2019 Revised	2020 Recommended	Percent of Total
Boards and Agencies						
Central Services	\$ 326	\$ 342	\$ 320	\$ 341	\$ 351	13.4%
Benefits (covers board expenses)	7	4	7	7	7	0.2%
ARP Center Facility	22	22	23	23	24	0.9%
Executive Board & Contingency	74	67	70	65	82	3.1%
The ARP	102	97	106	102	104	4.0%
Stewardship/Foundation	99	95	101	102	105	4.0%
Commission & Committees						
Inter-Church Relations	8	8	8	10	15	0.6%
Worship	15	5	15	15	15	0.6%
Campus Ministry	97	97	102	102	107	4.1%
Other Committees (1)	27	20	27	27	28	1.1%
Sub-Total for Non-Program	\$ 778	\$ 758	\$ 780	\$ 796	\$ 838	32.0%
Bondarcken	\$ 113	\$ 113	\$ 115	\$ 114	\$ 108	4.1%
Christian Education Ministries	206	206	210	207	197	7.5%
Erskine	422	422	425	418	399	15.2%
ARP Student Union	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.0%
ONA Operations	566	566	572	563	537	20.5%
World Witness	566	566	574	566	539	20.6%
Program Sub-Total	\$ 1,874	\$ 1,874	\$ 1,897	\$ 1,868	\$ 1,781	68.0%
TOTALS	\$ 2,652	\$ 2,632	\$ 2,678	\$ 2,664	\$ 2,619	100%

- (1) - Other Committees include: Revisions, Investment, Minister & His Work, Nominations, & Special Executive Board Committees
- (2) - Updated to offset the allocation of insurance costs to the applicable agencies as noted in the 2018 Minutes of Synod.
- (3) - Updated to reflect lower 2019 Denominational Ministry projections and expense projections in non-program agencies. Agency allocations decreased 1.5%.

Moderator Holmes noted his appointments to the Moderator's Committees. Moderator's Committee meetings began at 3:30 P.M.

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 12, 2019

Moderator Phillip Malphrus opened the evening service with prayer. The Joint Service, led by ARPC began at 7:15 P.M. in Metheny Fieldhouse.

Rob Roy McGregor, III, made the following introductions.

Guests: Betty Chapman, Ginny Campbell, Jim and Cherie Bowman, and David and Debbie Meyer.

Thanks on behalf of the Synod were expressed to the entire Geneva College staff and Synod's Special Committee on Concurrent Synods Logistics for their planning and preparation for the meeting.

Thanks to Philip Bunch for leading our psalm singing.

Pages for the meeting were recognized: Bobby Duran and Michael Kirkland.

New Ministers who were ordained since the 2018 meeting introduced themselves.

New Mission Developers starting works since the 2018 meeting introduced themselves.

New students coming under the care of the presbyteries since Synod 2018 introduced themselves.

President Elaine DeVusser, brought greetings to the Synod from ARP Women's Ministries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. A motion carried to print the greetings in the minutes.

Greetings from the women of the denomination!

In the past year, the women have completed a renovation project on Synodical Hall, making the single occupant bathroom accessible to those in wheelchairs. We have been told that this will definitely benefit Camp Joy. We are exploring the cost of redecorating Synodical Hall as well, in order to be in keeping with the beautifying efforts that Bonclarken is putting forth. We do not wish to be the only building on the premises that hasn't shaken the 80's off.

God has been faithful to the ARPC in continuing to raise up men for this denomination. Men who are faithful to the Word of God. Men whom He has enabled to preach conviction and the truth of the gospel, without shame. I learned when we moved to Johnson City, TN, and my comfortable and dependable church bubble popped, that this is not at all common and certainly not to be taken for granted. I listen to a discernment podcast and hear horror stories of twisted scripture and, in some cases, the ditching of it altogether.

We are thankful for you. We are thankful to you all for being and doing that which God has gifted you for and called you to. Beyond preaching faithfully, you are shepherds to your congregations. You aid the women of your church and the denomination in choosing study books and speakers. You also shepherd this denomination as you time and time again demonstrate your willingness to do the hard things in order to prevent a softening towards the ways of the world, or to uphold and defend the safeguards that we have because of the wisdom of those who came before. This, too, is uncommon. We see around us, those who turn their backs on the truth in response to pressure from the outside world. Thank you for not following suit.

Because of God's provision of you, and your perseverance, the women of this denomination are protected as we meet, study, learn, and serve. We desire to have and are grateful for your wise council. For many of you, your current situation is one of much expectation and, sadly, little appreciation. I want you to hear that you are certainly appreciated and that I do thank God for you!

Elaine deVusser
ARPWM President

Phillip Malphrus, Sr., delivered his Retiring Moderator's Address and then introduced Incoming Moderator Holmes to the Synod. Moderator Holmes expressed his thanks to Mr. Malphrus and presented him with the Retiring Moderator's Bible and an extra-large cowbell.

Retiring Moderator's Address

What a wonderful God we serve! His mercies and grace are never ending all the day and night long. His love for us is immeasurable and everlasting. Holy, holy, holy is His great and mighty name. He alone is worthy of our praise. How majestic is His name. And yet, who are we that He has chosen us to proclaim the good news to all peoples of the earth that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord of all? And the only way to God the Father is through Jesus Christ, His only son. By His grace we are saved, not by works, lest any should boast.

This past twelve months has really been an eye-opening experience for me as your moderator. I must confess that I had no idea of the magnitude and scope of work in which the various agencies, boards, synod committees, Central Services and presbyteries are involved. What a great service Bonclarken provides as they accommodate many ARP and non-ARP groups throughout the year. The vision of their leadership team, led by Chip Sherer, is a testament to God's goodness to us. Being a member of the Erskine Board of Trustees, as your moderator, keeps me informed as to the many issues that arise and the positive direction that Erskine is undertaking by the leadership of Dr. Rob Gustafson to grow the student body of both the college and seminary. The dedication of the staff and faculty at Erskine is quite impressive. I encourage each of you to support all of these ministries with your prayers. I encourage these ministries to make our congregations aware of their needs and accomplishments by better communication with our churches.

We began June of 2018, at Synod, with our scriptural emphasis coming from the book of 1st Corinthians 16:13. "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." It seems now more than ever that a large segment of our society has become increasingly anti-Christian, to the extent that one of our major political parties is dealing with and promoting issues of liberalism and socialism. This movement is being fueled by our main stream media. We read and hear of increased persecution of Christians in other countries, as well as our own. We need to pray that religious persecution does not become commonplace here in the USA. We know what scripture tells us about persecution and suffering as we approach the end times. Verse 14 of 1st Corinthians 16 says, "Let all that you do be done in love." I

would encourage you to search God's Word for comfort and rest in His provision on how to respond if and when you are subjected to religious persecution.

I would like to thank those who have encouraged me and made my job as your moderator progress smoothly this year. Special thanks to my Vice Moderator Kyle Sims, to my son Patrick Malphrus, to Cindy Scott and Central Services, and to many others that have helped along the way.

As I pass the gavel, the shield, and the cane to our new moderator, Dr. Leslie Holmes, I would encourage each of you to pray for his tenure as your Moderator for 2019. May you always take comfort in knowing that God is faithful in all circumstances. May He find us faithful and continue to bless our ARP denomination as we seek to glorify and enjoy Him forever and seek to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Phillip Malphrus

Before Moderator Holmes began his Moderator's Challenge, he led the joint Synods in prayer. He then presented his challenge, closing with prayer.

Moderator's Challenge

Do We Really Want to Be Well?

Once again, now through your vote, God has placed me in a role of which I am not worthy. I need your prayers, not just now at this Synod, but every day and every time you pray this year. Pray for our ARP Church too, please. Pray fervently for revival. Another son of Belfast, J. Edwin Orr, writes, "History is silent about revivals that did not begin with prayer." I am persuaded that he is correct.

This honor is not about me. It is all about Jesus. All that happens this year is for Him. My life has been a series of His gracious providences. Primary among them was God directing my life toward Barbara. We were in the first grade together, but we were such outstanding little 5-year-olds that neither of us remembers the other there. The next year, our family immigrated to Winnipeg, Canada (and, so, to my Canadian brothers I say that I might very well have sounded like you...eh?). Because of health issues, a return to Belfast became necessary within a year. We settled in a different part of the city, meaning another school and different school friends. Twelve years later, when

we were 17, Barbara and I met again. Tomorrow, we will be married 54 years! God has set me among people in places on six continents where I have met people of power and prestige from presidents to business leaders, but Barbara Marshall Holmes is still the most fascinating person I've ever met. Without her, there is no limit to how low my life might have gone.

My theme for this year: "Building Healthy Churches! Birthing Healthy Christians!" is for Jesus Christ the Head of our Church, and to His glory. What is a healthy church, you ask? We believe in inerrancy, but do we believe that inerrancy is more than a doctrine to affirm? Properly understood, inerrancy is a lifestyle to be lived. Any fool can say that he believes in inerrancy but living a life out of that belief can be a different thing entirely. So, what does the Bible say about the role of the church in the world?

Scripture ascribes to the church a three-fold mandate. We are called to:

1) Exalt the Lord in Worship: I speak now of corporate worship: "Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25). So, what are you doing about that in your church, pastor or elder? 2) Equip the Laity for Work: "He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11,12). If Dawson Trotman were here, he would ask simply, "Pastor, where are the men? Where are the men into whom you are pouring your life? Whom are you teaching to go out and reach others?" 3) Evangelize the Lost through Witness: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19,20).

Here is my question: What kind of outreach program is your church working? There is an old principle that says, "Aim at nothing and you will hit it every time!" If your church does not have an intentional program of evangelism directed towards your local area, you will not grow. Recently, I asked some ARPs, whom I've known for a while, "What are you doing for missions and evangelism?" The answer? "We can't afford to do missions. We're trying to hold on to what we have here." I reminded them that Jesus has something to say about that: "Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25). A healthy church is a giving church and a generous church! It's a church focused on missions at home and globally. Oswald Smith said, "When a church takes care of missions, God will take care of that church!" Here's the deal: If your church focuses on taking care of missions, God will take care of your church. Who said that? Oswald Smith did but before Smith, Jesus did: "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put

into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38). Are we really inerrantists? Then, live it out! The only cure for the tyranny of trying to save yourself is to ruthlessly give yourself away for Christ and the Gospel.

So, there you have it: As the church, we're called to Exalt the Lord! Equip the Laity! Evangelize the Lost! These three Bible principles stand together like the legs on a three-legged milking stool. If one leg is missing it simply will not stand. In short, it is not a healthy church! Here is another question: What are your church goals for the next three years, five years? Do you have a Vision Statement? And do you have a Mission Statement that will, in His grace, get you there? Healthy churches know where they plan to go! They plan their work and work their plan!

The second part of my theme for this year is, "Birthing Healthy Christians!" What is a healthy Christian? Healthy Christians take up the mantle that was passed along to them by the church. The Westminster Confession of Faith says that there is ordinarily no salvation outside the church (Westminster CoF ch. 25:2).

This theme came to me through prayer and a number of events that God used to capture my attention. The first was the undeniable recognition that life in America and throughout the Western world is changing, changing rapidly and not, for the most part, in a good direction. We live in what is often termed "a post-Christian culture." Last week, Barna Research listed the most "post-Christian" cities in America. A number of places where we have ARP congregations are on that list! The second: that "the old gray mare just ain't what she used to be." In other words, the church of today functions in a culture far removed from the church I first pastored as a lay-pastor back in 1971.

Today, fewer than one-in-five Americans attend church on Sunday. We are in the middle of the greatest church decline in North American history. Against that, some of our churches are strong and becoming stronger. Praise God! Some are dying one funeral at a time. The story in Canada is not dissimilar. As part of their national anthem, our Canadian brothers sing: "God keep our land glorious and free." But beautiful Canada's spiritual landscape is in decline. Recent Pew Research data finds that attendance at Christian services in Canada is dropping like a rock in a lake, while the number of Canadians who belong to the "ism religions" – Mohammedism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism – is growing.

New research from Thom Rainer says that 65% of North American churches are declining or plateaued. Let's not be fooled! There is no such thing as a plateaued church! Congregations either are growing or dying. These are numbers that come from rigorous scientific surveys that take into

account worship service attendance, congregational membership, and general societal feelings toward religion. I am persuaded that short of another Great Awakening, Christianity is on the skids in North America.

I also have been driven by this nightmare of a thought: If we, the ARP Church, ceased to exist would we be missed? If your church, the ARP church in your community, went out of business, would anyone other than the realtors who wanted to list the property notice?

The Scottish and North Irish Covenanters refused to “go with the flow!” Those lowland Scots who refused to bow to the English Anglicans in their order of worship and dress styles suffered for it. Many of them, including my ancestors on both sides, were shipped off to Ulster because they refused to go along to get along. They suffered, going from being tenant farmers in Scotland to, in many cases, being indentured servants in Ulster. Like Calvin, Luther, Zwingli, John Knox, and Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine and company, they refused to accept the status quo. One good example was Francis Makemie of County Donegal, who defied the appointed Governor of New York Lord Cornbury’s ruling against street preaching. Francis Makemie was thrown in jail for two months and when he got out, he went right back to preaching in the streets. It happened again and finally the English Crown recalled Lord Cornbury because, they said, he could not control Preacher Makemie.

God has also placed on my heart a contrary thought that inspires me and that I hope will inspire you: The capability to do something that pushes back against the trends of our time is in our hands and are given us by God. There are solutions. Every minister registered here received a copy of Harry Reed-er’s book From Embers to a Flame, compliments of Erskine Seminary. It’s a book about how to help bring revival and renewal to your church. Also, from Erskine Seminary, is J.I. Packer’s classic, Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, a must read for every Reformed pastor. Generous friends of the seminary have provided a copy of Joel Beeke’s, Reformed Preaching. Three books! That is only a start. This year Erskine Seminary will be presenting a series of presbytery-wide meetings that are designed to help you and your church take positive steps toward “Building a healthy church and birthing healthy Christians.” All you have to do is invite us to your presbytery.

That brings me to a text that God has placed on my heart to spur me along as I considered how best to lead our church this next year. I must confess that I struggled with it at first because I was slow in seeing that the application of it is wider than I have previously imagined. You will remember the passage well. Jesus, walking by the pool at Bethsaida, spots a man who had been lying there for 38 years. Jesus asks him a question, “Do you want to be healed?” (John 5:6). Initially it seems like a very strange question, some might say, “a silly question,” but Jesus never asked silly questions. All His

questions have eternal ramifications. It is a question that has haunted me this year and that I now turn on all of us for the year ahead: "Do we want to be healed?" The Greek will stand a strong interrogative, "Do you REALLY want to be healed?"

You see, if you're not careful you can become miserably comfortable where you are. That, I believe, is the reason for His question. We have just returned from the UK, where the news is filled with "Brexit" indecision. What a mess! With Jesus, for that man and for us, there is no room for indecision. "He who is not with me is against me" (Matthew 12:30). Throughout my ministry, I have met people who can't make up their mind. They are indecisive! There they are, half-dead, half-alive in the happiness of their unhappiness, the security of their doubt, the certainty of their uncertainty. They are the spiritual progeny of Zachariah who, when the angel said Elizabeth would give birth to a son, asked, "How can I know this for certain? I am an old man and my wife is really too old for this" (Luke 1:18). You will remember that he had just prayed in the Holy of holies for a son!

Last week, I watched with tears in my eyes the remembrance activities on that French shore that Barbara and I stood on just a few years ago. We went there as an act of gratitude to the young men who lie beneath those markers, who crossed the water and made the final sacrifice to buy our freedom from tyranny. Had they not come across the Atlantic; I would be addressing you tonight in German. Seventy-five years ago, last week, addressing the Allies on the eve of D-Day, General Eisenhower said, "There are no victories at bargain basement prices!" He was reminding them that victory in war is a costly thing. And, victory in our war "against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12) will not be cheap. You see, brothers, there is a cost for "Building Healthy Churches and Birthing Healthy Christians." It takes: Commitment! Courage! Determination! Stick-to-it-iveness!

Make no mistake, statistics are easy. Doing something to change them is hard! Research without solutions is a useless thing! This Gospel, "once for all time committed to (us)" (Jude 1:3), leaves us no choices but to rise up and take on the challenge of these times.

I mentioned three books, Erskine's renewal program, and you received a cowbell with a brochure explaining why it is important. Patrick's spiritual progeny kept the Gospel light on through Europe's Dark Ages and resewed the Gospel light in Scotland and mainland Britain as well as mainland Europe, from whence that Gospel was carried to us.

Evangelism Explosion is here, too, at my invitation. Fifty-one years ago, a young man, a life-long Presbyterian pagan, freshly arrived in Mississippi from Northern Ireland, was brought to Christ through EE. Four days later, he

knew that he was called to spend the rest of his life declaring the life-changing message of the Gospel. I am that young man!

Tonight this God-ordained church that I love stands in the valley of decision. "Do we really want to be well?" As your new Moderator, I pray that you will join me on an adventure to take seriously our Scriptural mandate to "Build Healthy Churches and Birth Healthy Christians" for the glory and praise of the Lord of our ARP Church. Together, we can turn the tide! Together, we can change the course of history! Pray and work with all your heart to make it happen. And may God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be pleased. Amen.

Leslie Holmes

Earl Linderman and Roger Wiles presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Synod Employees and Missionaries.

Bill Barron introduced our first two fraternal guests.

The representative of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Dean Weaver, addressed the Synod.

The representative of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Iain Wright, addressed the Synod.

Other fraternal guests were introduced by Bruce Parnell of the RPCNA.

The following also addressed the Synod:

Denny Baker, the representative of the Presbyterian Church in America.

Steve Swets, the representative of the United Reformed Church of North America.

Bruce Kwekel, the representative of the Heritage Reformed Congregations.

Jeff Temple, the representative of the Canadian Reformed Churches.

The closing prayer was led by Joseph Rolison.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 MORNING SESSION

Following prayer by Neil Stewart, the Joint Worship Service was led by Gabriel Fluher.

The morning business session began at 10:10 A.M.

The Vice-Moderator took the chair.

A representative of the Board of Benefits prefaced the Benefits report with information concerning its recommendations.

A motion from the floor **carried**:

That all matters regarding the Board of Benefits report concerning the Retirement Plan be referred to a Special Committee on Benefits appointed by the Moderator, made up of six members (with the Vice Moderator as a member and Chairman) to (1) investigate and produce an independent report on all matters relating to the minister's Retirement Plan; (2) to work in cooperation with the Special Committee on DMF Spending; (3) to develop a plan for the recapitalization of the Retirement Plan and offer alternative options; and (4) to report back to the next meeting of General Synod.

A prayer for the entire matter at hand was offered.

The remainder of the report of the **Board of Benefits** was brought to the floor.

BOARD OF BENEFITS

The Board of Benefits oversees the benefit programs of the ARPC. The Board works to provide financial support for eligible individuals and families in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement benefits administered through the Office of Central Services.

Benevolence

The ARPC has a long history of benevolence to our retired ministers, their widows, families of ARPC ministers who died while serving a congregation, and retired ARPC agency employees. These faithful servants of God are not to be forgotten by the church they loved and served.

The Christmas Benevolent Fund distribution is funded by the annual Thanksgiving Offering, the J. C. Lott Endowment, the Helen W. Carson Fund and by special gifts and offerings. A full 100% of the money collected is distributed annually to qualified recipients. The Christmas Benevolent Fund distribution for 2018 was as follows:

Need-Based Assistance	\$ 6,000.00
Christmas Gifts	<u>\$48,641.00</u>
Total Distribution	\$54,641.00

The Board of Benefits appreciates all who contributed to the Christmas Benevolent Fund last year to assist those who have faithfully served our denomination. Please continue your generous contributions.

Insurance

Medical Plan

The ARPC Medical Insurance Plan (Plan) is self-funded. Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina served as Third Party Administrator of the Plan in 2018. While the cost of coverage may seem high, the benefits are comparable to “platinum” plans available through the federal insurance exchanges.

As a self-funded church plan and an Aggregate Large Employer under the Affordable Care Act, we are required to give all eligible employees the opportunity to enroll in the insurance program, make an Offer of Affordable Coverage upon hiring and annually during Open Enrollment, and file forms 1094C and 1095C with the federal government to verify compliance at the end of each year. The Office of Central Services provides compliance support for this federal mandate.

The Board of Benefits and Central Services worked with NFP Corporate Benefits (NFP) to monitor compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies in 2018. In March of 2019, the Board replaced NFP with Forum Benefits of Greenville, SC, as the new benefit advisor to the Board of Benefits. Forum will review and recommend design changes in the Plan, maintain the legal compliance of the Plan, and support Central Services in centralizing the requirements of the Affordable Care Act for our churches and agencies. In addition, Forum will also evaluate potential providers and competitive bids on an annual basis to control the cost of premiums.

Eligible employees include all full-time ministers working at least 30 hours per week serving under terms of a Call, employees of local churches, Synod agency employees, qualified retired employees, and enrolled ARPC seminary students under the care of a presbytery.

Dental Plan

Synod’s dental program is also a self-insured plan.

Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability

These three benefits are *fully insured* and *mandatory* for all full-time employees. The employing church or agency pays for the coverage. This premium is mandatory even in the event the employee declines the offer of medical and/or dental coverage. There are no exceptions.

HIPAA Privacy

As a self-insured plan, the primary privacy focus is on the protection of Personal Health Information. Plan participants are given a Privacy Notice and Plan Document. Security policies and procedures are in place, including Business Associate Agreements that conform to HIPAA requirements.

Enrollment

Medical and dental coverage is conditional on eligible employees enrolling within the first 31 days of eligibility. Late enrollment is not allowed under the Plan and will result in the denial of benefits. Eligible employees who desire to enroll after the annual “open enrollment” period, may do so upon a “qualifying event.” Contact the Human Resource Administrator at Central Services for specific eligibility and enrollment.

General Synod’s medical and dental coverage terminates at retirement for those who qualify at the age of Medicare eligibility. Persons retiring prior to attaining Medicare eligibility may continue coverage pursuant to certain requirements outlined in the Plan.

Termination of Insurance Benefits

Pursuant to policy adopted by the Board of Benefits, when insurance premiums of an employee are 60 days in arrears, Central Services will write to the appropriate church or agency stating that the account is delinquent giving that church or agency 120 days from the date of the notice to bring the account current. If the account balance is not a zero (0) within the 120 days, insurance coverage for the employee of the church or agency will be terminated. The employee’s insurance coverage may *only* be reinstated secondary to a qualifying event as stated in the insurance plan plus payments of all past due premiums.

Insurance Premiums, Fees, and Reserve Balance

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Insurance Premiums				
Collected -	\$4,271,589	\$4,370,509	\$4,839,156	\$5,211,433
Fees Paid to Third Party Administrators	\$1,021,078	\$1,046,186	\$1,048,337	\$1,234,341
Paid Insurance Benefit Claims	\$3,447,291	\$3,578,557	\$3,418,521	\$4,152,221
Administrative Costs	\$ 83,191	\$ 83,191	\$ 89,992	\$ 88,919
Claims Reserve Investment Activity	\$ 1,247	(\$ 113,699)	(\$ 194,378)	\$ 67,280
Balance of Claim Reserve	\$2,082,400	\$1,858,674	\$2,335,357	\$2,004,029

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Plan (Plan) is a qualified, noncontributory, defined benefit plan. The Board of Benefits Retirement Committee serves as Administrator for the Plan. Copies of the Plan are available through the Office of Central Services.

The Board of Benefits (Board) monitors the financial health of the Retirement Plan Trust on an ongoing basis by reviewing changes in the demographics of the Plan's participants, investment outlook, and refinement of actuarial methods used to determine the value of assets and costs. Stanley, Hunt, Dupree, & Rhine (SHDR) served as actuary to the Board during part of 2018. Findley replaced SHDR in the fall of 2018.

The Investment Committee of Synod, along with its consultant Alex Brown, manages the ARP Retirement Plan Trust portfolio. SunTrust Bank of Atlanta serves as Trustee and Custodian of the Plan assets. The Board works closely with the Investment Committee concerning portfolio performance and setting target rates of return on investments. The Chairman of the Board of Benefits Retirement Committee serves as an advisory member of the Investment Committee.

	2016	2017	2018	2019 (est.)
Actuarial Value of Assets	\$52,291,00	\$52,503,00	\$53,958,000	\$54,700,000
Actual Liability	\$57,393,000	\$60,214,000	\$62,078,000	\$67,900,000
Unfunded Actuarial Liability	(\$5,102,000)	(\$7,711,000)	(\$8,120,000)	(\$13,200,000)
Percentage Funded	91.1%	87.2%	86.9%	\$80.6%

The *Form of Government* requires a Call to have provisions for the church to make contributions at a designated percentage of a participant's earnings to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan. Contributions to the Plan are not voluntary.

Change in Actuarial Assumptions

The single greatest liability of the ARPC is the ARP Retirement Fund. The Board of Benefits has the responsibility to preserve enough money to support hundreds of retired, terminated vested, and active participants in their retirement.

In order to determine how much money will be needed to meet what has been promised to God's servants, certain assumptions are made – interest discount rates, mortality, salary increases, contributions etc. These assumptions must be updated as better estimates and methods become available. The Board of Benefits has a fiduciary duty to “charge what it costs” to maintain their duty of care on behalf of our participants and the solvency of the Plan. As a result, the actuarial assumptions for the ARP Retirement Plan must be revised.

All things considered; the Board of Benefits approved the changes below with an effective date of January 1, 2020. **These changes will not affect the benefits of Plan Participants with a status of Retired, Vested Terminated, or Surviving Spouse as of December 31, 2019.**

- (1) Retain the current defined benefit plan structure.
- (2) Increase the Contribution Rate from 12% of Active Plan Participants' earnings to 16.5% pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Plan.

- (3) Reduce the Plan's Normal Retirement Income Benefit calculation multiplier from 2% to 1.75% of total career earnings beginning January 1, 2020 by amending Section 5.2(a) of the Plan as follows
- *“For Participants retiring from active service in the Synod on or after January 1, 2020, the Normal Retirement Income is the sum of (a) 3.1% of the total career Earnings of the Participant through December 31, 2013 and (b) 2.0% of the Earnings of the Participant earned from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2019 and (c) 1.75% of the Earnings of the Participant earned on and after January 1, 2020.”*
- (4) Remove the lump sum death benefit paid on death of participant by amending the Plan by deleting Section 5.10.

An in-depth explanation of this situation was sent to all interested parties in April. The Moderator's Committee for the Board of Benefits has had the opportunity to hear this issue in detail with questions asked and answered. The Board of Benefits respectfully submits this recommendation for your consideration.

History of Benefit and Contribution Rates:

<u>Year:</u>	1961	1978	1981	1986	1992	1994
Benefit						
Rate:	1%		1.7%	2.0%	2.3%	2.6%
Contribution:	7%	8%				
<u>Year:</u>	1996	1997	2000	2014	2019	
Benefit						
Rate:		2.8%	3.1%	2.0%	1.75%	
Contribution:	8.5%			12%	16.5%	

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

General Synod has taken the position that there is nothing in the Standards of the ARP Church that would support the **“religious principles test”** in the event a minister opts out of Social Security as provided for in Section 1402(e) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To opt out of Social Security a 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."¹

A minister must base his filing on religious conscientious objection alone, not on a desire to personally invest funds that would otherwise be paid to Social Security. The deadline for filing an 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.² Ministers planning to opt out of Social Security must notify the ordaining presbytery.

Applicants for exemption should be aware that the exemption is not official until the IRS has confirmed it in a written response to the individual's application. Bi-vocational pastors should note that the exemption applies only to monies received in exchange for ministerial services; monies earned through non-ministerial employment are subject to Social Security laws.

IRS rules regarding opting out of Social Security are stringent. Infractions can result in significant retroactive financial penalties to the pastor. Therefore, the Board strongly encourages that ministers exercise great care before making such an important decision.

Retirement and Disability Housing Allowance Resolution

The Board of Benefits recommends that the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church replace in its entirety the denomination's current Housing Resolution and replace it with a new Retirement and Disability Housing Allowance effective July 1, 2019. The revised resolution designates long-term disability payments from the ARPC insurance plan, along with retirement payments from the ARPC retirement plan, as exempt from federal taxable income pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 107.

~~RESOLVED: Effective January 1, 1993 and continuing each year thereafter until change by the General Synod, that up to 100% paid to a retired-ordained minister each year by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is hereby declared and designated to be the payments of a rental allowance and to the extent used for such purpose may be excluded from taxable income. The rental allowance is intended to compensate the retired-ordained minister for the cost of~~

~~renting or otherwise providing a home for self and family and the amount to include principal and related taxes and assessment, insurance, repairs, maintenance, furnishings and any similar expenses directly related to providing a home, provided further that the amount designated does not exceed the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings, appurtenances and utilities.~~

*RESOLVED: Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 107, the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, having control over the retirement and disability plans of the denomination, hereby declares that up to 100% of the retirement pension and/or disability payments received by retired or disabled **ordained** ministers each year, be designated as a rental/housing allowance and to that extent may be excluded from federal taxable income.*

Benefit payments so designated are excludable from federal taxable income only to the extent that said amounts provide for a home, that may include, principal and related taxes, assessment, insurance, repairs, maintenance, furnishings and any similar expenses directly related to providing a home. The amount eligible for exclusion under Section 107 may not exceed the fair rental value of the retired or disabled minister's home including furnishings, appurtenances, plus the cost of utilities.

Effective the 1st day of July 2019.

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.

Suspension of Retirement Benefits

Pursuant to policy adopted by the Board of Benefits, when retirement contributions on behalf of an employee are 60 days in arrears, Central Services will write to the appropriate church or agency stating that the account is delinquent, giving that church or agency 120 days from the date of the notice to bring the account current. *If the account balance is not a zero (0) within the 120 days, retirement accrual for the employee of the church or agency will be suspended.* The employee may *only* be reinstated with the payment of all past due contributions plus interest based upon the discount rate that would have accrued during the suspension.

Financial Audit

Suggs-Johnson of Anderson, SC, will be the accounting firm for the plan in 2018 and will provide compiled financial statements and complete agreed upon procedures related to the retirement plan. The financial activities of the Board of Benefits are included in the audit of General Synod.

Role of Central Services

Central Services is responsible for the administration of the benevolence, insurance, and retirement benefits for eligible employees. Central Services receives, records, and disburses gifts for benevolent purposes, insurance premiums, and retirement contributions. Central Services provides each church with a detailed invoice for insurance premiums and plan contributions monthly.

Officers for 2019-2020

Chairman: Jim Heppel

Vice-Chairman: Guy Smith

Secretary: Cindy Chitwood

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

Administrative Officer: Roger N. Wiles, Executive Director
of Central Services

Recommendations:

1. That Synod give thanks to God for his provision to fund the benevolence, insurance and retirement benefits referenced in this report. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering continue to be taken during Thanksgiving and that the churches encourage the members of each congregation to support those in need who have served the Church so well. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That presbyteries direct their churches to enroll and pay premiums for all eligible employees to participate in the life, accidental death and dismemberment, and long-term disability plans. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That presbyteries direct all their churches (except Canadian Presbytery) to offer General Synod medical and dental insurance plan or plans to all eligible employees in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

5. That Synod direct agencies to enroll and pay premiums for all eligible employees to participate in the life, accidental death and dismemberment, and long-term disability plans. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
6. That Synod direct all agencies to offer General Synod medical and dental insurance plan or plans to all eligible employees in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
7. That Synod approve the retirement plan amendments contained herein. **SYNOD DID NOT APPROVE.**
8. That Synod approve the revised Retirement and Disability Housing Allowance Resolution contained herein. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
9. That the proposed budget for 2020 be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
10. That all other actions of the Board of Benefits as reported herein be affirmed. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

¹ (Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers of Religious Orders and Christian Science Practitioners, Form 4361, Rev. 1-2011, www.irs.gov.)

²*Ibid*

BOARD OF BENEFITS

	2018 Synod Approved	Actual 2018	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Revenues				
<u>Unrestricted for Operations</u>				
General Synod Allocation	6,500	3,884	6,500	6,500
<u>Designated Estimates for Benevolence</u>				
Benevolent Fund Special Offering	51,100	45,500	44,104	41,360
Christmas Benevolence	2,600	-	1,987	80
J. C. Lott Trust	5,300	6,037	5,199	5,500
Total Benevolent	59,000	51,536	51,290	46,940
<u>Group Insurance Resources</u>				
Group Insurance Premiums	5,071,119	5,163,036	5,047,375	5,508,000
Group Insurance Interest	100	-	25	-
Inter Fund Transfers		300,000		
Interest on Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	33,200	34,706	27,300	34,700
Gain/(Loss) A&R Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	-	(95,349)	-	-
Total Group Insurance	5,104,419	5,402,393	5,074,700	5,542,700
<u>Retirement Plan Resources</u>				
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement	3,800	4,181	3,800	3,780
ARP Retirement Plan	1,805,100	1,812,847	1,890,000	1,867,200
Transfer from B of B-DM Allocation		-		
Total Retirement Plan	1,808,900	1,817,028	1,893,800	1,870,980
Total Revenues	\$ 6,978,819	\$ 7,274,841	\$ 7,026,290	\$ 7,467,120
		-		
Expenses				
<u>Board and General</u>				
Board Travel & Meeting	5,000	3,875	5,000	5,000
Transfer to Retirement Fund		-		
Office and Miscellaneous	1,500	9	1,500	1,500
Total Board and General	6,500	3,884	6,500	6,500
<u>Benevolence</u>				
Benevolence	59,000	54,641	51,290	46,940
<u>Group Insurance</u>				
Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve	5,007,000	5,386,562	4,974,000	5,439,000
Group Insurance Administrative Support	88,919	88,919	92,200	95,200
Bank Charges	-	204	-	-
Fees-A&R Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	8,500	6,434	8,500	8,500
Inter Fund Transfers		300,000		
Total Group Insurance	5,104,419	5,782,118	5,074,700	5,542,700
<u>ARP Retirement Plan</u>				
Audit	8,000	5,800	4,000	6,000
Actuarial Fees	10,000	55,026	50,000	50,000
Legal	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Administrative Support	88,919	88,919	92,200	95,200
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,300	3,538	2,500	3,800
Transfer to Trustee	1,695,682	1,665,093	1,740,100	1,710,980
Total ARP Retirement Plan	1,808,900	1,818,376	1,893,800	1,870,980
Total Expenses	\$ 6,978,819	\$ 7,659,019	\$ 7,026,290	\$ 7,467,120
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ (384,178)	\$ -	\$ -

The Moderator's Committee on Benefits recommended adoption of recommendations one through six and eight through ten of the Board report. **SYNOD APPROVED**

In addition, The Moderator's Committee on Benefits recommended:

11. That the Board of Benefits prepare and disseminate a detailed report on the cost of moving to a defined contribution plan from the current defined benefit plan, and report back for a vote at the next meeting of Synod.
12. That Synod thank the Board of Benefits for their diligence and faithful service. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

A motion **carried:**

That recommendation eleven be referred to the special committee established by the previously adopted motion on the matter of retirement.

A motion **carried:**

That the Special Committee on 2019 Concurrent Synods Logistics be dissolved effective the end of the business of Synod 2019.

The Report of the Special Committee on Denominational Ministry Fund Giving was presented.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DMF GIVING

Officers for 2018 – 2019:

Chairman	Rev. James McManus
Committee	Rev. Joe Donahue
	Marc Faulkenberry
	Rev. David Lauten
	David Mitchell

The Special Committee on Denominational Ministry Fund Giving met several times via conference call. From these meetings, it was decided to examine the giving of all ARP churches to the Denominational Ministry Fund (henceforth the DMF) from the years

of 2009-2017. From this information, we identified the churches who had shown the trend of either not giving to the DMF or suppressing their giving to the DMF. Once this information was compiled, a survey of 7 questions was emailed to 75 churches. A follow-up email to encourage taking the survey was also sent three weeks after the initial email. Out of the 75 churches contacted, 15 responded.

From these responses, the following information was obtained:

When asked "How do you determine your church's giving to denominational ministries?", 40% responded that they calculated the amount based on a percentage, 27% that they give a set amount, and 33% responding other determinations, such as financial limitations and giving directly to ministries instead of through the DMF.

When asked "Would you say your congregation is aware of what denominational ministries funds are used for?", 13% answered that they were very aware, 73% somewhat aware, 13% not aware at all.

When asked, "Would you say your elders/deacons are aware of what denominational ministries funds are used for?", 40% are very aware, 33% somewhat aware, and 6% not aware at all.

When asked, "What factors would make you consider increasing your giving to denominational ministries?", the committee received a variety of answers. To summarize, these factors would include: not being satisfied with the helpfulness of Central Services; increase in congregational giving; increased accountability and oversight of the denominational ministries; having more specific information on where the funds go and what they are used for; being able to give to certain ministries within the ARP; and perceived value of giving to the DMF.

When asked "Is there any negative perception of how the money given to denominational ministries is spent?", 53% responded YES, 47% responded NO. When asked what is the negative perception of how the money is given, different responses were given. To summarize, those responses included perceived unfaithfulness of certain ARP institutions; not agreeing with the effectiveness of certain ministries within the ARP; and how some ministries spend their money.

When asked, "What factors would you say keep you from giving more to denominational ministries?", the top three answers were as follows: prefer to give money to more specific ministries,

declining tithes and offerings, and lack of enthusiasm for the denominational ministries.

Since this committee was tasked to gather information as to the number of churches trending in either not giving to the DMF or suppressing their giving to the DMF, and why they are trending in such ways, we will leave it to the other committees to ascertain what to do to correct this trend.

Recommendations:

1. That General Synod accepts this report. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That this committee be dissolved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

James McManus, Chairman

The **Special Committee on DMF Spending** made an oral report.

The Report of the **Special Committee to Produce Directory of Private/Family Worship** was presented and adopted.

Special Committee to Produce Directory of Private/Family Worship

At the 2018 meeting of the General Synod, the Synod heard and approved the following recommendation made by the Special Committee on The Directory of Private/Family Worship: *That a Special Committee be appointed by the Moderator of General Synod to produce for the ARP General Synod a new "Directory of Private and Family Worship."*

Officers:

Phil Williams	Chairman
Philip Bunch	Vice Chairman
Jeremiah Thomas	Secretary

In order to accomplish this task, the committee convened together on August 21, 2018; January 11, 2019; and April 25, 2019. Subcommittees were appointed to work between meetings. Early on, it became apparent that this would be a two year charge. Motions made and actions taken are as follows:

Extensive use of the 1647 *Directory of Family Worship* in the crafting of the ARP *Directory of Private and Family Worship*. To include a Preamble like unto the current ARP *Directory of Public Worship*.

Via subcommittee work, the creation of the first draft of the ARP Directory of Private and Family Worship to be reviewed at the April 25 meeting.

In tandem with the Special Committee's work, a motion was made and passed to petition the Synod to recommend to the Board of Christian Education Ministries to look into ways to implement private and family worship within the churches in our denomination, potentially including a theme for a future Family Bible Conference.

Development of resources for use in understanding the Christian necessity for private and family worship.

Work with Christian Education Ministries in providing these resources for family worship.

The Special Committee is aware of the particular nature of its task: producing a directory. However, it is the committee's prayerful desire that this document be of value to the members of this denomination. In seeking to glorify God in fulfilling the task given by Synod, this Special Committee respectfully submits this report for consideration and action.

Recommendations:

1. That the Board of Christian Education Ministries look into ways to support and help implement private and family worship within the churches in our denomination, potentially including a theme for a future Family Bible Conference. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the Special Committee to Produce The Directory of Private/Family Worship be allowed to continue its work one additional year. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That all other actions within this report be affirmed by the General Synod. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Committee Members; Rev. Philip Bunch, Rev. Tim Phillips, Rev. Jeremiah Thomas, Mr. Tom Stonecypher, Mr. Phil Williams

In Service,
Jeremiah Thomas, Secretary
Phil Williams, Chairman

The Report of the Special Committee on Homosexual Orientation was presented.

Special Committee on Homosexual Orientation

The Moderator of the 2018 General Synod was moved to form a special committee to examine the question of homosexual orientation. The motion read, *“that a special committee appointed by the moderator study whether or not homosexual orientation is morally neutral, and report back to the 2019 General Synod.”* Our committee was formed and began to meet in September of 2018 and since that time abundant discussion was held as to how best to answer this question in a way that would best serve the Church and those to whom this particular sin shows itself. We met via conference call on six occasions between September and March. After much deliberation, it was decided that rather than reinvent the wheel already made by the RPCNA in their ARP Synod endorsed work, *The Gospel and Sexual Orientation*¹ as well as by members of their Synod, including, and especially, Rosaria Butterfield, in her works and lectures, that the proper and best way to answer this question posed to us by the ARP Synod would be by updating the existing position statement from the 1977 General Synod to reflect the contemporary debates and questions facing our churches, their ministers, and their people. At the end of this report is a summary paper that gives a little bit of background to the statement. In short, the answer of the committee to the issue is simply, no. Homosexual Orientation is not morally neutral and is sin. For a more detailed defense the committee points the Synod to the above mentioned book of the RPCNA. We give thanks again for the beauty of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the sufficiency of the Word of God to answer these questions, and the wisdom of our forefathers in their labors to declare our Lord’s teaching on sexual sin, the nature of sin in general, and the hope found alone in the redemptive work of our Savior. We submit this report, with its recommendations to the 2019 Synod with grateful thanks for your prayers and assistance.

¹ Minutes of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church 2014, 489.

**The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Position Statement
on Human Sexuality**

- A. We affirm, unequivocally, the Bible's definition that every person is made in the very image of God the Creator and therefore purposed for good and the glory of God (Genesis 1:26-28). Hence, (as expressed in the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* Q/A 1), the chief purpose of all humanity is to glorify God, to enjoy Him forever, and to express that joy in all thoughts, words, and actions.
- B. We affirm the imputation of sin: that all persons, because of the fall into rebellion against God by Adam and Eve, are by nature on their own unable to glorify God (Genesis 3:1-3; Romans 1:18ff; 3:23). Thus, we affirm the existence of a bondage of human will which leaves us without any motivation to glorify God in any actions, whether they appear outwardly good or evil. (Romans 5:6, 8:7). A sinful nature so persists that humanity apart from divine, gracious intervention remains in a state of rebellion against the Creator. This fallen nature, not inclined toward the glory of God, is the root of all human misery, and all who remain in this condition of rebellion face the eternal condemnation of God (Romans 6:23). Thus, the Bible communicates to us that God condemns all sin (eg., idolatry, lying, stealing, drunkenness, dishonoring parents, false witness) (Exodus 20:2-17; Proverbs 6:16-19; Galatians 5:21) which also includes sins of sexuality—whether asexual, bisexual, pansexual, homosexual, or heterosexual (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; 20:10-16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 1:19-32; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; Revelation 21:7-8; 22:14-15).
- C. We affirm that all sin(s) alienate humanity from God, requiring divine intervention and mediation in order for restoration to God to occur (Romans 5:8, 5:6-11). The Bible's emphasis on the person and work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ directs all reconciliation between humanity and God (Romans 1:6). The gospel proclaims Christ's all-sufficient grace and divine power for the salvation we need, calling all to faith and repentance. The Word, together with the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, creates this faith and repentance within us. God alone, by his Word and Spirit in the Gospel establishes an entirely new birth in a person thereby freeing their will to see, to learn, and even to desire the things of God and his Word through Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ's work of redemp-

tion that has established forgiveness from sins, a righteousness that restores us to God, and new life that empowers a person to live unto God (Romans 5:6-11; Romans 4:24-25; Ephesians 1:18-20). We believe that this Gospel is to be unconditionally offered to all persons (Romans 10:14-17).

- D. We affirm that God has granted a common grace unto humanity, for those outside of the Christian faith, to carry out the Biblical mandates of marriage between one man and one woman and procreation (Genesis 2:24; Romans 2:14-15; Matthew 5:45).
- E. We affirm that Gospel renewal is more than the resolution of a sinful condition or ceasing from sinful actions and/or thoughts, but is a transformation by which the primary identity of believers is re-established as a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). This means that a person needs no longer to be defined merely in terms of sexuality, orientation, or any other identity, but instead as a new creation in Christ (Galatians 2:20; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 2 Peter 1:4; Ephesians 4:22-24). While a Christian may grieve God by sin, conformity unto Christ grants them (Romans 6:1-23; Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 2:11):
 - 1. Freedom to enjoy the marriage union of a male and a female (Genesis 2) and chastity outside of marriage (1 Thessalonians 4:3; Ephesians 5:3; Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5).
 - 2. Freedom to enjoy their original sexual identity as either male or female, each worthy of full dignity and respect, as they were created by God at conception (Psalm 139:13; Galatians 3:28).
 - 3. Freedom to put away any sexual practices, identities, orientations, or thoughts, which exhibit the old nature from which Christ has liberated believers (Galatians 5:1; Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5).
 - 4. Freedom to view life as enhanced by a Biblical marriage relationship between one man and one woman, a marriage in which the two are united as one flesh in conformity to Christ (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:25-33; 1 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Peter 2:9-10).
- F. Therefore, as members of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we affirm our obligation to love all human beings, by respecting them as image-bearers of God, communicating the truth of God's Word, calling for their repentance from sin with winsomeness, and praying that God would grant His salvation to them through faith in Jesus Christ (Micah 6:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).

Recommendations:

1. That the 2019 Synod approve and adopt the new position statement contained in this report as the official Position Statement of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church on Human Sexuality to replace the 1977 Synod Position Statement on Homosexuality. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the 2019 Synod pause for prayer for our nations and our society as we continue to face these and similar questions regarding sexual sin. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That the report of the Special Synod Committee to Study Homosexual Orientation be approved as a whole. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Sexuality, Sin, and the ARP –**A Brief Explanation of the Statement**

In this essay it will be answered, by way of explanation of the background behind the new Statement on Human Sexuality.

Our Shorter Catechism in Q.1 begins with a focus on the purpose of God's making humanity out of nothing that centers our minds and thoughts on the relation between the Triune God and his creation. In every way God is God, and we are not. Therefore, when beginning to consider the question of humanity's relation to one another in regards to the 7th Commandment all things must begin with his revelation to us. William Whitaker expresses it this way:

“ . . . Scripture has for its author God himself; from whom it first proceeded and came forth. Therefore, the authority of Scripture may be proved from the author himself, since the authority of God himself shines forth in it.”

While humanity was created without sin (Gen. 1:27-28), the Bible declares the way in which humanity fell into sin and misery (Gen. 3:6), and the manner in which we are to be redeemed from sin (Gen. 3:15, 21). The effect of sin is more than just the division between God and his creation. Adam's transgression damages the image of God in humanity (Rom. 1:23), and thereby our ability to obey the law of God in heart and life (Rom. 2:15, 8:7). The work of Christ restores this image (Rom. 5:1-2, 17, 8:29). Part and parcel of the Christian life is the call to be transformed into the image of the Son (Rom. 12:1-2). This means

that the believer is to love the Law of God and to loathe sin in all its forms (Rom. 13:14). This abhorrence of sin includes not just the physical separation of the Christian from those things that bring uncleanness, but also in our thoughts and desires (Matt. 5:28). The 10th Commandment marks out particularly the way in which our heart is involved in the violation of God's Law (Ex. 20:17). This is especially the case when we consider our spiritual union with Christ (1 Cor. 6:15-20, 1 Peter 1:13). In the aforementioned thirteenth chapter of the Paul's letter to Rome the Apostle makes it clear that the approach of the Christian is to be different from the world around them. In the closing verse cited above he writes, "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Earlier in this same chapter Paul will list the 7th, 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th Commandments and testify that to sum them up in the 2nd greatest commandment (Matt. 22:39) means to love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18).

Loving oneself in the context of the Christian life means self-control, by faith and trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, to sanctify the flesh and the heart (1 Thess. 5:23-24). There is no sense whereby we can separate these two realities. To sin in thought is to sin in act (Deut. 15:9). The Bible knows no doctrine which would make it acceptable to not only divide thoughts from acts, but that would make it acceptable to understand oneself as being able to accept certain sins as incapable of mortification (Col. 3:1-7). This goes for every one of the Ten Commandments, as thoughts and deeds are inherently linked. Likewise, the Apostle makes it clear that there is no part of our being which is outside the Lordship of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). Therefore, teaching that it is possible to entertain sin in any form is to go against the counsel of God (Mark 7:21-22, James 1:14-15) and goes against our call of bringing those in danger of hellfire out from the flames (Jude 1:23), as well as truly loving ourselves enough to flee from unrighteousness and to love all that is good (1 Cor. 10:14, Amos 5:14-15, Rom. 12:9, Titus 1:8).

Thinking biblically about the particular issue of sexual orientation is itself grounded in the bonds of Gospel love of neighbor, self, and of God. If it be the case that the believer is to love the commandments (John 14:15), then any kind of intercourse outside the bonds of marriage set by the Lord Jesus Christ is in and of itself always sin (Gen. 2:24, Ex. 20:14, Lev. 18:22, Deut 7:2-4, Matt. 19:4-5, Rom. 1:24-27, 1 Cor. 5:1, 1 Cor. 6:18-20, 2 Cor. 6:14-5, Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Thess. 4:3-5, Heb. 13:4). As was noted before, this includes not only the act of fornication, but the consideration of concupiscence, i.e., the lusts of the flesh by the

heart and the mind (Jer. 13:27). The only orientation recognized as lawful by the Holy Scriptures is that which places our being to the glory of God and His Word.

Theological Considerations on the Subject

Having established from the Scriptures that sin, in any form, sexual or otherwise, cannot and must not be excused or countenanced, it is time now to consider some more systematic sources to further demonstrate this. Being confessional Presbyterians we must turn to our system of doctrine contained in the Westminster Standards, these documents by which we confess our faith. The Divines take up this question of sin and the effects it has on the human being in their chapter on God's Decree, making note:

Wherefore they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power through faith unto salvation.

This statement makes it clear that the redeemed believer is to understand themselves to be brought out of darkness and into the glorious light of gospel truth. They are not given this gift of salvation in order to remain in bondage to sin. As the Shorter Catechism puts it in Q. 87:

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

This is further elucidated in the Confession's chapter on the subject, stating, "Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins particularly."

In other words when considering the question of the transgressions native to all human beings the foundation must be laid of the nature of sin itself and the requirements of the Gospel in regards to the Christian's response to it. These acts of repentance are of course not salvation in themselves, and it is true to say, as the Larger Catechism itself says in Q. 78, "... their best works are imperfect and defiled in the sight of God." However, the facts of our deficiencies are not in and of themselves an excuse that the redeemed person can use to remain in unconfessed and unmortified sin.

Turning now to the more central question asked of the committee in regards to human sexuality and GLBTQ+ orientations, it is shown by the Confession and Catechisms, as it already was illustrated by the Scriptures, that there is no sense in which any sin, be they of a sexual kind or not, can be rested in and produce the flourishing life of obedience each of us are called to in Christ. The particular nature of GLBTQ+ thoughts and acts (along with heterosexual sins) are condemned in Larger Catechism Q. 139:

Q. 139. What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks; impudent or light behavior; immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews, and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life; undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious songs, books, pictures, dancing, stage plays; all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.

Conclusion

This statement makes it clear that the nature of the breaking of the 7th Commandment is not just one of physically committing adultery, but all “unclean imaginations” or “wanton looks” and all “unnatural lusts” are just as much a violation of the law of God and thereby sin as the act itself. It should be noted that this is true of all the Commandments, not just the 7th. Our minds are captive to Christ just as much as our bodies and we must not consider sin regardless of the context. The Church cannot say that either the Bible or our Standards defend the idea that homosexual acts, orientations, and thoughts (or any heterosexual sins) are morally neutral, for sin is neither hot nor cold in the eyes of God, it is in every way abominable and worthy of condemnation. All transgressions of the law are to be confessed, repented, and put to death through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church must never find itself in the

act of accommodating sin for any reason. This being said, the Church also must be watchful to always be found freely preaching salvation to sinners of all stripes. There is no sense in which a particular sin, even of the kind under consideration in this essay, places a person outside the gospel offer. We, as a committee, call all men to repentance unto life, especially ourselves, and pray for the mighty work of our glorious Redeemer in this labor of sanctification, and ultimately rest in his covenantal promise.

A motion **carried:**

That the “Brief Explanation” be included as a footnote to the position statement on homosexuality.

A motion **carried:**

That the names of the chairman and the committee members be removed from the published report on the position statement on homosexuality.

A motion **carried:**

That the committee be given the opportunity to revise for publication the Brief Explanation.

The prayer called for in the adoption of recommendation number two was offered.

A motion **carried:**

That the Special Committee on Homosexual Orientation be thanked for its diligent efforts and the committee be dissolved after it revises the “brief explanation” of the statement.

A report on a **Special Committee to Review Complaint and Appeal** was moved without exception to the evening session.

Following announcements, the closing prayer was led by Jordan Bernard.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 AFTERNOON SESSION

The ARPC/RPCNA Ministry Seminars beginning at 1:45 P.M. featured :

Higher Education (Geneva College/ Erskine College)
 Theological Training (RPTS/ Erskine Seminary)
 Publications (Crown and Covenant/ ARP Magazine)
 Missions (RP Global /World Witness)
 Church Planting (RP Home Missions/ONA)

At 3:00 P.M. and 4:15 P.M. the delegates rotated presentations.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 EVENING SESSION

The evening ARPC Worship was led by Robert Gustafson.

Jim Carter, Executive Director of Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains (PRCC) spoke to the Synod on behalf of our Chaplains.

Special prayer was offered for the friends and family of Ruling Elder Troy Graham whose sister passed away today.

A motion **carried**:

That Synod enter into Executive Session.

Following discussion, a motion **carried**:

That the Synod come out of Executive Session.

The report of the **Special Committee to Review Complaint / Appeal** was presented.

Special Committee to Review Complaint /Appeal

At its October 23, 2018 meeting, the Executive Board of General Synod agreed to hear the matter of a complaint from Scott Robar as an emergency situation. A motion was passed by the Executive Board:

That the Moderator appoint a committee to review and make recommendations on all matters related to, but not limited to, all complaints and appeals in the matter of Scott Robar to the next stated meeting of General Synod.

The Moderator of General Synod appointed the following members to a special committee to review this matter: Rev. Matt Allison, Mr. Daniel Felker, Mr. John C. Grier, Rev. Tim Phillips, and Dr. Duncan Rankin. The officers elected by the committee were:

Tim Phillips	Chairman
John C. Grier	Vice Chairman
Dan Felker	Secretary

The Special Committee met several times in early 2019 and examined minutes, transcripts, emails, and other documents totaling well over 2,000 pages, as well as corresponded with, and interviewed, selected officers and members of First Presbytery (ARP) and received correspondence from Scott Robar.

The Special Committee was able to establish the following timeline of events related to the matter before it:

In January 2017 a Judicial Commission trial of Scott Robar was convened in First Presbytery (ARP) resulting in convictions on all but one of the four charges before it and censures of admonition and rebuke which were agreed to by Scott Robar at the conclusion of the trial, without appeal. The charges against Mr. Robar were: 1) Contempt for Authority (Guilty with Admonition), 2) Slander (Guilty with Rebuke), 3) False Witness (Not Guilty), 4) Conduct Unbecoming a Minister (Guilty with Rebuke).

At its Stated Meeting on July 18, 2017, First Presbytery (ARP) passed a motion suspending Scott Robar from his ministerial office, pending further investigation of his actions related to the receipt by the New Covenant (ARP) Session of three men who had formerly been elders in the Lakeside ARP congregation.

On July 28, 2017, Scott Robar filed a complaint with the Principal Clerk of the General Synod (ARP) against the action of First Presbytery (ARP) in suspending him from his ministerial office.

On July 28, 2017, Vaughn Hathaway filed a complaint with the Principal Clerk of the General Synod (ARP) against the action of First Presbytery (ARP) in suspending Scott Robar from his ministerial office.

At its Stated Meeting on October 10, 2017, First Presbytery (ARP) passed a motion dissolving the pastoral relationship between Scott Robar and New Covenant (ARP) at the recommendation of the Committee on the Minister and His Work. On a further motion from the floor, the Presbytery appeared to

convene a trial which resulted in the deposition of Scott Robar from his ministerial office.

Scott Robar was assured in writing by the Principal Clerk of the General Synod (ARP) that his complaint would be heard by the 2018 meeting of General Synod.

The complaints of Mr. Robar and Rev. Hathaway were not heard at the 2018 meeting of General Synod.

At its October 2018 meeting, the Executive Board of Synod, took the matter up as a matter of emergency and passed the motion for the Moderator to appoint this Special Committee.

In reviewing this matter, the Special Committee first acknowledges the enormous amount of time, energy, and effort First Presbytery displayed in this process. There was nothing quick or easy about any of this, and First Presbytery showed great diligence in handling this matter, particularly in the events surrounding the trial of January 2017. Nevertheless, there were a few subsequent matters that were of concern to the Special Committee, leading to the recommendations found at the end of this report. These include:

It is clear and beyond dispute that complaints were filed by two different parties in this matter, to be referred to the 2018 meeting of General Synod, and that neither complaint was heard by the Synod.

According to *Book of Discipline* II.B.1, there are five ascending degrees of church censure, the third of which is Suspension from the Lord's Table. However, it does not appear that this step in the discipline process was ever imposed, even though the subsequent censure of Deposition was imposed on Mr. Robar.

After having been deposed from ministerial office, it does not appear that Mr. Robar was officially assigned membership in a particular congregation for spiritual care and oversight as required by *Book of Discipline* VII.5. Mr. Robar has been attending First Gastonia ARP Church since he was deposed, but he has not entered into membership, and for a time, he refrained from taking the Lord's Supper, because of the uncertainty of his status.

While additional censures beyond admonition and rebuke were imposed, it is unclear to the Special Committee whether a new process or trial should have been undertaken, and whether reasonable notice and written charges were given to the accused.

The actions of First Presbytery related to Scott Robar and the Lakeside elders appear to center on Mr. Robar alone, without regard to the action of the New Covenant (ARP) Session.

Therefore, because of these concerns and because of the issues regarding procedural matters, along with a desire that the accused receive due process, with the hope that reconciliation be achieved, the honor of Christ and His church be preserved, and, if necessary, a brother be won (Matthew 18:15), the Special Committee makes the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. That a commission of Synod be appointed by the Moderator to hear and act with finality on all matters related to, but not limited to, all complaints and appeals in the matter of Scott Robar, as well as any and all matters thereunto appertaining, both on behalf of the General Synod (ARP) and First Presbytery (ARP), including all ARP jurisdictions arising from the 2018 division of First Presbytery (ARP) and report back to the 2020 Synod. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the commission be comprised of ten (10) members representing each of the eight (8) presbyteries (excluding First Presbytery and Grace Presbytery), with an equal number of ministers and elders. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That prayer be offered on behalf of Scott Robar, General Synod, First Presbytery, Grace Presbytery and all parties involved in these matters. **SYNOD APPROVED**

Elder Bill McKay offered the opening prayer with Elder Larry Littlejohn closing the season of prayer.

The Moderator ruled that the Commission report back to Synod no later than 2020.

The Report of the **Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight** was presented and its recommendation adopted.

Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight

The Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight met Thursday, February 7, 2019 at Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte.

Officers for 2019 – 2020:

Morrie Lawing	Chairman
Nathan M. Frazier	Vice Chairman
Mackay Smith	Secretary/Administrative Officer

During the 2018-2019 school year, RUF (Reformed University Fellowship)-affiliated ministers have confronted countless college students with the true hope found uniquely in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have proclaimed that hope by preaching, shared that hope by counseling, and displayed that hope by acts of hospitality. It is the joy of the CCMO to serve our three ARP RUF ministers as they labor on the campuses of Erskine College, Queens University, and the University of South Carolina.

To that end, the committee has pledged to increase our one-on-one contact with our campus ministers this year. We desire to encourage them in their service to God, to the church, and to their respective campuses.

It is our hope that the work of the CCMO will become better known in our presbyteries. We invite each presbytery to send a liaison to each meeting of the CCMO, charged to share the work and the needs of our campus ministers with his presbytery.

Finally, we continue to receive interest in establishing new ARP RUF ministries. The Committee is open to discussing such possibilities and has an extensive procedural document on hand to guide the process. For Synod's information, the process begins with an RUF Proposal drafted by a presbytery committee. This may be done in concert with a potential campus minister. Please contact the committee for further guidance and information.

Please pray that God would continue to use our ARP RUF campus ministers to faithfully bring the Gospel to bear on the campuses they serve.

Reports from campus ministers:RUF Erskine College - Paul Patrick, Campus Minister

Paul Patrick continues to serve as the chaplain and campus minister for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod at Erskine College. Rev. Patrick also continues to serve on the President's Senior Team and as a member of the Erskine College Faculty. This allows him to serve on the Faculty Personnel Committee, which interviews all prospective faculty members considered for employment at Erskine College. As Chaplain, Rev. Patrick leads the

weekly Erskine Chapel service, which is the institution's weekly avenue of ministry for Gospel proclamation, utilizing the elements of a traditional worship service and having either a guest preacher or of a testimony of faith in Christ, normally shared by either a student, faculty, staff or alumnus of Erskine College.

RUF continues to provide students an opportunity for weekly large group Bible study and cookouts at the Barn, small groups, and one-to-one counseling and relational ministry. RUF parties and events, like the BBQ-Hymn Sing, Pig Jig, and Barn-K for JOY! have become regular events each semester that gather not only Erskine students, but community members, alumni and students from neighboring campuses as well. Regional and national RUF conferences in the fall and summer continue to enrich the life and experience of students involved with RUF. Through these various avenues and opportunities for ministry, RUF seeks to fulfill our purpose to *"Reach Students for Christ and Equip Students to Serve."* Erskine continues to be grateful for Synod's provision of our chaplain and campus minister, for our affiliation with Reformed University Ministries, and for the ministry *"to students, through students"* that RUF seeks to foster on campus.

RUF Queens University of Charlotte - Josh Grimm, Campus Minister

The 2018-19 school year marked the third year of RUF at Queens University of Charlotte, a growing school affiliated with the PC (USA). We're thankful for the prayers and support of First Presbytery, ARP congregations, and individuals that enable us to reach students for Christ and equip them to serve! On a campus with a culture often tending toward busyness, burnout, and indifference to faith, we've been encouraged to see students finding RUF as a place to learn about the gospel and to be refreshed and grow in Christ. The ministry also continued to grow as we averaged 30 students per week in 2018-19, up from 26 students per week in 2017-18.

This spring was our second semester holding a weekly large group fellowship on Sunday nights. We have a meal at the beginning of large group, which provides a special context for both fellowship and students inviting non-Christian friends. These meals provide an opportunity for local Reformed churches to partner with RUF by bringing meals and getting to know students. The campus minister, Josh Grimm, preached on the gospel of Mark in

the fall and the Sermon on the Mount in the spring. In addition to large group, students are gathered and ministered to through one-on-one meetings, weekly small groups, and participation in RUF's fall and summer conferences.

Reaching Campus: Our group has been blessed with a diverse foundation of students. We don't have a large concentration of students of a particular major or denominational background, and in terms of ethnic/racial backgrounds the group has tended to be as, or more, diverse than the wider campus. On a campus that is 40% student athletes and 33% fraternity/sorority, RUF has students involved from each of those communities. This has blessed us with many different relational outreach opportunities.

Equipping Students: Our student ministry team grew by taking more initiative both in relational ministry and planning events. The team began the spring semester with a retreat (made possible through the generosity of members of King's Cross ARP Church) where the campus minister taught on Ephesians 4 and the equipping work of the Church. Through the ups and downs of ministry it has been encouraging to see more students growing in their heart for Christ, reaching their peers, and the importance of the local church!

RUF-International University of South Carolina - Scott Andes,
Campus Minister

RUF International at the University of South Carolina is grateful to God for His blessing on the many relationships that have been established with international students from all over the world. This is now our second year of ministry among the nations that have come to study at the USC campus in Columbia.

During the summer months, we held a 14-week Bible study for Chinese visiting scholars called, "Life-changing Conversations," which examined various Gospel narratives where Jesus interacted with specific individuals. A believing Chinese couple, with whom I met regularly, invited several of their colleagues, so that the majority of those in attendance were non-Christians. By the end of our study, two of the visiting scholars had come to faith and many others had been challenged to consider the person and work of Jesus Christ. All of the participants are now back in China fulfilling their roles at professors in Chinese universities.

We began the fall semester with the annual Welcome Banquet for international students, held at First Presbyterian Church. Ap-

proximately 300 were in attendance. We followed up with a home cookout / pool party for about 30 students in order to show them hospitality and to help connect relationally with Christian families from the church. In late September, for the first time ever, RUF-I at USC participated, in a southeastern regional fall retreat together with RUF-I ministries from Clemson, University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and University of Tennessee (Knoxville and Chattanooga campuses). The retreat was held at Camp Vesper Point in Tennessee. A group of 24 students from USC made the nine-hour journey to the camp. Despite the long distance, all students enjoyed the event and expressed interest in doing it again next year. Plans are currently underway to hold next year's retreat at Bonclarken.

An International Sunday School class continues to be offered Sunday mornings to interested international students and visiting scholars. In the fall we studied, "How to Pray," a close examination of the Lord's prayer. In the spring semester we studied the New Testament book of James, looking at how faith is applied to daily living.

A consistent draw for many international students continues to be the Thursday international lunches, held at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry building a block from the USC campus. Attendance varies between 50 and 150 international students each week. A free conversational English class following the lunch is also provided for students who wish to improve their language skills. This provides an excellent avenue for serving the international students who come, connecting with them on a personal level, and affords opportunities to extend further invitations to meet with them in the homes of volunteers.

The highlight of the year for me personally, was the baptism of three international students. Each of the students had come to faith in Jesus Christ during this past year. Through personal discipleship with me and a few volunteers from First Presbyterian Church, they made the decision to join the church as members. Two of the students are from China; the third student is from Iran. All of them are PhD candidates in various disciplines. One-on-one meetings for the purpose of discipleship and spiritual growth continue with each of these new brothers and sister in the faith. Their public confession of faith and baptism was a tremendous encouragement to the congregation, as well as a vivid reminder of the strategic nature of this ministry among international students.

We look forward to seeing how the Lord will bless our efforts next year to welcome the nations, explore the Gospel with them, and to equip believing international students to return home as ambassadors of our God and King.

Recommendation:

1. That General Synod encourage each presbytery to appoint a liaison to each meeting of the Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Mackay Smith, Secretary

Note: Budget information for Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight is included in the Executive Board report.

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

Committee on Inter-Church Relations

The Committee on Inter-Church Relations met via conference call on February 26, 2019, and through numerous email communications.

Ecumenical Organizations

The ARP Church currently holds membership in three (3) ecumenical organizations: The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC), The World Reformed Fellowship (WRF), and the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC).

NAPARC meets annually with the 2018 meeting being hosted by the Korean American Presbyterian Church. The meetings were held November 13-15, 2018, at the Jubilee Church. The ARPC was represented by Moderator-Elect Leslie Holmes, Vice-Moderator Kyle Sims, Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the ICR committee, Billy Barron and Patrick Malphrus. On Wednesday afternoon, the delegates had an open discussion concerning the issues around churches maintaining a vibrant reformed witness in our secular and pluralistic culture. The discussion boiled down to another question: "Where do we put the light?" The solution was that we must hold to our convictions and doctrinal stands. Love

the people and just be the “Church.” This discussion points to one of the important reasons for our membership in the various ecumenical organizations. They enable us to fellowship and stand with like-minded believers in North America and around the world. The 2019 meetings will be hosted by the Korean Presbyterian Church in America and will meet in Anaheim, CA, on November 12-14.

WRF will meet this summer, August 8-12 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The WRF meets every four (4) years.

ICRC will hold its next meeting in 2021. One of the goals of the ICRC is to have at least one regional meeting during the years between the regular meetings for ICRC. Last year, Bill Barron participated in the first planning meeting for seeing this happen in North America. There will be a second meeting to follow the meeting of NAPARC in November with the regional meeting being held in 2020. The 2018 Synod passed a motion for us to send at least two delegates to the next meeting. We hope to also be able to do this for the regional meeting.

Churches in Fraternal Relations

The 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), the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW), and the Free Church of Scotland (FCoS). It has been our practice to exchange delegates annually with the OPC and RPCNA. Our practice is to alternate years of sending and receiving delegates with the EPC and PCA. We exchange delegates with the KAPC, EPCEW, and FCoS on an occasional basis.

This year, we are once again having a concurrent synod meeting with the RPCNA. Our first concurrent meeting was at Bonclarken in 2015. We appreciate the RP’s hosting us at their college, Geneva College, and for the times of fellowship and interaction. We also thank the Special Committee on 2019 Concurrent Synods Logistics for their work to coordinate this meeting.

We continue to encourage presbyteries and churches to invite their local NAPARC churches and other sister denominations to their meetings and events. We believe that this may foster a

stronger sense of fellowship and connection in our shared labors in the Gospel.

Fraternal Delegates / Representatives

In 2019, we will be sending fraternal delegates to the meetings of the OPC and PCA General Assemblies, both meeting in Dallas, TX. We have sent invitations to the OPC and EPC denominations, and an invitation to the United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA) to send an observer. Jack Sawyer will be back with us as the fraternal delegate from the OPC with Dean Weaver representing the EPC. We will have observers, William Boekestein and the Steve Swets from the URCNA.

Other Relationships

In 2010, your committee was tasked to work with World Witness to investigate the establishment of relationships with at least one national church in all countries where we have missionaries serving (Minutes of Synod 2010, p.366). We are actively exploring such possibilities but have no recommendations at this meeting.

The committee also continues to evaluate present relationships with other churches as the need arises. Again, we have no recommendations at this meeting.

Officers for 2019 – 2020: Billy Barron, Chairman
Kent Moorlach, Vice Chairman
Tim Phillips, Secretary

Recommendations:

1. That Synod receive fraternal delegates at the 2019 meeting from the OPC and EPC denominations. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the Synod would recognize and welcome the observer from the URCNA and Canadian Reformed Church. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That the Synod authorize the following ministers to serve as fraternal delegates this summer: Marty Taylor, OPC; David Winburne, PCA. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That Synod authorize William Barron as an observer to the Canadian Reformed Church. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
5. That the Synod would authorize the Committee on Inter-Church Relations to assign fraternal delegates for the meetings of NAPARC, WRF, and any other fraternal situations as needed. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
6. That the Committee on Inter-Church Relations enter into conversation with delegates from any churches we associate with

through our ecumenical organizations to find ways we might cooperate in the work of the Kingdom. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

7. That all other actions herein reported be sustained. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

William Barron, Chairman

Committee on Inter-Church Relations

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 7,600	\$ 7,706	\$ 7,600	\$ 14,580
Expenses:				
General Office Expense	\$ 50	\$ 77	\$ 50	\$ 160
Committee Travel	450	504	500	0
Synod Planning	1,000		1,000	200
ARP Fraternal Delegates/Representatives	4,000	3,933	4,100	4,100
Hosting Fraternal Delegates	600	1,692	650	1,920
WRF Dues	500	500	500	500
NAPARC Dues	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,700
ICRC Dues	0	0	0	4,000
Total Expenses	\$ 7,600	\$ 7,706	\$ 7,800	\$ 14,580
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (200)	\$ -

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

Committee on Investment

The Committee on Investment oversees various investments owned by General Synod, presbyteries, agencies, congregations, and individuals. The committee meets at least quarterly with its investment consultants to review portfolio performance and asset allocation and make any necessary changes in investment managers or investment strategies. Representatives of Synod agencies and boards with funds invested under the oversight of the committee are invited to participate in Investment Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

Duties as prescribed in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* are:

- a. Developing guidelines for the work of the committee.

The Investment Committee reviews their Investment Policy Statement on an annual basis to revise as needed. The Committee revised their Investment Policy Statement in February 2018.

b. 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: The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust, Endowment & Endowment-type Funds, and Charitable Remainder Trusts & Gift Annuities.

- (1) Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust. The Investment Committee meets on a quarterly basis with financial advisor, The Corpening Group (Alex.Brown, a subsidiary of Raymond James) to receive reports, evaluate the performance of the Trust Fund, and make recommendations as to the management of our portfolio.

The value of assets invested as of December 31, 2018, was approximately \$50,929,586. The value of assets invested as of December 31, 2017, was approximately \$56,129,126.¹

- (2) Endowments and Endowment-type Funds. The Investment Committee also meets on a regular basis with financial advisor Cornerstone Management to receive reports, evaluate the performance of these funds, and make recommendations as to the management of our portfolio. These individual accounts belong to churches, presbyteries, and agencies of the General Synod. Conservative, Moderate, Moderate Aggressive, and Aggressive investment options are available based upon the risk profile of each account holder. As of December 31, 2018, endowment and endowment-type funds totaled approximately \$25,266,682. As of December 31, 2017, endowment and endowment-type funds totaled approximately \$26,450,389.
- (3) Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities. The Investment Committee provides investment oversight over the ARP Foundation's charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities on behalf of the ARP Foundation Board of Directors. Each charitable trust is a separately invested entity, with a combined total value on December 31, 2018 of approximately \$277,996.

The balance in the Gift Annuity Fund on the same date was \$114,501. The total sum of funds under the management of Cornerstone Management as of December 31, 2018, was \$392,497. The total sum of funds under the management of Cornerstone Management as of December 31, 2017, was \$466,865.

c. Reviewing all current investment relationships for funds currently invested under the oversight of the ARP Foundation/Stewardship and funds of the Board of Benefits.

As stated above, The Corpening Group serves as the investment consultant on the ARP Retirement Plan Trust, and Cornerstone Management, Inc. serves as consultant for the endowment and endowment-type funds as well as the charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities.

The Corpening Group reported on the performance of the Retirement Fund investments, indicating in the overall report, a -5.59% annual return for 2018. Cornerstone also reported that individual portfolio allocations combined for an average -5.09% annual return for 2018.

d. Discuss with other boards and agencies the possibility of including their funds in those under management.

The committee is available to assist any church, presbytery, or agency of the General Synod, both in an advisory capacity and to exercise responsibilities authorized by asset owners. Contact the Executive Director of Central Services with your questions regarding the financial services that may be available to your respective church, presbytery, or agency.

The Committee respectfully requests that representatives of Synod keep in mind the following important considerations when evaluating investment performance:

Despite ending calendar year 2018 with a negative return, performance was in-line relative to the benchmarks established in the Investment Policy Statement. It should be remembered, however, that the investment models utilized by the financial advisors and money managers are not predicated upon the cyclical difficulties of financial markets, but rather upon a long-term strategy. Evaluations of negative returns or less than average performance in the financial markets must always remain tempered by the market's

long-term track record, which often reverts back to the mean. Long-term financial strategy as it pertains to prudent Biblical stewardship, and not market volatility, is the primary focus of the Committee's considerations.

Recommendations:

1. That this report be received as information. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the committee be granted \$5,500 for committee travel and expenses. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Wylie, Chairman

¹Much of the decline from December 31, 2017 was the result of a very bad December 2018 for investments. Most of the loss was recovered by the end of February 2019.

²*Ibid*

³*Ibid*

COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Revenues				
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,506	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Total Revenues	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,506	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Expenses				
Committee Travel & Meeting	\$ 5,300	\$ 3,506	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300
General Office-Copy, Etc	200	-	200	200
Total Expenses	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,506	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

The report of the **Committee on Minister and His Work** was presented and its recommendations **adopted**.

Committee on Minister and His Work

The Synod Committee on Minister and His Work met on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at noon at Bonclarken Conference Center. The meeting

was opened with Scripture and prayer. The budget for 2020 was discussed. Charles Edgar gave a report on the Presbyterian and Reformed Council on Chaplains (PRCC). Jim Carter is the Executive Director for the PRCC. We are thankful for the excellent care that the PRCC provides for our chaplains. The three representatives to the PRCC meeting in February of 2019 were: Charles Edgar, Mike Yarman and Hank Wilson who were also nominated as delegates for the 2020 PRCC meeting. Kent Moorlach is the alternate.

Roger Wiles reported on the question of whether a minister on disability can still claim his housing allowance as a tax exemption. The matter will be addressed with a recommendation in the report of the Board of Benefits.

No Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary were elected because of the lack of members present at the meeting. (See recommendation 3.)

Recommendations:

1. That the representatives to PRCC for 2020 be Mike Yarman, Charles Edgar and Hank Wilson with Kent Moorlach as the alternate. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the budget for 2020 for Minister and His Work be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That the Moderator of Synod appoint one of the current members of the Synod Committee on Minister & His Work to convene the next scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 31, 2019 for the purpose of electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Rogers, Chairman

The closing prayer was led by James Hunt.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, MORNING SESSION

The Joint Worship was led by RPCNA in Metheny Field-house.

Moderator Andy McCracken of the RPCNA greeted the Synods and introduced the worship leader Sean Anderson.

Following the morning break, The Moderator offered prayer and opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2020.

Wayne Frazier nominated Rob Roy McGregor, III. Andrew Shoger seconded the nomination.

Mr. McGregor was elected to the office of Moderator-Elect by acclamation.

Prayer was offered for the Moderator-Elect.

Bells were rung during a recess.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2020.

Moderator-Elect McGregor nominated Rob Patrick who was elected by acclamation.

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

Committee on Theological & Social Concerns

The 2018 Synod referred two matters to the Theological and Social Concerns Committee (TASCC). The first item was the revision of the Book of Discipline (BoD). Synod referred the current draft of the BoD to our committee for further study. The second item was the memorial from First Presbytery regarding the vows of obedience from the congregation to the office of deacon. "Do you promise," the vow currently reads, "to give [elders/deacons] all the honor, *obedience*, encouragement, and assistance in the spirit of love to which their office, according to the Word of God and the Standards of this Church, entitles them?"¹ The memorial raises the question as to whether it is appropriate for the congregation to vow "obedience" to both the elders and the deacons, since the Scriptures and our Standards teach that the office of deacon is one of service. Our committee offers the following recommendations regarding these two matters.

In regard to the BoD draft, our committee asks for another year of further study. The TASCC would like to commend the former BoD committee, chaired by Elder Eric Rushkey, for their excellent work on the current draft. The draft is far more clear and useful than our current BoD. However, there are a number of procedural and theological issues in the current draft of the BoD that our committee wishes to spend more time working through. The current draft, for instance, states that alleged offenders shall not be compelled to testify against themselves in church courts. But how can a minister accused of heresy not testify concerning his theological convictions? Moreover, how could a person accused of adultery not answer charges brought

against him? The current draft of the BoD also speaks of the ARP Church as “a voluntary gathering of believers” and, hence, requires that discipline be terminated if the alleged offender withdraws his membership from the church. This assumes a “voluntary society” view of the church that is likely contrary to the Standards of the ARP Church. There are numerous other issues like these that cause our committee to request a further year of study and preparation before making our final recommendation to Synod.

In regard to the vow for installing deacons, the TASCC concurs with First Presbytery that vowing “obedience” to both elders and deacons is in tension with Scripture and our Standards. The office of deacon is one of sympathy and service² while the session is to govern and maintain discipline in the church.³ It seems unwise to have the congregation vow obedience to both the elders and the deacons as it could confuse congregants by blurring the distinction between elders and deacons. The memorial from First Presbytery only requested that we study the issue; the STCC was not given a mandate to change or rewrite the congregational vows for elders or deacons. Our committee, therefore, recommends that Synod tasks either the STCC or another committee with drafting changes to the vows.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod grant the Theological and Social Concerns Committee an additional year to study the Book of Discipline draft, and that the committee bring a finished draft to the 2020 General Synod. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That since the nature of the office of elder and deacon are laid out differently in Scripture, the office of elder being the office of the undershepherd, and the office of deacon being the office of service, we recommend that the Synod request changes in the vows for installing deacons to reflect the nature of these offices in our standards. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That Synod task the Theological and Social Concerns Committee with making a recommendation to the 2020 Synod with revisions to the elder and deacon vows to reflect this understanding of the authority of these respective offices. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Cook, Chairman

1 Form of Government 8.18
 2 Form of Government 5.1
 3 Form of Government 6.1

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

Committee on Worship

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. (Psa. 95:6-7)

The *Manual of Authorities and Duties* of our General Synod gives the Committee on Worship the following mandate: *Understanding that God is to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted, and served, with all the heart, soul, and might, General Synod's Committee on Worship is called to focus on worship and worship elements within the ARP Church.*

The Worship Committee convened twice since the 2018 meeting of the General Synod, first in September and again in February. The committee's main item of business stemmed from a motion approved at the 2018 Synod meeting:

"That General Synod direct the Committee on Worship to review previous lists and prepare a new listing of recommended psalters, hymnals, songbooks and other music sources for use by ARP Churches."

The existing list can be found here: <http://arpchurch.org/recommended-psalters-and-hymnals/> (this webpage in its current form is included in print form as an Appendix to this report). In considering this motion, the Worship Committee reviewed Directory of Public Worship V.B.5.a and 5.e, which state:

a. The Word of God provides that musical offerings, both vocal and instrumental, may be made to God as part of His worship.¹¹⁸ Musical offerings are made to God at His command,¹¹⁹ for His own glory,¹²⁰ and for the help, consolation, joy, and edification of His people.¹²¹ Though some are particularly equipped for singing, for playing musical instruments, and for training and leading in the musical offerings to God,¹²² yet it is the privilege and duty of all to join in the praises and tosing to the Lord.¹²³ All music used in the worship service shall be under the authority of the minister and the session.¹²⁴

e. Other hymns and spiritual songs may also be used, provided that their content is in agreement with the Word of God. The Scrip-

tures, particularly the Psalms, and the doctrinal standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, should guide us in the use and composition of such other hymns and spiritual songs.¹³⁰

From there, the committee formed a subcommittee that developed a survey for our congregations to learn about the music and worship programs of our congregations including which hymnals, psalters and/or songbooks the congregations currently use, and, in the case of those congregations that use contemporary Christian music, which websites or resources they most frequently draw upon. The survey was sent to all 275+ ARP congregations with 100 congregations spread across the denomination responding.

In terms of psalters, we learned from this survey that approximately 31% of our congregations (according to the 100 responding) use the Bible Songs book, 31% use the new ARP Psalter, 3% use the old ARP Psalter, and 43% “none of the above.” Regarding hymnals, 16% report that they do not use any hymnals. The most commonly used hymnals were the Trinity Hymnal (39%), The Hymnbook (15%), and Celebration Hymnal (13%) —after that a wide variety of hymnals were reported, but none used by more than 1% of reporting congregations. When asked whether the congregation uses any contemporary worship resources or praise songs, 57% reported “yes” and 43% “no”. When asked which resources they use for their contemporary worship songs, 39 separate artists and resources were listed (mostly artists, e.g. “Keith and Kristin Getty”).

The survey also asked congregations whether they have a choir, and if so, for which age groups. The results were as follows:

Adult Choir – 52%

Youth/high school choir – 2%

Middle School choir – 3%

Youth Choir (HS and MS combined) – 5%

Children’s Choir (approx. grades 4-5) – 10%

Younger Children’s Choir (younger than 4th grade) – 11%

Children’s Choir (all ages) – 18%

Asked if they used a “praise/contemporary worship team,” 29% of the congregations reported “yes.” Another 29% reported that they use “none of the above.”

The committee discussed these results and also inquired about the hymnals and psalters of other denominations. After discussion, we voted to recommend that the Synod add two newer hymnals to the “Recommended Psalters and Hymnals.” The first of these is the Book

of Psalms for Worship (Crown & Covenant, 2009), published by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA). The second is the new Trinity Psalter Hymnal (2018), a joint venture of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) and the United Reformed Church of North America (URCNA).

Additionally, given that 57% of reporting congregations use contemporary songs and hymns not published in any hymnal, the committee sought to provide some guidance to ministers, sessions, and music directors in the selection of songs. To that end, the 2019 Bonclarken Music Conference plans to offer a workshop, led by Josh Hjemvick from First ARP Church in Gastonia, to cover materials on biblically – and confessionally – thoughtful selection of contemporary worship songs as well as copyright issues with "live streaming" and projection of lyrics. This workshop will include information about services available for reporting this use such as CCLI (<https://us.ccli.com/>) and One License (<https://www.onelicense.net/>). Additionally, the Worship Committee recommends that the following websites be added as "suggested resources" to the current webpage that features recommended hymnals:

<http://hymnbook.igracemusic.com/>
www.bifrostartsmusic.bandcamp.com
www.cardiphonia.org
<https://songselect.ccli.com/>
www.redmountainchurch.org
www.hymnssofarace.com

In listing the above websites as "suggested resources," we are neither recommending nor suggesting every song at each site. The *Directory of Public Worship* 5.a. and 5.e. should continue to inform individual song choices. As more resources and hymnals come to the committee's attention, we will continue with our duty to review these resources to make further recommendations for possible future additions to this working document.

During our deliberations, the committee reviewed a prayer guide, *Targeted Prayers for Your Church*, available through the Church Prayers Leaders Network which is associated with the National Day of Prayer Task Force. The committee believes that this would be a helpful resource for encouraging prayer within our local congregations. (See <https://www.prayerleader.com/>)

Finally, the committee requested that Central Services add a question to its Annual Statistical Report. That question is, "Does your con-

gregation have a Music/Choir/Worship Director?" We believe this information will help the Worship Committee – and the Music Conference it supports – better connect with and resource these positions in our denomination.

Recommendations:

1. That the Book of Psalms for Worship (Crown & Covenant, 2009) and the Trinity Psalter Hymnal (2018) be added to Synod's "Recommended Psalter and Hymnals" published on the Synod's website. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the six websites listed in this report be featured on the same webpage under the title of "Suggested Resources for Other Songs and Hymns" with the notation: "(please diligently consult the Directory of Public Worship V.B.5.a & 5.e. in choosing specific songs)." **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That congregations encourage their music staff and interested members to attend the annual Bonclarken Music Conference. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That ministers, sessions, and music staff in our congregations be aware of music copyright laws and make provisions to be compliant. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
5. That the proposed 2020 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory C. Slater, Chairman

Committee on Worship

Acct Description	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
<u>Worship Committee</u>				
<u>Revenues</u>				
Worship Committee DM Allocation	\$ 2,000	\$ 379	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Total Revenues	\$ 2,000	\$ 379	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
<u>Expenses</u>				
Worship Committee Meeting Exp	\$ 2,000	\$ 280	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Worship Comm Travel	0	99	0	0
Worship Comm Misc Expenses	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 379	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

MUSIC CONFERENCE

Acct Description	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
<u>Music Conference</u>				
<u>Revenues</u>				
Worship Committee DM Allocation	\$ 13,000	\$ 4,816	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000
Music Conf Special Offering	1,200	1,746	1,200	1,200
Music Conf T-Shirt Sales	1,500	1,560	1,500	1,500
Music Conference Registration	68,800	68,395	62,607	62,450
Total Revenues	\$ 84,500	\$ 76,518	\$ 78,307	\$ 78,150
<u>Expenses</u>				
WC Program Material & Resource				
Music Conf Room & Board-See below	\$ 21,000	18,456	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000
Music Conf Honorariums/Fees-see bel	24,000	18,300	22,000	19,000
Music Conference Travel	4,500	2,104	4,000	3,000
Music Conference Supplies-see below	13,500	17,972	14,107	17,950
Music Conference Fees	20,300	17,940	18,000	18,000
MC Special Offering Expense	1,200	980	1,200	1,200
Total Expenses	\$ 84,500	\$ 75,751	\$ 78,307	\$ 78,150
Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ 766	\$ -	\$ -

A motion carried:

That the committee speak to the 43% of churches not using any psalter and encourage them to use an approved psalter.

The Report of the Board of **William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.** was presented.

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.

Officers for 2019 – 2020:

TBD - Chairman

Mike Jones - Vice Chairman

Kristen Shoger - Secretary

The William H. Dunlap Orphanage, a ministry of the ARP Church, has been providing care for children since 1905. It was founded in the West Tennessee town of Brighton in 1905 by Annie Belle Dunlap to

honor the memory of her Father, William H. Dunlap, and her aunt, Elizabeth Dunlap Spain. The orphanage cared directly for children until 1978 when it was closed by Synod. Assets and proceeds of the property were turned over to General Synod and invested to provide funds to continue to care for orphans. Significant contributions by other individuals have been made through the years which have increased the endowment to provide for continuing year to year funds for distribution to orphans.

The board gives thanks for year to year contributions which allow us to increase our support for children. The social and spiritual ills of today's society cause children to be caught in untenable situations where there is no care and dangerous living conditions. The need is great to provide these children with a safe and loving Christian environment. Dunlap is unique in its Ministry in that it receives no assistance from General Synod's Denominational Ministry Fund. Resources for Dunlap's work are provided from gifts, endowment earnings, and trust funds which name Dunlap as a beneficiary. The board would encourage giving to the Dunlap Ministry and to consider the services of the homes that Dunlap supports for needy children that they may encounter.

The purpose for Dunlap is stated in the bylaws, which read that the "object of the corporation is to provide care, support, maintenance, and education of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children, and to support projects related to such children." The William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc., fulfills this duty through its Board of Trustees. Synod's Treasurer serves as treasurer to the corporation, and the Executive Director of Central Services serves as administrative officer for the board. The board meets two times each year. The March meeting is devoted to receiving updates from our homes which have ongoing relationships with Dunlap and to also consider grant applications from other ministries for the upcoming fiscal year. Grants are effective from April 1st through March 31st of the following year. The board meets again in November by telephone conference call to receive updates on our ministries and consider any interim business.

Dunlap grants are provided in a three-tiered manner.

1. Erskine College receives \$20,000 per year (\$10,000 per and spring semester) to be given to orphan students.
2. The Dunlap Board has established ongoing relationships (guaranteed yearly funding) with the following homes as funds are available:

Collins Children's Home - Seneca, South Carolina
 Palmer Home for Children - Columbus, Mississippi
 French Camp Academy - French Camp, Mississippi
 Mabel Lowry Pressly Hostel – Sahiwal, Pakistan

These homes make a report to the Dunlap Board at our March meeting, and a member of the Dunlap Board serves as a liaison on their board. It is always uplifting to hear the reports of what these organizations are doing to impact children's lives.

3. Other ministries to orphans submit grant applications each year and are considered on a year-to-year basis.

All ministries must agree with the Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief. All supported ministries for the coming year have the involvement of ARP members or ARP churches which aid in their work.

For the year 2019 – 2020, the Dunlap Board of Trustees is grateful to be able to provide financial assistance to the following:

Erskine College	\$20,000
Collins Children's Home (Seneca, SC)	\$26,500
French Camp Academy (French Camp, MS)	\$26,500
Palmer Home for Children (Columbus, MS)	\$26,500
Mabel Lowry Pressly Home (Sahiwal, Pakistan)	\$18,000
Calvary Home for Children (Anderson, SC)	\$14,350
Hope for the Fatherless (Ethiopia)	\$14,350
Reach the Children of Rwanda	
International (Kigali – Rwanda)	\$14,350

Dunlap has two other ministry funds which have been established to provide for orphans.

The Dunlap Adoption Assistance Fund was established in 2011 to assist families of ARP pastors, elders, and members in good standing who are in the process of adopting children. The process of adoption is long and expensive and this fund will provide needed help for these families. The Adoption Assistance Fund has been blessed to receive contributions each year which allow it to both grow its endowment to provide for future adoptions as well as to help fund current adoptions. Dunlap has been blessed this past year that it has been able to help two ARP families who are in the process of adoption. The board thanks everyone for their support.

The Jim Barker fund was established in memory of ARP Minister, Jim Barker, who served on the Dunlap board for a number of years. It will provide a scholarship for an Erskine College student who is orphaned and exhibits characteristics of Christian leadership. This fund currently has a balance of \$14,000. The fund balance needs to reach \$20,000 to be able to fund an Erskine scholarship from year to year. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

While the Dunlap Board is making no specific recommendations to Synod, we do wish to call Synod's attention to the following:

1. In an effort to improve the reach and appeal of the adoption assistance fund, the name has been changed from Dunlap Adoption Assistance Fund to Adoption Assistance Fund of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Adoption Assistance Fund of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, we were able to make grants of \$5,000 each to two couples who are in the process of adopting a child from India and Rwanda, respectively.

It is our sincere desire that the members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church continue to be encouraged to support prayerfully and financially the many needy and precious children represented and served through the Dunlap ministry. We are, indeed, grateful for your support in the past and give thanks to our dear heavenly Father who continues to make provision for His "little ones."

Sincerely,

Bill Everett, Chairman

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.

Description	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
<u>Executive Summary</u>				
Anticipated Revenue	\$ 170,816	\$ 158,352	\$ 169,073	\$ 178,397
Beginning Fund Balance	8,600	24,213	7,634	8,900
Total Available	\$ 179,416	\$ 182,565	\$ 176,707	\$ 187,297
Less:				
Reserve for Potential Revenue Shortfalls	(8,500)	(8,500)	(8,500)	(8,900)
Percentage of Revenue	5.0%	5.4%	5.0%	5.0%
Administration	(9,725)	(8,822)	(8,775)	(8,500)
Erskine	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)
Remaining for Allocation	\$ 141,191	\$ 145,243	\$ 139,432	\$ 149,897
<u>Supporting Detail</u>				
<u>Anticipated Income</u>				
Denominational Ministry	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Gifts	-	19,256	1,000	4,000
B. J. Wade	103,630	69,679	94,679	103,707
Ola B. Hunter	3,500	4,181	4,100	4,300
McGregor Memorial	1,686	2,192	3,594	4,090
Orphanage Fund	46,600	47,418	49,400	47,200
Will Ministry Fund (min bal of \$255,022)	15,400	15,626	16,300	15,100
Total Anticipated Income	\$ 170,816	\$ 158,352	\$ 169,073	\$ 178,397
<u>Ministry Expenditures</u>				
Erskine-guaranteed	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Collins Home	6,397	26,272	6,625	6,625
Palmer Home	6,397	26,272	6,625	6,625
World Witness-Mabel Lowery Pressley home				
Girls' Hostel	4,500	18,000	4,500	4,500
French Camp Academy	6,397	26,272	6,625	6,625
Calvary Home	2,500	10,000	2,500	3,588
Boys Farm	3,750	15,000	-	
Miracle Hill	2,500	10,000	-	
Hope for the Fatherless		6,000	2,000	3,588
RCWI		9,625	3,125	3,588
Committed for 1st Qrt next year		5,811		
Remaining for allocation	108,751		107,432	114,760
Sub-Total Ministry Expenditures	\$ 161,191	\$ 173,250	\$ 159,432	\$ 169,898
<u>Administration</u>				
Central Services	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Board	3,900	2,378	2,800	2,600
Promotional	1,000	1,550	1,000	1,000
General Office	200	26	200	50
Commercial Insurance				
Bank Fees	125	369	275	350
Total Ministry Expenditures	\$ 170,916	\$ 182,073	\$ 168,207	\$ 178,398
Net Income over/(under) expenditures	\$ (100)	\$ (23,720)	\$ 866	\$ (1)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 8,600	\$ 24,213	\$ 7,634	\$ 8,900
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 8,500	\$ 492	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,900

The Moderator's Committee recommended three items which were adopted.

1. That thanks be given to the Dunlap Board for their Christ-honoring work. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That prayer be offered for the work of the Board of Dunlap. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That Synod request, as a matter of interest, information on assets invested, and performance earned on the assets, which enable this ministry. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Prayer was offered for the work of the Dunlap Foundation.

Following extended remarks from the Erskine College President, the Provost of Erskine College and the Provost of Erskine Seminary, the report on **Erskine College and Seminary** was presented.

ERSKINE COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Introduction

The Chair of the Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Theological Seminary respectfully submits this report to the General Synod of the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church, acknowledging that the authority delegated to the Board of Trustees comes from the Synod. The work by the Synod and the Board on the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education clarified for the administration the goals of the Church in operating a Reformed seminary and a Christian college, and the administration is thoroughly committed to implementing Christian principles inherent in the Church's goals. As the College and Seminary move forward in the years ahead, new administrators and professors will subscribe to the denominational expectations of the institution and the students recruited will be students who appreciate the opportunities afforded them on a Christian campus.

Financial Stewardship

Erskine's operating budget for fiscal year 2018-19 was \$32.6 million, including instructional and academic support, student services, institutional support, auxiliary enterprises, and operational and facility maintenance expenditures. Erskine, like many small liberal arts colleges, is tuition-driven; therefore, student recruitment and successful retention of these students are essential.

Augmenting the revenue from tuition are the funds raised through the Advancement Office and the resources from the Endowment Fund, with assets of approximately \$36.6 million as of December 31, 2018. These funds that come through the Advancement Office and from the endowment are key components of the financial stability and future viability of Erskine College. As part of the Institution's multi-year enrollment plan, the current spending rate from the endowment is 7%. The rate will return to 5% over a two-year period. Earnings for the fiscal year as of December 31, 2018, are -6.85% and over -7.39% from December 31, 2017, to the present.

Advancement

The fiscal year ending in June 2018 did not produce the donation revenue we had expected. The Erskine Annual Fund ended with 1,788 gifts totaling \$1,157,899 against a goal of \$1,650,000, a difference of \$-492,101. We are so very thankful for those who gave sacrificially to support the college and seminary, including the Synod of the ARP Church.

The Advancement Office has once again undergone personnel changes which we pray will bring stability and consistency to our development and alumni engagement. Michael Irvin remains the Vice President for Advancement and Luisa Chmielecki is the Manager of Advancement Services. We are pleased to welcome Paul Bell as the Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Strategic Giving, and Jeanne Bell serves a part-time role as our Executive Assistant. Once again we have a goal of \$1,650,000.00 in private support for 2018-19, and have launched some new initiatives to help us reach that goal. We deeply appreciate your prayers for alumni and friends of the institution who continue to give sacrificially to Erskine's mission of glorifying God as a Christian academic community where students are equipped to flourish as whole persons while they prepare for lives of service.

Erskine College

In the fall of 2018, Erskine College welcomed 202 new students, including 22 transfer students. This incoming class, along with attrition from fall to spring, achieves an annual average Full-Time Equivalent student enrollment (FTEs) of 563 for the year.

A new Master of Science in Athletic Training degree was approved by the curriculum committee in the spring of 2019. In addition to attracting new master's degree students, this degree program will ben-

efit undergraduates in the new Health Science major, creating an opportunity for a 3+2 degree.

Erskine College is working with the Seminary to establish a five-year B.A. to M.Div. degree program. This program would address some of the problems facing students called to the ministry, including debt incurred during undergraduate study followed by three or more years of seminary work; the redundancy of upper-level college Bible and theology courses and seminary courses; and the extended time required to complete the conventional 4/3+ sequence.

Dr. J. Thomas Hellams has been appointed Provost of the College. He serves with the assistance of Shane Bradley, who has been appointed Administrative Dean of the College.

Christian Habeger has been named Vice President for Finance and Operations. He formerly served as Controller.

Dr. Timothy Rees has been named Dean of Enrollment and will oversee both the Admissions and Financial Aid offices.

Paul Bell, an Erskine graduate who headed Central Services for the General Synod from 2007 to 2015, has been named Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Strategic Giving.

College administrators are currently interviewing qualified candidates for a number of faculty and staff positions.

ARP Campus Ministry (Reformed University Fellowship)

Rev. Paul Patrick continues to serve as the chaplain and campus minister for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod at Erskine College. Rev. Patrick also continues to serve on the President's Senior Team and as a member of the Erskine College Faculty. This allows him to serve on the Faculty Personnel Committee, which interviews all prospective faculty members considered for employment at Erskine College. As Chaplain, Rev. Patrick leads the weekly Erskine Chapel service, which is the institution's weekly avenue of ministry for Gospel proclamation, utilizing the elements of a traditional worship service and having either a guest preacher or a testimony of faith in Christ, normally shared by a student, faculty or staff member, or alumnus of Erskine College.

RUF continues to provide students opportunities for weekly large-group Bible study and cookouts at the Barn, small groups, and one-to-one counseling. RUF parties and events, like the *BBQ-Hymn Sing*, *Pig Jig*, and *Barn-K for JOY!* have become regular events each semester that gather not only Erskine students, but community members, alumni, and students from neighboring campuses as well. Regional

and national RUF conferences in the fall and summer continue to enrich the life and experience of students involved with RUF. Through these various avenues and opportunities for ministry, RUF seeks to fulfill our purpose to *“Reach Students for Christ and Equip Students to Serve.”* Erskine continues to be grateful for the Synod’s provision of our chaplain and campus minister, for our affiliation with Reformed University Ministries, and for the ministry and community *“to students, through students”* that RUF has fostered on campus.

Student Development

Dr. Wendi Santee has continued to lead the department of Student Development during the 2018-19 academic year. Student Development has seen some changes over this past academic year. The Office of Student Success and Retention was created the previous academic year in an effort to focus more intentionally on initiatives that would provide support, guidance, and assistance to students in order to help them experience success in the college setting and ultimately to improve retention rates, specifically from first year to second year. Two additional staff members were hired to focus on these efforts and initiatives. However, as the source of Erskine’s retention challenges became more apparent, these two staff persons were moved into areas with greater need where their impact on our overall retention efforts might be felt at a greater level, such as in Athletics and in Enrollment. While the Office of Student Success and Retention is still housed within the Department of Student Development, it has not been staffed this academic year. The goal is to retool this office and hire a Coordinator for Student Success and Retention down the road in a year or so. This office will continue to work toward the development of a First-Year Experience (FYE) course for all incoming freshmen in the years ahead. An FYE is an important support service to provide new students and will thus have a positive impact on retention.

The focus in Residence Life continues to be working toward a model of residential life leadership that reflects a Christian worldview and aligns with best practices across the country in the field of student development and residential life at similar Christian college campuses. This strategy also remains an area of emphasis through the student judicial system. With the resignation of the Resident Director in our freshman men’s residence hall last year, we were able to appoint a Senior Resident Assistant, Kyle Keesling, to serve in the role of Lead RA for the remainder of last year. Kyle had been an RA for three years, was enrolled in several seminary-level courses and was able to fill this

need well. For the 2018-19 academic year, Kyle was hired as the Resident Director of Grier Hall and has served in that capacity throughout this academic year.

Our Coordinator of Campus Life, Rachel Brubaker, has continued to work hard this year to bring focus to the structure, organization, training, and accountability of all of the student organizations. She has streamlined some of our processes by allowing students more opportunity to submit paperwork online, etc. She has worked with our student leaders to provide support and training that will help them develop their leadership skills as they invest in and take ownership of their organizations. This continues to be a work in progress. She is also working with our SGA leadership and other student leaders to review the clubs and organizations structure, budget process, and accountability to continue to improve the support and function of all organizations. The training for student leaders, specifically the SGA executive cabinet, will increase significantly in the upcoming academic year.

By mid-term of spring semester, over 68 student activities and events have been provided in 2018-19 by Campus Life and/or student organizations. Student participation continues to be a challenge on Erskine's campus. However, the stable leadership in Campus Life has helped to expand student involvement.

The Office of Student Development continues to work toward strong community standards and appropriate accountability. As a result, the number of student conduct cases is down from the previous two fall semesters, recording a total of 70 students who were processed through the judicial system in fall 2018.

Convocation attendance continues to rise and fees assessed for missed convocations continue to decrease significantly, which shows improvement.

Attendance, Fall 2018: 2,506 at Spiritual convos, 2,963 at Academic convos, 693 at Service convos

Attendance, Spring 2019: 1,354 at Spiritual convos, 1,451 at Academic convos, 87 at Service convos

Retention continues to be a focus of this office. The retention rates from Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 for new students are as follows:

First-time Freshmen— 170 entered, 150 registered for Spring (88 percent)

Transfers— 27 entered, 23 registered for Spring (85 percent)

Erskine Theological Seminary

As we move toward our third century, God has given us another Ebenezer year (1 Samuel 7:12) of ministry at Erskine Theological Seminary, the only seminary of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the only school of higher theological education that holds itself accountable to you, our constituent denomination. We live to serve Christ by serving you.

There is no more highly accredited seminary in America today than your seminary (both ATS and SACS accreditation). Additionally, we at all times function in keeping with the ARP Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. ARP students who attend Erskine Seminary are able to graduate and assume duties in the church with a minimal amount of seminary debt through your generous financial support.

This report will be restricted to seven specific areas:

1. This has been another year of positive consolidation in personnel matters. Our faculty is required to subscribe to Scriptural Inerrancy, the Westminster Standards, and the promotion of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Faculty morale continues to be high.

Dr. Leslie Holmes is now in his third year as Seminary Provost, serving effectively as Erskine Seminary CEO with oversight of all campuses and extension sites. He continues to teach a limited number of classes, preaches regularly in our churches, and represents the Seminary in various other venues as opportunities present themselves. This past year, Dr. Holmes has been serving the denomination as Moderator-Elect and working to assume the role of Moderator this coming year.

Dr. R.J. Gore continues to serve as (Acting) Dean of the Seminary. Dr. Gore, a retired United States Army Chaplain (COL) teaches a full load of classes at the Seminary, preaches regularly, and serves in other venues as opportunities arise. He also oversees relationships with our accrediting agencies, the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This year, our new Assistant Dean, the Rev. John Paul Marr, has ably assisted Dr. Gore. Rev. Marr expects to complete his Ph.D degree in historical theology at the University of Aberdeen in the fall.

Ms. Robin Broome has continued to give excellent leadership as our Director of Recruitment and Enrollment; David Cathcart, Jordan Turner, and more recently Florica Saracut ably assist her.

Other full-time Seminary faculty members contribute good service to the Seminary while some also teach in Erskine College's Bible Department. In addition to preaching regularly in the churches and speaking in a variety of other venues, many of our professors have written books in their respective fields of expertise and most have been published in a variety of professional journals.

2. This has been a year of overall progress in Erskine Seminary programs. Enrollment stability has been maintained for the fourth consecutive year. Our primarily online Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) degree continues to attract students from around the USA. Our Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) degree enrollment continues to attract high-caliber students from around the country and overseas. It is worth noting that over a ten-year period well over 200 military chaplains have become Erskine D.Min alumni. These chaplains come to us from the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force and now include a number of high-ranking chaplains, including the Commandant of the Chaplain School at Fort Jackson. Classes for this degree are planned in such a way as to allow ARP pastors to complete the degree while spending a minimum amount of time away from their place of service.
2. Our modular Master of Theology (Th.M) degree continues to attract students from near and far. Classes for this degree are offered in "bookends" (two 2-day periods on campus), week-long intensive formats, and online, which enables pastors in service to complete their degrees without extended periods away from their fields of service.
4. We have just announced our new Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC) degree. This highly promising two-year degree program offers a distinctly Reformed Bible-based counseling degree that not only provides pastors and others in church positions with a specialized counseling degree, but also positions its graduates to qualify for state licensure as professional counselors and satisfies the requirements of medical insurance providers.

5. We continue to focus on the development of our Greenville site, based at the ARP Center where we have offices and classrooms. The Rev. Matt Miller directs our Erskine Greenville program as well as directing the Greenville C.S. Lewis Institute, with which we have been privileged to partner in presenting various programs in the Greenville area. Dr. Noel Brownlee (M.D., Ph.D), Chief of Staff of Greenville's Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, has been instrumental in developing a unique degree program leading to a master's degree with a concentration in Christian Medical Ethics from the new David Livingstone Institute for Christianity, Medicine, and the Sciences.
6. Our plans for a five-year combined Erskine College/Erskine Theological Seminary B.A./M.Div degree program continue to move forward. This combined program offers promising high-caliber ministerial students an opportunity to earn accredited Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees in a compressed time frame, which does not compromise a student's educational preparedness for ministry. This allows especially gifted students to enter full-time ministry in the church two years sooner and with significantly reduced educational debt. Following our goal to serve "Christ and His Church," Erskine is uniquely equipped with both highly qualified faculty and facilities to provide this opportunity for select students.
7. We are yours, ARP! We are the only seminary that allows you a seat at the table. We need your prayers, your students, and your financial support if our church is to grow and be prosperous for the long-term future. We were created to serve you and we continue to exist primarily to serve you. We want to hear from you. Please stay in touch with us. Invite our provost, our dean, or a member of our faculty to speak in your church and speak of the great things God is doing at your seminary.

It's a great new day at old Erskine! As we come to the beginning of another year and review the events of this past year at Erskine Seminary, we exclaim with David, *"This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!" (Psalm 118:23).*

Board Development

Our Board of Trustees is privileged to work on behalf of Erskine College and Theological Seminary, a Christian institution of the ARP

Church. We acknowledge our responsibility to lead Erskine with integrity and in a professional manner. In general, there is a feeling of unity and consensus on the Board as we conduct our business.

The Board continues to implement educational programs to strengthen its members. We are committed to activities that engage us in the life of the campus. We have worshipped at a campus ministry event, heard reports from students, and invited faculty and staff members to interact with the Board as well as the broader Erskine community.

This year we developed a committee specifically to engage alumni and attempt to include all voices of the Erskine family. We recognize the necessity of a vibrant Alumni Association in the life of the college. To this end, the Ad Hoc Committee on Alumni Relations was formed. The committee, comprised of trustees and members of the Erskine Alumni Association, met and brought recommendations to the Board at the February meeting. Our recommendations that follow come as a result of this committee's work.

We encourage Synod to continue its work of selecting only faithful, capable trustees who are committed to the ARP's vision for Erskine as expressed in its Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. We appreciate the SCONE and have enjoyed a strong working relationship with them. The Board is deeply grateful for the confidence that the Synod has shown in our ability to govern this institution. We seek to do all we can to represent the ARP Church and to support our denomination. We thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

Summary

The 2018-19 Erskine academic year started long before the students arrived as the faculty and staff of the College and the Seminary gathered in mid-August for a day entitled "One Erskine." More than 100 people—administrators, professors, staff members, and coaches—filled Bowie Chapel to hear from President Gustafson about the unique opportunity at Erskine for the College and the Seminary to work together on the same campus to educate men and women in a vibrant Christian environment. That morning, Dr. John Wingard, a former Erskine faculty member, explored the richness of college teaching in a setting where reason and revelation are explored fully as we educate both the minds and hearts of our students. The clarion call to be a faithful Christian scholar in every academic discipline was the theme of his morning address. This initial meeting set the stage for the

exploration of ways that the College and the Seminary could work synergistically to enrich the experience of the entire Erskine community, and thus “One Erskine” became the backdrop for much of what was accomplished this year.

The actual academic year began with a freshman college class of close to two hundred students. Three new professors, Dr. Alessandra Brivio, History, Dr. Anna Brady, Special Education, and Dr. Matthew Campbell, Biology, joined Erskine’s faculty. These additional members of the College faculty enabled us to continue the essential Erskine tradition of great teaching professionals engaging students in small classes where personal attention can be given to each student in a rigorous academic setting. This combination forms the core of Erskine’s success in producing alumni who excel in graduate school and in their vocational callings. We are proud of Julie Butler, an Erskine alumna who began her Ph.D. work in nuclear research this past fall at Michigan State, the premier university in the country for the study of nuclear physics. She, like so many of our graduates, excelled in the classroom here at Erskine and now excels in the rigor of graduate school at the next level.

Erskine Seminary continues to flourish and to see enrollment tick upward in each of the last two years. The David Livingstone Institute for Christianity, Medicine, and the Sciences is a new venture headquartered in Greenville which offers graduate certificates in apologetics, biomedical ethics, Christian worldview, and religion and science. The programs target working professionals in education, healthcare, ordained ministry, and the sciences for training that is at the interface of the Christian faith and the world of science and medicine. Dr. Noel Brownlee, Ph.D., M.D., is the director of this exciting new work. A counterpart program in the College will begin in pilot form in the fall of 2019. Named the *Coram Deo Institute*, this program allows a cohort of ten to twelve students the opportunity to explore the controversial issues of 21st century Western culture from a thoroughly Christian perspective. Scott Cook is working with Dr. William Evans to develop this unique opportunity for our students. The core curriculum will consist of four year-long college courses enhanced by cohort reading, discussion, visiting guest speakers, debates, and field trips. The goal is to develop leaders who develop a deeply biblical worldview and know how to articulate their faith in the cultural public square.

These two synergistic programs are products, in many ways, of “One Erskine” thinking. The two programs are mirror images of each other, affording cultural critique from a Christian perspective both at

the graduate and undergraduate level. Two other programs that also reflect a partnership between the College and Seminary will begin this fall, 2019. For the first time, Erskine will offer a B.A. to M.Div. degree program which will allow an entering college student to earn both degrees in a five-year time frame. Administrators from the College Bible department and from the Seminary spent the year working on this proposal and are excited about the young, talented students who will be attracted into this accelerated program. In addition, the college Psychology Department and the Seminary have agreed to work together to offer a master's degree in Christian Counseling, a degree which will also offer South Carolina counseling certification. The expectation is that many of our undergraduate psychology majors will stay at Erskine to earn this degree. The developers of this program see this program as a service to the Church, providing trained Christian counselors to help carry the burden of counseling often shouldered solely by the local pastor.

The administrators of the College presented to the Board of Trustees in August 2018 a six-year enrollment plan which boldly envisions Erskine growing to one thousand students through the creation of new programs, both academic and athletic, to accelerate growth and bring financial stability to the College. We anticipate the freshman class of 2019-20 to be the largest in Erskine's history, well over three hundred students. With this growth come the opportunities to enrich the essential qualities of Erskine as a small Christian liberal arts college and to expand our offerings academically, in the arts, and in athletics. It is a challenging and exciting time at Erskine, a time when your prayers and financial support are needed more than ever.

The year began with our "One Erskine" meeting and ended at Commencement with the celebration of our college and seminary graduates. We are privileged to welcome Dr. Ralph Davis as our baccalaureate speaker and Dr. Andrew Brunson as our commencement speaker. Dr. Brunson was further acknowledged with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Seminary for his courageous witness to the gospel of Christ and the encouragement he has been and continues to be to so many Christian believers across the globe. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Recommendations:



1. That Synod reinstate the Alumni President's position as an advisory, non-voting member of the Board of Trustees. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That, in the interest of consistency with all other boards of the church, and in compliance with SACS, Synod make the Modera-

tor's position on the Board of Trustees an advisory, non-voting member. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Gazzaway, Chair

ERSKINE COLLEGE & SEMINARY

 ERSKINE COLLEGE  ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY			
<i>Forever Connected</i> CHRIST LEARNING LIFE			
<i>For Christ and His Church</i>			
Master Cash Operating Budgets			
For the Fiscal Year Ending 2019			
	PROPOSED 2018-2019 BUDGET		
	COLLEGE	SEMINARY	INSTITUTION
REVENUE AND OTHER ADDITIONS			
Tuition, fees, room, and board	\$ 24,910,207	\$ 917,207	\$ 25,827,414
Less: scholarships and financial aid	\$ 14,665,481	\$ 270,300	\$ 14,935,781
Net tuition, fees, room, and board	\$ 10,244,726	\$ 646,907	\$ 10,891,633
Endowment income (draw on endowment funds and unrestricted investments)	\$ 2,049,618	\$ 519,712	\$ 2,569,330
Annual fund	\$ 1,245,200	\$ 404,800	\$ 1,650,000
Bookstore	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 251,500
Other income (Athletic fundraising, rental income, etc...)	\$ 292,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 300,000
Known other fundraising sources	\$ 325,000	\$ -	\$ 325,000
Other fundraising sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 14,406,544	\$ 1,580,919	\$ 15,987,463
EXPENSES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 7,776,048	\$ 1,138,344	\$ 8,914,392
Operating expenses - (instructional & institutional)	\$ 7,244,584	\$ 411,158	\$ 7,655,742
Bookstore	\$ 195,000	\$ 1,170	\$ 196,170
Debt service	\$ 927,649	\$ 2,000	\$ 929,649
	\$ 16,143,281	\$ 1,552,672	\$ 17,695,953
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (1,736,737)	\$ 28,247	\$ (1,708,490)
ESTIMATED CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (1,736,737)	\$ 28,247	\$ (1,708,490)

The Moderator's Committee on Erskine recommended adoption of recommendations 1 & 2 of the report. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

The Report of the **Executive Board** was presented.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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, and the promotional work of the General Synod.

The Executive Board met twice following the 2018 meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its activities and presents the recommendations of the Executive Board to the General Synod. 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 of the board:

The Executive Board adopted the following instructions to the General Synod Boards and Committees: Any Board or Committee whose reports were not considered by Synod in June 2019 be advised to proceed according to standard operating procedures unless notified otherwise by the Executive Board.

A request for appeal by Scott Robar was entertained by the Board. Following a presentation and discussion, the Board voted that the matter was of an emergency status. The Board instructed the Moderator appoint a special committee to, "review and make recommendations on all matters related to but not limited to all complaints and appeals in the matter of Scott Robar to the next stated meeting of the General Synod."

The Executive Board continued to review information from its Special Committee on Concurrent Synods Logistics on matters having to do with the logistics for the Concurrent Synod meeting with RPCNA.

A motion carried that Rules of Procedure and Rules of Order for the Concurrent Synods be adjusted to conform to the program for the 2019 Synod.

The Director of Communications will be invited to be present at all Executive Board meetings. The Moderator and/or the Principal Clerk shall advise the Director if any items should not be made public.

The Committee on Administration of the Executive Board meetings will now meet prior to each Executive Board meeting. The Chair of the committee may call additional meetings if circumstances require.

After receiving word that Andrew Brunson may be interested in addressing Synod to express his thanks, the Board adopted a motion that the Executive Board speak with Andrew Brunson about his interest in expressing thanks to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for their prayers while he was in prison. If this is the case, the Moderator is to consider inviting him to bring his thanks to the Synod. Mr. Brunson declined due to a conflict.

The budgets for the Executive Board, Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight, the ARP Center Facility, The ARP Magazine and Central Services were adopted for submission to the General Synod.

Following a report from Synod's Archivist, the Archivist was granted permission to place pamphlets about the seminar featuring C. S. Lewis at Montreat, NC, this Fall. Mrs. Brawley is the ARP representative for the committee of presbyterian denominations, the seminar organizer.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposed budgets for the Executive Board, Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight, the ARP Center Facility, The ARP Magazine and Central Services be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the Moderator's proposed Theme and Monthly Emphasis be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That the schedule for the Annual Meeting of Synod 2019 be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

4. That the actions of the Executive Board reported herein be approved. **SYNOD RECEIVED AS INFORMATION.**

Respectfully submitted,

C.R. Beard, Principal Clerk

CENTRAL SERVICES

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Revenues				
Current Funds				
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 325,626	\$ 341,801	\$ 320,075	\$ 350,790
Miscellaneous Gifts	4,200	1,881	2,000	2,000
Total Current Funds	\$ 329,826	\$ 343,681	\$ 322,075	\$ 352,790
Agency Support				
Board of Benefits	\$ 177,837	\$ 177,838	\$ 184,400	\$ 190,400
ARP Foundation	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
W. H. Dunlap Fund	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Total Agency Support	\$ 187,337	\$ 187,338	\$ 193,900	\$ 199,900
Total Revenues	\$ 517,163	\$ 531,019	\$ 515,975	\$ 552,690
Expenses				
Total Salary and Benefits	\$ 490,414	\$ 493,041	\$ 475,537	\$ 501,837
Staff & Program				
Worker's Compensation	\$ 1,931	\$ 1,476	\$ 1,495	\$ 1,809
Director Travel & Expenses	3,000	3,093	2,500	3,000
Staff Travel & Expenses	1,200	1,475	1,200	1,500
Training	1,000	1,852	1,000	2,000
Contract Employees	4,800	6,043	4,800	10,400
Dues/Subscriptions	1,000	1,878	1,000	1,500
Total Staff & Program	\$ 12,931	\$ 15,817	\$ 11,995	\$ 20,209
Total Equipment	\$ 2,200	\$ 4,165	\$ 2,200	\$ 3,200

Central Services—cont.

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Agency Support				
Agency Support Revenue	\$ (10,100)	\$ (19,165)	\$ (22,000)	\$ (20,000)
Copier Lease	6,651	5,651	6,150	6,151
Postage Meter/Scales	1,205	1,893	1,993	1,993
Postage	1,000	13,222	11,500	14,000
Paper Purchases	500	-	500	-
Net Agency Support Expense	\$ (744)	\$ 1,600	\$ (1,857)	\$ 2,144
General Office				
Software Maintenance	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,045	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200
Internet Services	200		200	-
Bank Fees-Net	4,000	7,729	5,000	8,000
Bank Fees Allocated	(4,000)	(7,729)	(5,200)	(8,000)
Communication	4,800	5,115	4,900	5,500
ARP Synod Web Page design & m	3,000	2,518	2,000	2,600
Office Supplies	9,000	9,900	14,000	10,000
Advance Purchase for Services				
Total General Office	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,577	\$ 28,100	\$ 25,300
Total Expenses	\$ 528,801	\$ 539,200	\$ 515,975	\$ 552,690
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (11,638)	\$ (8,181)	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 11,638	\$ 8,181	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

CENTER FACILITY

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
RECEIPTS				
General Synod Allocation	\$ 22,402	\$ 22,402	\$ 23,074	\$ 23,766
Rent - ARP Entities	70,193	70,193	72,186	74,235
Rent - External Entities	90,937	33,887	38,166	17,387
Other Income	-	2,283	-	-
Transfer from Building Fund	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 183,532	\$ 128,766	\$ 133,426	\$ 115,389
<u>Expenses</u>				
Facility Repairs	24,600	17,455	21,375	19,750
Facility Maintenance	59,420	42,665	47,565	49,575
Utilities	43,815	29,202	33,206	32,050
Sinking Fund/Major Replacements	41,600	38,664	31,000	14,000
Contingency	13,700	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	780	-	-
TOTAL Expenses	\$ 183,135	\$ 128,766	\$ 133,146	\$ 115,375
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 397	\$ (0)	\$ 280	\$ 14
Beginning Facility Fund Balance	\$7,693	\$ 7,693	\$ 8,090	\$ 7,790
Ending Facility Fund Balance	\$ 8,090	\$ 7,692	\$ 8,370	\$ 7,804
	-	-	-	-
Plant Sinking Fund (a)				
Beginning Balance	\$ 28,350	\$ 28,350	\$ 34,350	\$ 56,368
Contributions	41,600	38,664	31,000	14,000
Expenses	(15,000)	(7,940)	(19,500)	(22,500)
Ending Plant Sinking Fund Balance	\$ 54,950	\$ 59,074	\$ 45,850	\$ 47,868

EXECUTIVE BOARD

	2018 Synod Approv	2018 Actua	2019 Synod Approve	2020 Propose
<u>Revenues</u>				
General Synod Allocation	\$ 171,790	\$ 67,891	\$ 81,811	\$ 95,065
General Synod Registration	25,880	23,206	23,000	23,000
Total Revenues	\$ 197,820	\$ 91,097	\$ 104,811	\$ 118,065
<u>Expenses</u>				
<u>General Synod Officers</u>				
Moderator	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,134	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Vice-Moderator	500	2,787	500	1,500
Moderator-Elect	1,000	1,046	1,000	1,000
Vice-Moderator Elect	500		500	500
Principal Clerk	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Treasurer	3,675	1,800	3,675	3,675
Total General Synod Officers	\$ 14,675	\$ 15,767	\$ 16,675	\$ 17,675
<u>General Synod Meeting</u>				
Program & Preparation	9,500	9,292	9,000	9,500
Honorariums	2,000	4,048	2,200	3,000
Staff Expenses	550	1,643	3,000	1,800
Synod Planning	50	59	250	250
Synod Room & Board	5,000	5,174	10,000	5,200
Synod Service Fee	14,630	12,723	0	13,000
Total General Synod Meeting	\$ 31,730	\$ 32,938	\$ 24,450	\$ 32,750
<u>Executive Board Meeting & Office</u>				
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,597	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
General Office & Miscellaneous	400	364	400	400
Executive Board-Legal	1,000		1,000	1,000
Total Executive Board	\$ 5,900	\$ 5,961	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400
<u>General Synod Contingency</u>				
Unallocated	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,204	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Special Committee-Book of Discipline	1,500	760	-	-
Total General Synod Contingency	\$ 26,500	\$ 1,964	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000

Executive Board—cont.

	2018 Synod Approv	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approv	2020 Propose
<u>Promotion & Services</u>				
Insurance				
Workers Compensation	\$ 15		\$ -	\$ -
General Comm. and Directors & Off	1,600	18,140	12,886	17,590
Commercial Insurance				
Multi-Peril Insurance	-		-	-
Total Insurance	\$ 1,615	\$ 18,140	\$ 12,886	\$ 17,590
Orientation Program	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,204	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000
<u>Historical Concerns</u>				
Archive Honorarium	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Erskine Historical Records Maint.	500	500	-	500
ARP Historical Records storage	2,400	1,500	1,650	1,650
Total Historical Concerns	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,650	\$ 3,150
New Mission Subscriptions-THE AR	\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ 500
Total Promotion & Services	\$ 13,015	\$ 27,344	\$ 24,036	\$ 28,240
<u>Minutes of Synod</u>				
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,774	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Printing	6,000	5,349	6,000	6,000
Total Minutes of Synod	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,123	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Total Plan Book	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 197,820	\$ 91,097	\$ 104,811	\$ 118,065
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

CAMPUS MINISTRY OVERSIGHT

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
<u>Erskine-Patrick</u>				
<u>ECM Revenues</u>				
ECM Contributions	\$ 43,800	\$ 47,367	\$ 48,800	\$ 48,500
ECM Denominational Ministry Alloc.	96,750	96,750	101,680	105,121
DM Allocation-Campus Ministry	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 3,000
Total ECM Revenues	\$ 141,050	\$ 144,117	\$ 150,980	\$ 156,621
<u>ECM Expenses</u>				
ECM Salary & Benefits	\$ 96,750	\$ 98,223	\$ 101,680	\$ 105,121
Committee to Oversee Campus Ministry	500	-	500	3,000
<u>ECM Other Expenses</u>				
ECM Intern Expenses (\$75/mo)	750	186	750	600
ECM Intern Expenses (\$75/mo)	850	367	850	700
ECM Travel	4,000	4,243	6,500	6,500
ECM-Large Group Expenses	20,000	19,457	20,000	20,000
ECM-Small Group Expenses	1,600	1,612	1,600	1,600
ECM-1 to 1 Expenses	1,800	1,108	1,800	1,600
ECM Staff Training	3,500	4,286	3,500	3,500
ECM-RUF Conferences	3,800	4,875	3,800	3,800
ECM Ministry Events	5,500	5,701	8,000	8,000
Office Supplies-ECM	1,800	1,814	1,800	2,000
ECM Bank Fees	200	157	200	200
Total ECM Other Expenses	\$ 43,800	\$ 43,807	\$ 48,800	\$ 48,500
Total Erskine Campus Ministry Expense	\$ 141,050	\$ 142,030	\$ 150,980	\$ 156,621
Net Income (Loss)-ECM	\$ -	\$ 2,088	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance-ECM	\$ 30,297	\$ 30,297	\$ 30,297	\$ 30,297
Ending Fund Balance-ECM	\$ 30,297	\$ 32,385	\$ 30,297	\$ 30,297

THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
REVENUES	-0.5%	5.5%	8.8%	2.0%
Denominational Ministries Alloc	\$ 101,515	\$ 97,045	\$ 105,631	\$ 104,364
Miscellaneous Gifts	500	1,027	500	900
ARPWM Contributions	3,500	3,609	3,600	3,600
ARP Subscription Income	25,200	23,258	24,000	20,550
ARP Advertisement Income	5,000	3,596	5,300	3,600
Misc Income	120	24	120	120
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 135,835	\$ 128,557	\$ 139,151	\$ 133,134
EXPENSES				
Total Salary & Staff Benefits	\$ 101,712	\$ 98,796	\$ 105,154	\$ 104,689
STAFF & BOARD EXPENSES				
Editor Expenses	800	2,556	2,000	2,100
Staff Expenses	300	1,118	300	300
Dues & Membership Fees	200	435	200	200
Total Staff & Board Expenses	\$1,300	\$4,110	\$2,500	\$2,600
PUBLICITY & PROMOTION				
Publicity & Promotion	700	758	700	700
"The ARP" Web Page	740	1,107	740	740
Total Publicity & Promotion	\$1,440	\$1,865	\$1,440	\$1,440
Total Equipment	\$500	\$63	\$720	\$500
Total Communications	\$1,650	\$1,770	\$1,650	\$1,820
Office Expenses				
Rent	3,473	3,473	3,577	3,685
Office Supplies & Misc	1,567	639	1,600	1,000
Bank Fees	0	42	50	50
Total Office Expenses	\$5,040	\$4,154	\$5,227	\$4,735
PRODUCTION EXPENSES	-12.0%		-1.4%	-2.1%
Preparation & Printing	13,182	9,087	12,429	8,520
Labels and Postage	5,422	3,611	4,441	3,190
P2P Subscription Software	1,889	1,805	1,840	1,840
Materials and Supplies	300	21	300	300
Photography Expenses	200	0	200	50
Design Services	3,200	3,275	3,250	3,450
Total Production Expenses	\$24,193	\$17,799	\$22,460	\$17,350
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$135,835	\$128,557	\$139,151	\$133,134
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ending Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The Moderator's Committee recommended approval of recommendations 1 and 3. Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 were **SYNOD APPROVED**. Recommendation 4 was **received as information**.

The order of the day was noted.

The morning session closed with blessing and closing prayer by Andrew Di Iulio.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, AFTERNOON SESSION

The Afternoon Worship was led by John Paul Marr.

Special Prayer was offered for our educational institutions following the worship.

The report of the **Board of Stewardship** was presented.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

General Synod has given the Board of Stewardship "responsibility for working cooperatively with the congregations and agencies of 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; and 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" (*Manual of Authorities and Duties*).

The members of the Board of Stewardship also serve as the board of directors of the ARP Foundation. Synod's Investment Committee serves as Investment Advisor to the Foundation board.

ARP Foundation

The Board of the ARP Foundation met April 25, 2019, and received an encouraging report from the Director of Gift Planning as well as related presentations from Susan Tanner, Director of Communications, and Roger Wiles, Executive Director of Central Services.

Susan Tanner will be taking on a significant role in creating a denominational ministry fund component on our website.

Steve Nichols, Director of Gift Planning shared highlights on Planned Giving which is an essential resource in combination with

DMF to meet the ambitious goals of our agencies. Ministry to individuals is huge and the impact on ARPC ministry overall is huge. The following are some of the ways individuals and churches can improve DMF giving:

- Prayer
- Personal participation in DMF giving
- Invite Steve Nichols, Director of Gift Planning to make a presentation to your church
- Find a "champion" at your church

Stewardship

General Synod created agencies, boards, and committees to serve the entire Church in the proclamation of the Gospel of God by every means possible. Every agency, board, and committee is dependent upon the free-will giving of every member of every congregation to the Denominational Ministry Fund in the financial support of our ARP Ministries.

<u>Easter Offering</u>	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Stewardship/						
Foundation	9,802	8,672	7,567	6,716	6,822	7,112
Bonclarken	14,735	13,411	10,693	9,906	7,744	8,465
CEM	11,500	9,966	8,179	8,112	7,681	7,661
Erskine College	14,971	12,926	11,399	10,227	7,672	8,316
World Witness	23,767	20,943	18,020	17,994	16,927	14,986
Subtotal	74,775	65,918	55,858	52,956	46,846	46,540
<u>Thanksgiving</u>						
Erskine Sem.	6,085	4,959	6,187	6,648	5,358	6,300
American						
Bible Soc.	2,781	2,896	3,742	3,306	3,016	3,010
Outreach						
North Am.	6,570	6,086	7,458	6,396	6,516	6,636
Christmas						
Benev.	45,500	37,214	50,995	51,108	46,681	43,760
Subtotal	60,936	51,155	68,382	67,458	61,571	59,706

Under the oversight of the Executive Board of Synod, the Office of Central Services serves as an accounting and finance resource for all agencies of the denomination, particularly Synod's committees, Board of Benefits, William H. Dunlap Board of Directors, Board of Stewardship, *The ARP Magazine*, Christian Education Ministries, and Outreach North America. Procedures are in place to insure compliance as a non-profit and 501(c)(3) religious organization.

The Board of Stewardship encourages the agencies in the Greenville office to coordinate the approach to salary and benefit changes in 2020 to achieve consistency where possible.

The Board has engaged the independent auditing firm Suggs Johnson LLC, for the December 31, 2018 audit which 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 fund.

The Board would like to express thanks to Mr. Chip Smith and Mr. Brian Such for their hard work that makes it possible for the Board of Stewardship to complete the budget process and to thank the rest of their teams for their help in completing the task. The Board is also very thankful to God for the willingness of new people to serve and participate on the Board of Stewardship.

Administrative Information

Officers for July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020

Mike Thomason, Chairman

Bob Wilson, Secretary

Roger N. Wiles, Administrative Officer

Recommendations:

1. That General Synod pause for prayer, thanking God for His provision for our denomination, asking that all current and future ministry needs be met and seeking His wisdom to be faithful stewards of His provisions for the advancement of His kingdom and glory.
SYNOD APPROVED.
2. That the proposed 2020 Board of Stewardship budget be approved.
SYNOD APPROVED.
3. That the proposed revision of the 2019 denominational ministries allocation be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That the Thanksgiving and Easter offerings be continued for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
5. That Synod support the small churches with what they need to be alive and revived in God's service (caring, volunteer services, spe-

cial services, and prayer partnerships) and that Synod encourage presbyteries to do the same. **NOT APPROVED.**

6. That Synod encourage all churches to visit the arpchurch.org website for a fuller explanation of the Denominational Ministry Fund, i.e. what it is and what it does. This information should be available on the website July 2019. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Thomason, Chairman
Nathan Beard, Vice Chairman

Denominational Ministry Fund Statistics
April 2019

Category	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Churches meeting goal of 20%	2	4	5	5	2	2
Churches giving 10% - 19%	29	25	31	31	28	30
Giving percentage not determined	95	111	70	72	57	77
Remaining at same percentage	138	99	132	130	113	113
Increased percentage level	65	50	55	64	79	73
Increased by at least 1%	56	30	42	43	57	50
Decreased percentage level	59	33	37	34	104	124
Decreased giving but at 10% or above	11	8	7	8	39	17
Submitted a report but did not pledge support	18	26	56	51	56	41
Churches who have not submitted reports as of April 24, 2019	70	107	53	168	57	77

The figures reported in the column "2019" are based on information recorded in Statistical Reports for calendar year 2018 from individual congregations. Total churches = 262

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

	2018 Synod	2018 Actual	2019 Synod	2020 Proposed
Revenue				
General Synod Allocation-Stewardship	\$ 19,675	\$ 15,967	\$ 20,870	\$ 18,558
General Synod Allocation-Foundation	79,465	78,602	79,952	86,842
ARP Foundation		4		
Special Offering	6,800	9,802	8,120	9,200
Transfers for Ministry	43,836	43,624	46,340	44,671
Endowment Transfers for Dir of GP	43,836	43,624	46,340	44,671
Total Revenue	\$ 193,611	\$ 191,623	\$ 201,622	\$ 203,942
Expenses				
Director of Gift Planning (GP)				
Salary	\$ 80,362	\$ 80,361	\$ 81,149	\$ 85,255
Social Security Taxes	4,982	4,982	5,031	5,286
Medicare Taxes	1,165	1,165	1,177	1,236
Insurance	17,058	18,259	19,205	20,038
Worker's Comp Insurance	399	302	310	390
Salary & Benefits	\$ 103,966	\$ 105,070	\$ 106,872	\$ 112,205
Dir of GP Travel/Meals	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,097	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Dir of GP Dues/memberships	1,200	174	1,200	200
Cell Phone	766	766	526	766
Rent	2,868	2,868	2,954	3,042
GP Office Supplies/Promotional	2,500	3,251	2,740	3,300
Total GP Office Expenses	\$ 19,334	\$ 17,156	\$ 19,420	\$ 19,308
Total Director of Gift Planning Expenses	\$ 123,300	\$ 122,226	\$ 126,292	\$ 131,513
Board Travel & Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,051	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Staff Expense				
Administrative Support	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Promotional	2,400	1,025	2,400	1,000
General Synod Audit & Legal	11,000	9,800	11,000	10,200
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	43,836	43,624	46,340	44,671
General Office	2,075	3,067	2,590	3,000
Bank Fees		\$ 1,830	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,900
Commercial Insurance				\$ 658
Total Expenses	\$ 193,611	\$ 191,623	\$ 201,622	\$ 203,942
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

The Moderator's Committee recommended adoption of recommendations 1-4 and 6 of the Board. The Moderator's Committee recommended that recommendation 5 not be approved. Recommendations 1-4 of the Board **were approved**. The prayer proposed in recommendation number one of the Board report was offered. Recommendation 5 of the Board report was **not approved**. Recommendation 6 of the Board report was **approved**.

The report of the **Board of Bonclarken** was presented.

BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

Dear Gentlemen:

Bonclarken is honored to serve Christ and our Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church through our conference center ministry. Our prayer for our guests continues to be that they will be inspired and renewed in their faith in Jesus Christ during their time with us.

The purpose of this report is to update Synod on the activities of the Bonclarken Board since our last annual report to Synod, as well as to share the ministry impact of Bonclarken and make recommendations for consideration by Synod.

For the first time since 2003 and only the fifth time since 1950, General Synod is not meeting at Bonclarken this year. Our Board is praying for a successful concurrent meeting with the RPCNA at Geneva College and wishes to remind all the delegates how much we look forward to having you back in Flat Rock in 2020.

Our 2016 Strategic Plan continues to be a guiding force in the work of Bonclarken's Board. Three major projects identified in the Plan were started and are scheduled to be completed by May. Founders Hall received a complete renovation, our front entrance received a complete renovation, and our new 2,880sf Youth Gathering Facility will open in time for our summer season.

These projects join a comprehensive marketing effort, all focused on sustaining the mission of Bonclarken for years to come. With our 100th anniversary fast approaching, it is our desire for guests over the next 100 years to enjoy this wonderful Christian environment as much as we have the past 100 years.

The Board thanks Synod and the many churches that support Bonclarken through their giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund.

We also thank the hundreds of volunteers who assist with our min-

istry each year. The Bonclarken staff is always encouraged by the willingness of our volunteers to help in such important ways.

The Board of Bonclarken is responsible for the overall management of the Conference Center, which includes all properties owned. In the exercise of this responsibility, the Board implements the five 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 denominational 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:

Providing opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship is the primary mission of Bonclarken. The Board reviews plans from the Administration for keeping this mission foremost in our efforts.

Each Monday morning, Bonclarken President Joseph (Chip) Sherer sends an email to our Board (and nearly two hundred other friends of Bonclarken) consistently asking for prayer for two things: that our guests will be receptive to the call of the Holy Spirit and that the staff’s work will glorify Christ. *Christian development* is fostered when guests are open to the call of the Holy Spirit, and the Bonclarken staff works diligently to *assure a wholesome atmosphere* for this development.

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 2018, Bonclarken hosted numerous ARP events, including General Synod, World Focus, Family Bible Conference, Women’s Ministries, Horizon, Quest, Music Conference, Camp Bonclarken, Camp Joy, Music Drama Camp, various Boards of Synod, Presbytery youth retreats and individual ARP church retreats.

In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits.

Bonclarken hosted numerous events for other Christian and educational groups in 2018.

Duty #2:

“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.”

Response to this duty:

The following officers were elected to serve in 2018-19: Bill Patrick, Chairman; David Brunt, Vice Chairman; Paul Bell, Secretary; Mike Cruce, Treasurer. Committee Chairs: Anne Ross, Administration Committee; Jimmy Matthews, Buildings and Grounds Committee; James Cook, Promotion and Services Committee.

The Board employs and supervises Joseph (Chip) Sherer as President of Bonclarken. The Board entrusts Mr. Sherer with the duty of carrying out the policies of the Board and managing the day-to-day operations of the Conference Center.

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:

The Board regularly reviews its By-Laws and Board policies as to current applicability and makes revisions when deemed necessary.

Duty #4:

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

Response to this duty:

The Board continues to ensure that all property owned by Bonclarken is appropriately managed and took the following significant actions from April 2018 through March 2019:

Actions taken at the May 2018 Board meeting:

*Approved a plan for the Front Entrance Renovation.

Actions taken at the October 2018 Board meeting:

*Amended the Promotion and Services Committee policy to

increase the minimum age for an “individual” (defined as a guest not attending a conference or retreat) to reserve a guest room from 18 to 21.

*Approved Carl Shaw, CPA, to perform the review of the 2018 financials.

Actions taken at the January 2019 Board meeting:

*Made administrative policies currently in place related to Staff Screening, Camper Supervision, and Training for Bonclarken-sponsored camps as Board policies and part of the Promotion and Services Committee policies.

*Approved current Directors and Officers (D&O) Insurance with Cincinnati Insurance be terminated and approved Bonclarken to be covered under Synod’s D&O policy.

*Approved the 2019 Operating Budget.

*Approved the 2019 Endowment Income budget and 2019 Endowment Withdrawal Schedule.

Duty #5:

“To make an annual report to the General Synod.”

Recommendations:

1. That the meeting of General Synod for 2021 be held at Bonclarken beginning Tuesday, June 8, 2021. (*The meeting of General Synod for 2020 was approved by the 2018 Synod to be held at Bonclarken beginning June 9, 2020.*) **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That General Synod continue to support Bonclarken through the allocation of funds from the Denominational Ministry Fund and through the annual Easter offering. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That General Synod encourage all presbyteries, boards, and churches to encourage and assist their members in attending the various camps/conferences/retreats hosted by Bonclarken during the year. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Patrick, Chairman

BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

	<u>2018 Approved</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Approved</u>	<u>2020 Proposed</u>
Revenue				
Operating Revenue:				
Rooms	\$ 1,133,000	\$ 1,162,651	\$ 1,164,500	\$ 1,175,000
Meeting Room	13,000	\$ 10,497	10,000	10,000
Food Service	617,000	656,346	653,000	660,000
Service Fee	79,000	80,047	79,000	79,000
Programs	39,000	41,754	41,000	41,000
Camps	62,000	60,482	61,000	62,000
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	40,000	39,288	40,000	40,000
Property Owners	40,000	40,235	40,000	40,000
Miscellaneous	22,000	23,385	24,000	23,000
Total Op. Revenue	\$ 2,045,000	\$ 2,114,685	\$ 2,112,500	\$ 2,130,000
Non-Operating Revenue:				
Synod's DMF	\$ 113,000	\$ 112,674	\$ 113,392	\$ 113,500
ARPWM	5,000	3,171	3,500	3,500
Mountain Club/Churches	245,000	247,536	247,000	247,000
Easter Offering	10,000	17,467	17,000	17,000
Other	59,608	59,608	41,608	30,270
Total Non-Op. Rev.	\$ 432,608	\$ 440,456	\$ 422,500	\$ 411,270
Total Revenue	\$ 2,477,608	\$ 2,555,141	\$ 2,535,000	\$ 2,541,270
Expenses				
Cost of Sales:				
Food - Revenue Meals	\$ 235,000	\$ 261,789	\$ 260,000	\$ 262,000
Food - Nonrevenue Meals	42,000	\$ 41,371	41,000	\$ 42,000
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	14,000	15,777	15,000	15,000
Total Cost of Sales	\$ 291,000	\$ 318,937	\$ 316,000	\$ 319,000
Total Pysl/Benefits	\$ 1,432,366	\$ 1,419,620	\$ 1,455,000	\$ 1,462,270
Other Expenses:				
Administration	\$ 125,000	\$ 134,608	\$ 130,000	\$ 131,000
Camps	\$ 48,000	\$ 55,476	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Financial fees	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,465	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
Food Service	25,000	28,654	28,000	\$ 28,000
Guest Services	75,000	75,673	75,000	\$ 75,000
Maintenance	132,000	147,833	140,000	\$ 140,000
Marketing	70,000	54,310	54,000	\$ 54,000
Prop and Liab Insurance	70,000	69,934	69,000	\$ 64,000
Recreation	23,000	26,178	26,000	\$ 26,000
Utilities	160,242	169,311	166,000	\$ 166,000
Total Other Expenses	\$ 754,242	\$ 788,442	\$ 764,000	\$ 760,000
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 2,477,608	\$ 2,526,999	\$ 2,535,000	\$ 2,541,270
Net Surplus (Loss)	\$ -	\$ 28,142	\$ -	\$ -

The Moderator's Committee recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-3 of the Board be approved and added three additional recommendations.

4. That General Synod encourage all presbyteries, boards, and churches to encourage and assist their high school graduates and college students toward summer employment at Bonclarken. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
5. With thanks to God, we commend the Board, Administration, and Staff for their diligence in fulfilling the mission of Bonclarken. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
6. That Synod pause for prayer to ask the Lord for His continued provision for the needs of Bonclarken. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Recommendations 1-3 of the Board report were **adopted**. The three additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were **adopted**. The prayer proposed in the recommendations of the Moderator's Committee was offered.

The Report of the **World Witness** was presented.

**WORLD WITNESS REPORT
NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE**

For more information,
Contact 864-233-5226

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NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE**

For more information,
Contact 864-233-5226

**WORLD WITNESS REPORT
NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE**

For more information,
Contact 864-233-5226

The **Moderator's Committee on World Witness** recommended the adoption of the single recommendation of the Board and added 2 additional recommendations.

2. That the churches of Synod actively and intentionally plan to support World Witness and our missionaries financially and prayerfully. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That Synod thank the World Witness employees, board members and missionaries, and continue to pray for them. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

A motion **carried:**

That the sentence in the World Witness report which states "Laura Story led the attendees in worship" be deleted.

The single recommendation of the Board was **approved**. The two additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were **adopted**.

Special prayer for World Witness was offered.

The Report of the **Board of Christian Education Ministries** was presented.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Following the cold winters of New England, the entire region awaits the coming of Spring. The cold air which blows in all winter from our neighbors to the north (nothing personal to friends in the Canadian Presbytery) will soon be replaced by the warm breezes from the south. The lakes, which people can literally drive across all winter, begin to thaw and will, in a matter of months, be teeming with water skiers and fishermen. The snow will melt and the ground will thaw. We'll turn on our televisions in April to be amazed at how much greener the grass is at Fenway Park than any in our neighborhoods.

The work of preparation for the transitional renewal of Spring means pushing the snow blower (I can explain what this is to our friends in Florida Presbytery) into the shed and changing the oil in the lawn mower. Maple trees are tapped throughout the region to capture some of the sap into syrup for our waffles and pancakes. We do all of these things in preparation for Spring, green grass, fresh leaves and flowers as our region comes back to life after a long winter's hibernation. Life has returned, the transition is complete.

God is at work in New England. The church has been dormant for many years throughout much of the region, but life is stirring anew. God is breathing life into the church as people come to meet and know Jesus. People are discovering the transformative power of the Gospel as they give their lives to follow Jesus. We celebrate the fact that the first ARP church in the New England states is now a work of Northeast Presbytery. God can use the ARP to help fan the warm winds of transformational revival.

At CEM, our desire is to provide the resources, training, and conferences which encourage the people in the pews of our churches and the hallways of our middle schools, high schools, and colleges, to grow in their faith. Whether sitting in a class, curled up on the sofa with a book, or part of a conference at Bonclarken, we want to provide the resources that encourage your ongoing transformation into the fullness of life in Christ. It's spring, time to grow!

Organization:**Officers:**

Chairman - Rev. Bob Whittet
 Vice-Chairman – Rev. Ike Hughes
 Secretary – Kelly NooNoo

Committees:

Executive / Finance Committee
 Conferences Committee
 Resource and Training Committee
 Camp Joy Committee

Board Meetings:

The Board of Christian Education Ministries (CEM) has held two meetings since Synod of 2018. These meetings were held September 17-18, 2018 and February 25-26, 2019.

Authority:

CEM 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* and *Rules of Order of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.

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.

- CEM has contracted with Rebecca Duran as graphic/media coordinator.
- CEM hired Dana Young as Administrative Assistant (Started 4/1/19)

- CEM hired 2 interns (college students) during the summer.
- CEM is seeking an assistant to work along the director.

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 2009)

- (see budget at the 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 the saints for their ministries in the world. (Ephesians 4:12) (MAD 2009)

Training leaders in our churches continues to be an important area of our work in the CEM office. The need for training of Sunday School teachers, leaders and staff is vital to the well-being and healthy growth of our churches and their members. Through individual consultation, online training, local workshops, resourcing materials and regional conferences our CEM staff has served a number of our churches and continues to seek opportunities and methods which will make training accessible to all those who request it.

Some highlights of this year have been:

CEM brought in Dr. Dunkin Rankin to do a special presentation on Child Protection in the life of the local church. This was video recorded and the training is available online. We have encouraged churches to watch (located on ARPCEM.com) and possibly have a training session with Dr. Rankin at some time on this subject. Virginia Presbytery has already made plans to have Dr. Rankin come and speak to their presbytery.

CEM met with Great Commission Publications (GCP) this year helping to strengthen a relationship with this partner publisher. GCP is committed to help promote CEM and CEM is also encouraged to offer GCP's children's Sunday school lessons to our churches.

CEM has met with many individual churches in helping evaluate and grow their Christian education program.

CEM is working closely with Christianity Explored in seeking to get churches the proper help in evangelism.

4. To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry (i.e. Sunday School, catechism train

ing, mid-week programming, Vacation Bible School, etc.). (MAD 2009).

CEM operates a physical bookstore in the Greenville office as well as provide books for the Bonclarken gift shop.

CEM has approved Dr. Ian Duguid as the new chief editor of *The Quarterly*. The board also approved changes of going on a seven year cycle instead of six for better study of the entire Bible. There was also a price increase of *The Quarterly* starting in 2019.

CEM is working on a new Korean translation of the *Form of Government* (FOG) since changes have been made to the FOG.

CEM has published *The Father's Blessing* by Kerstin Hering. This is a thirteen week Bible study based on Ephesians 1:3-14. A leader's guide has also been published for this work.

CEM has published *Next Steps*. This is a work based on the 7 questions one answers when joining the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. This is an excellent tool to lead those wishing to join. A leader's guide has also been published for this work.

CEM has published the *Westminster Confession of Faith* as approved by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod.

CEM is working with the ARP Women's Ministries leaders to promote and provide their selected resources.

CEM is working with several ARP authors in the printing of their works to help aid the ARP denomination.

Suggested Curriculum Resources

A wide variety of curriculum resource materials are currently available for churches. Materials considered 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 Christian Education Ministries as being in doctrinal conformity with the ARP Standards and of excellent quality:

1. *The Quarterly* of the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church (Order from the ARP Center, Office of Christian Education, 918 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Ste. 106, Greenville, SC 29607, (864) 233-2491.
2. Great Commissions 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, based in the view that Christian education is for evangelism and personal

commitment. Materials are available for preschoolers through adults.

3. ARP Bookstore. The ARP bookstore has available a wide range of thirteen-week studies, youth curriculum and other curriculum resources.

5. To inform Synod, presbyteries pastors, sessions, DCE's superintendents, and chairmen of local Christian education committees concerning trends and developments in Christian Education.

- CEM began a new "Trends, Tips and Training" section in *The ARP Magazine* as well as sending these helps out through mass email. The goal is to offer simple helps for congregations in the area of Christian Education.
- CEM has sought to make every church aware of the need and the steps necessary to have adequate Child Safety and Protection Policies and Procedures in place.
- CEM began a new podcast series. The purpose of the podcast is to present teachers and those within the life of the church with trends and training aspects in Christian Education. Each podcast is less than ten minutes and usually is in the form of an interview with a specialist in a certain area in Christian education.
- The CEM staff continues to respond to requests from churches for consultations on developing and strengthening their current CE programs and ministries.

6. To develop and supervise a full program of camps, conferences, retreats, etc. and when requested to assist presbyteries in these areas.

The Board reports the following participation in these events:

Horizon Conference (Sr. High conference) - 27 churches/276 students/71 leaders
 Quest Conference (Jr. High conference) 28 churches/291 students/78 leaders
 Camp Joy Attendance
 Camp Joy NC – 169 campers/175 counselors
 Camp Joy FL – 38 campers/41 counselors
 Camp Joy SC – 35 campers/38 counselors
 Appalachia Mission—17 sites/23 churches/225 participants
 Family Bible Conference—238 participants

CEM celebrates 40 years of Camp Joy (Special Needs Camp) this year. The board is hosting a special celebration July 12 – 14. 2019 also will be Mrs. Ann Brice's last year as director of Camp Joy. The board will host a special luncheon honoring Mrs. Brice on Saturday, July 13th at 1:30 at Bonclarken. All are invited to attend.

CEM has assembled a transition team to help lead and direct Camp Joy NC through the transition with Mrs. Ann Brice leaving as director in 2019. There are six people on this team (Neal Stroup, Julee Ringer, Pam Black, Mary Catherine Hendrix, Darcia Munro, Sarah Beth Lasso).

CEM is thankful for the work of Rev. Matt Miller as he continues to direct Family Bible Conference in 2019. The board approved Rev. Andrew Di Lulio as the director of Family Bible Conference in 2020.

CEM is looking forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of Appalachia in 2020.

CEM will hold its first Camp Joy in Virginia the summer of 2019.

CEM is looking to hold its first Camp Joy in Memphis, TN, in 2020.

7. To cooperate with other Christian denominations in carrying out all phases of the teaching ministry.

CEM continues to work closely with Great Commissions Publications (PCA and OPC), Christian Education and Publications (PCA), Crown and Covenant (RPCNA) and with other denominations.

CEM has noticed a rise in other denominations ordering *The Quarterly*.

CEM always opens its arms to other Christian denominations in all its activities and conferences.

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

- a. providing and promoting opportunities for leadership training;*
- b. developing and promoting Christian education activities for congregations;*
- c. assisting, when requested, in the development of congregational libraries;*
- d. making available relevant media resources for purchase from the office of Christian Education Ministries.*

CEM continues to provide leadership training. More Elder and Deacon Training sessions are now in the works for the latter part of 2019 and 2020.

CEM is continually helping churches in the area of Christian education. We have trained both in the church and via video conferencing when necessary.

9. To promote job opportunities for those who may be called in the ministry of Christian Education.

CEM continues to promote job opportunities as presented on the CEM website.

CEM assists churches seeking to hire Christian education staff.

10. To collect annual reports from congregations on their teaching ministries 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.

Annual reports were collected via internet, mail and at Synod. Summary reports were made available where needed.

11. To make an annual report to the General Synod. (MAD 2009)

Recommendations:

1. That the 2020 budget be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That Synod recognize, pray and support the 40th anniversary of Camp Joy this year. **SYNOD APPROVED**
3. That Synod pray specifically for the launching of the new work of Camp Joy within Virginia Presbytery and Mississippi Valley Presbytery. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That Synod pray and thank the Lord for Dr. Ian Duguid, the new chief editor of *The Quarterly*. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
5. That Synod continue to pray and support the training and conferences provided by CEM. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Whittet, Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Revenues				
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$205,964	\$205,965	\$207,279	\$207,279
Easter Offering Allocation	\$8,200	\$10,358	\$8,200	\$10,000
Contributions for Ministry	13,100	11,978	15,100	16,256
Registration and Fees	249,910	205,198	198,920	219,976
Sales & Subscriptions	88,800	87,640	89,700	92,500
Special Endowment Fund Gift	18,020	20,201	19,151	18,297
Use of Reserve	\$0	(\$39,737)	\$4,200	\$8,692
Total Revenues	\$583,994	\$501,603	\$542,550	\$573,000
Expenses				
Total Salary & Benefits	220,096	168,697	217,674	217,154
Staff Expenses	10,150	17,318	18,150	31,650
Board/Committee Expenses	8,000	8,227	8,000	8,500
General Office				
Promotional Expenses	1,000	538	1,000	500
Equipment	500	-	500	500
Communications	3,700	4,365	4,300	4,600
Rent	13,650	12,884	13,271	13,669
Office Expenses	6,000	6,234	6,900	6,500
Total General Office	24,850	24,021	25,971	25,769
Facility Management	3,000	620	2,500	1,750
Publications				
Adult Quarterly	38,300	42,905	42,100	42,970
Adult Quarterly Editor	17,500	16,882	24,780	19,280
Book Store Purchases	27,550	20,412	19,300	20,700
Other Publications Expenses	1,000	1,520	800	1,000
Total Publications	84,350	81,718	86,980	83,950
Conferences and Training				
Room & Board Expenses	126,600	92,205	82,470	97,800
Honorariums & Fees	60,755	56,840	58,955	59,215
Travel	5,150	1,990	4,350	3,700
Planning	3,150	299	2,300	1,300
Supplies	28,850	36,585	31,700	31,100
Bank Fees	-	1,061	800	1,200
Promotional	2,300	2,271	2,700	2,900
Insurance				7,012
Total Conferences and Training	226,805	191,250	183,275	204,227
Total Expenses	\$ 583,994	\$ 501,603	\$ 542,550	\$ 573,000
Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 149,473	\$ 145,853	\$ 106,116	\$ 104,436
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 149,473	\$ 145,853	\$ 106,116	\$ 104,436

The **Moderator's Committee on CEM** recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-5 of the Board and added two recommendations:

6. That Synod pray for the Lord's guidance in finding a Director for Camp Joy within Mississippi Valley Presbytery.
SYNOD APPROVED.
7. That Synod thank the CEM Board and staff for their work.
SYNOD APPROVED.

Recommendations 1-5 of the Board and the two recommendations of the moderator's committee were adopted.

Special prayer for CEM and Dr. Ian Duguid was offered.

Synod rose with a round of applause.

The Report of the Board of **Outreach North America** was presented.

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Outreach North America is the agency of Synod charged with the following responsibilities:

- Denominational strategies for evangelism
- Multi-ethnic ministries
- Church vitality
- New church development
- ARPC expansion in the US and Canada (National Presence)

Outreach North America is governed by the Board of Outreach North America. This report will highlight how we have pursued the main duties assigned to ONA by Synod as outlined in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

Duties:

1. **To 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.**

Is evangelism optional for Evangelical Christians? Barna Research group posed that question to millennial Christians in a 2019 study of American and Canadian Evangelicals. The results were alarming. Rick Richardson of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism writes “Barna reports that **nearly half of practicing millennial Christians say it is wrong to evangelize (47%)**. In fact, 28% agree that ‘it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith. More than half report having two or fewer conversations about faith with a non-Christian during the past year (56%). Not surprisingly, those with at least seven non-Christian friends or family members are more likely than those with none to have talked about faith 10 or more times (27% vs. 9%). The study also noted that the cultural landscape is ripe for conversations about Jesus.’ (Richardson, R. March 12, 2019. Do 47 Percent of Christian Millennials Think Evangelism Is Wrong?” *Christianity Today*.) Barna’s research has shown that 79% of unchurched people would engage in a faith conversation if asked. But only 39% of Christians have shared how to become a Christian with someone in the past six months. That’s a 40% gap! At ONA, we want to help Christians and churches close that gap.

In seeking to honor ONA’s commission by the General Synod of providing evangelism strategies to the ARPC, we offer in our “evangelism tool box” the following strategies and programs:

- Simple Gospel and E3
- Gospel Conversations
- Evangelism Explosion
- XEE (Similar to EE with different approach questions)
- Christianity Explored

While each of these evangelism strategies are slightly different, each one is based on **the offer of the gospel with a chance for the person to respond**. Hospitality and relational ministry, as espoused by George Hunter’s *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*, Rosaria Butterfield’s *The Gospel Comes With a House Key*, and Jay Pathak’s *The Art of Neighboring*, are good strategies to build relationships with those the Lord would sovereignly bring along our path. However, in order to be fully evangelistic, these relationship building techniques must lead to the Gospel question- “*who do you say that I am.*” (Mark 8:29) Our toolbox is offered

to churches and individuals so that they will be prepared with a Gospel presentation whenever the opportunity arises. (1 Peter 3:15)

Evangelism *must* be a major emphasis of the ARPC and for every Christian. This is true not only as an act of obedience to our Lord, but also out of compassion for the lost and spiritually dead, as we all once were (Eph. 2). However, it is also an area that constantly needs attention- both in our churches and in our personal lives. To that end, we seek to empower and encourage personal and corporate evangelism through the Gospel Conversations (GC) seminar led by Rev. Mike Jones which is available to any ARPC congregation or presbytery. In cooperation with Christian Education Ministries, Mike has presented this seminar to over 40 ARP churches in 4 presbyteries. Mike is available to present Gospel Conversations to groups of churches. Alan Avera is available as well to present Christianity Explored seminars. In 2018, ONA entered into an official relationship with Evangelism Explosion. As a result of our Memorandum of Understanding, we have several options available to ARPC churches for implementing both the EE and XEE tools. In short, ONA stands ready and willing to equip and encourage evangelism on the Synod, presbytery and local church level.

Multi-Ethnic Ministry

Elinor Griffin continues to inspire and inform churches and presbyteries to engage in refugee ministry in their area. She was recently approved as a candidate for World Witness and will begin her preparations to transition to that role soon. She is also well into the planning of the Dallas refugee ministry trip again this summer. This ministry immersion experience at the For the Nations: Refugee Outreach has already been life changing for those who attended last year. There are several ARPC college students, as well as several RPCNA students, who have expressed strong interest in being a part of this mission experience.

Several of our presbyteries are planting intentionally multi-ethnic works. Iglesia en Movimiento in Lake Placid, Florida, is a Hispanic church plant under the leadership of Rev. Tim Sewell. In Charlottesville VA, Rev. Nathan Scholl has recruited multi-ethnic leadership to come alongside him, and the church has seen a dramatic increase in multi-racial participation. Catawba Presbytery is planting the Arsenal Hill congregation in Columbia under Rev. Rob Turner's leadership.

Arsenal Hill continues to have a broad ethnic makeup, representing up to 17 nationalities! Montage Church, the newest work in Catawba Presbytery being planted by Rev. Leon Brown, is seeking to reach the African American, Asian, and Anglo communities in Los Angeles, CA. It is exciting to see the ways the Lord is bringing the nations to the ARP Church!

We also minister to, and with, our Korean brothers in the ARPC. In September, ONA hosted an ARPC Korean Pastors retreat. This retreat featured worship, teaching and great fellowship. The ONA website was updated and includes several pages translated into Korean and we have seen an increase in google metrics on visits to these pages over the last 12 months.

On Dec. 31, 2018, Rev. Ken Lotze transitioned from ARP Connect to full time ministry with World Witness. Ali Mitchell continues to be an effective minister to Muslims in the US and Canada. ARP Connect has broadened its ministry emphasis to include refugee ministries and second-generation Muslim immigrants. ARP Connect has a new name; "Ethne Outfitters", but the vision remains to "Introduce Christians to Muslims and Muslims to Christ."

2. To work with our Presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies to enhance church vitality.

Rev. Wayne Frazier has done a terrific job of offering his services as vitality coach to presbyteries and churches to engage them in the dialogue of becoming a more vital church. Currently, he is working with about 17 ARP churches. "Framing the Future of your Church and Ministry" is the church vitality process offered by Rev Frazier and Rev. Jones. Seven churches in five presbyteries are involved in this beta program and there are several that are very interested in our next cohort which will begin in September, should the Lord allow. "Framing the Future of your Church and Ministry" (FFCM) includes elements of several vitality programs melded into a tailored ARPC approach which considers not only our distinctives, but also our corporate culture. The twelve-month process uses material from Embers to a Flame, Organic Outreach, Church Unique, God Dreams, and Values Driven Leadership as well as tools and teaching from ONA's toolbox.

ONA is honored to work with Erskine Theological Seminary to offer the Doctor of Ministries degree or Certificate of Study in

Church Vitality. The students have profited greatly from the curriculum and are bringing many of the concepts and training to life in their local churches. We encourage any pastor who is contemplating a DMin course of study to prayerfully consider the ONA/ETS DMin in Church Vitality.

Connor Hipps has done an exemplary job of training and equipping local pastors and leaders in the MissionInSite tool that presbyteries and ONA make available. He has presented at four presbyteries this year and has gotten an excellent response. MissionInsite is a powerful tool that “gets under the numbers” of demographics to reveal the spiritual motivations of population “mosaics” within an area. We would encourage those presbyteries who have not yet hosted a Mission InSite demo to arrange with the ONA office to invite Connor for this presentation.

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.

At the 214th General Synod at Bonclarken last June, the following motion was passed:

That ONA be tasked with investigating the matter of establishing a holding presbytery or some other entity to have oversight of, and provide service to, congregations and missions which are outside the boundaries of our present presbyteries.

The ONA Board response is attached to this report and we are recommending that the holding presbytery not be pursued at this time.

Since our last Synod meeting, two church plants have become organized. Grace Reformed ARPC, in Grace Presbytery under the leadership of Rev. Ken Kunkle was organized in July 2018 and The City Church of Asheville, Rev. Duff James, First Presbytery was organized in September 2018. We thank the Lord for His blessing on these new churches!

While there are currently 40 mission churches in the General Synod, ONA financially supported 12 new church developments in

seven presbyteries. Canadian Presbytery is also supporting two church plants with plans to begin a new work in Windsor, Ontario soon.

Catawba:

Arsenal Hill Church, Columbia, SC. Rev. Rob Turner
 Kings Church, Columbia, SC. Rev. Matt Awtrey
 Shem Creek Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant, SC. Rev. Ben Carver
 Montage Church, Los Angeles, CA. Rev. Leon Brown

Florida:

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Norman, OK. Rev. Justin Westmoreland
 Iglesia en Movimiento, Lake Placid, FL. Rev. Tim Sewell

First:

Trinity Chapel, Weddington, NC. Dr. Michael Milton and Rev. Keith Ginn

Mississippi Valley:

River City Reformed Church, Little Rock, AR. Rev. Howard Wheeler

Northeast:

Hope Reformed Church, Worcester, MA. Rev. Josh Kitchen

Second:

Village Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC. Rev. Jay Crout
 Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Savannah, GA. Rev. Soren Kornegay

Virginia:

Christ Central Church, Charlottesville, VA. Rev. Nathan Scholl
 Canadian Presbytery (with Canadian DMF funds)
 Hope Presbyterian Church, Kingston, ON. Rev. Kevin Carter
 Faith Presbyterian Church, Tillsonburg, ON. Rev. Steve Richardson
 Trinity ARP Church, Windsor, ON. Rev. Henry Bartsch
 (proposed exploratory)

We have 5 candidates to assess at our Church Planters Assessment Center (CPAC) which is scheduled for the last week of June, 2019.

Our goal for the ARPC is that every ARP church will be explicitly a “parent, partner, or patron” of church planting, so that every congre-

gation will be intentional in growing God's kingdom through starting new congregations. While each of our presbyteries are openly seeking church planters, Mississippi Valley Presbytery is actively recruiting for a church planter to go to Louisville, KY. This is a unique opportunity in which the Midlane Park congregation has committed significant funds to "granddaughter" a church plant, specifically in Louisville. We praise the Lord for the vision and proactive strategy that this congregation has provided for church planting to reach their city for Christ. This church planting model is one that could readily be repeated by other churches in the ARPC. We would ask for your prayers that the Lord would send the right church planting candidates to all our presbyteries to plant prolific ARP churches!

We are employing new training methodology for our church planting explorers. The Pathways learning system, developed and taught by Dr. Steve Childers, is a 12 module, online learning cohort which will help our church planting explorers learn, reflect upon and consider in detail many of the primary aspects of church planting. (Casting vision, raising funds, developing discipleship, etc.)

Dr. Childers is the church planting specialist with RTS Orlando and was the guiding academic for the GCA and PCA boot camp trainings for the PCA. He developed the pathways system as an alternative to the "firehose of information" that GCA had become. In addition to the Pathways curriculum, each month the Executive Director will schedule a zoom call with our church planters to discuss the material, share prayers and fellowship.

Soon, the ONA staff will be sending a weekly prayer email. This will be sent to our list of over 2,300 ARP individuals and will highlight one of the 40 mission churches in the denomination. We will ask specifically for prayer for that mission on that Sunday. Our hope is that the mission church will be spiritually enriched by the prayer and emotionally lifted by being remembered across the Synod.

At our recent Church Planters retreat, our Director asked several of our men "why did you plant an ARP Church?" They were quick to point out the family aspect of the ARPC. In the ARPC, church planters receive spiritual, emotional and financial support that is rare and precious. ONA and presbytery's genuine investment and care for the church planter and his family are invaluable. This support is reflected

not only in the financial support given by ARP individuals, churches, presbyteries and ONA, but also in our support of planters and their families as evidenced by our recent church planter and church planter wives' retreats. Our planters and their wives wanted us to convey their deep appreciation for your investment in them and their young churches. The ARPC family DNA is also apparent in the training and general investment the ARPC makes into each church planter as well as the deep connections our congregations, ministers and elders make with one another. We would encourage each presbyter and Church Extension Committee member to consider this winsome aspect of the ARPC when recruiting not only church planters, but also organized churches looking to join a denomination. It is a big part of what makes the ARPC "winsomely Reformed!"

- 4. Through the Evangelism and Multi-Ethnic Ministries committee of the board, to serve as liaison to the American Bible Society by assisting the American Bible Society in the annual offering for the American Bible Society as approved by the General Synod, reviewing the annual report of the American Bible Society and reporting items of special interest to the General Synod.**

The mission of the American Bible Society is "to make the Bible available to every person in a language and format each can understand and afford, so all people may experience its life-changing message." Throughout 2018, they have been quite active in this regard, not only in the USA and Canada, but throughout the world. Their ministry of the word is quite prolific and even just reporting the highlights would be voluminous! Copies of the "American Bible Society Prayer Impact" magazine are available on the ONA information table.

- 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.**
ONA has been active in helping churches grow in assets as well as impact. Since our last Synod meeting, we have issued Revolving Loan Funds to help purchase or build churches in:

Mississippi Valley Presbytery, church building purchase,
Redeemer Community Church, Murray, KY.
First Presbytery, new construction of church building for
Gaston Community Church, Gastonia NC.
Grace Presbytery, Hope Chapel, building purchase, Greens-
boro NC.

ONA funding is heavily dependent upon the Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF). The Synod has allocated 21.3% of all DMF giving to ONA. Thus, for every dollar contributed to DMF by churches and individuals, about 21 cents goes to ONA to accomplish our mission. About 70% of ONA's income comes from DMF giving from ARP churches across the Synod. While we are blessed to know that giving to the DMF has been steady for the past several years, cultural and ARPC demographic trends are predicting a leaner DMF in the foreseeable future. Thus, we are actively seeking to build other sources of income to maintain the vital ministries of ONA. We recognize the need to raise the awareness of the important role the DMF fulfills in our denomination and are working with the Board of Stewardship to accomplish this. We also wish to raise the awareness of the investment the General Synod has made when planting a church with the churches that received those funds. Our goal is to encourage at least a reinvestment into the DMF by those churches.

It is our goal to plant at least 6 mission churches and explorers per year on a four-year funding paradigm. Thus, at any given time, there will be 24 support-receiving churches supported by ONA. When fully realized, at current funding levels, we will invest \$326,000 per year in church planting supplements and up to an additional \$100,000 annually in internships and grants. A major goal of the Board of ONA is to build an endowment fund that will produce at least this amount as interest income annually. The ONA Board is diligent to wisely steward the finances entrusted to us by our Synod.

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

The proposed budget is attached to this report.

7. To encourage ARPC expansion in the US and Canada (National Presence).

As the ARPC grows in our communion and community, we recognize the winsomeness of our family of churches. To that end, we are expanding our investment in national presence. There are several national conferences attended by many like-minded pastors and layman who may be looking to affiliate with our denomination. By having an ONA booth and a presence at conferences such as The Getty's "Sing", the Ligonier's conference, and Together for the Gospel, we will be much more intentional and proactive in making our presence known nationally. We would encourage any ARPC members or pastors who may be at the conferences to join us at these booths when possible. In addition to this strategy, we remain active in several national leaders fellowship groups. The Church Planters Leaders Fellowship (CPLF) is an excellent resource and source of networking with other church planting movement leaders. The Evangelism Leaders Fellowship (ELF) met in December and will meet again in June prior to the Amplify Conference at Wheaton College. The intentional study of best practices in evangelism in our postmodern world and applying modern missiology methods to the USA and Canada are what sets ELF apart from other groups and Amplify from other conferences.

Thanks in large part to the attention of Connor Hipps, we have seen a considerable uptick in our web presence. He has optimized and expanded our online interactions: both on the website and in social media outlets. Creating and maintaining a crisp, informative and interactive web presence is increasingly critical as North Americans shift from print media to exclusively digital.

The D. James Kennedy Institute of Reformed Leadership continues under the leadership of Dr. Milton, who is a great asset to our denomination in so many ways! His role as a professor at Erskine Theological Seminary as well as serving as pastor and new church developer of Trinity Chapel in Charlotte would exhaust anyone. However, add to that mix Dr. Milton's health issues, and it's very

easy to see why the development of the DJK institute has not progressed as quickly as we hoped. Our vision remains to host up to 15 pastoral fellows as well as training Provisional Elders in the unique aspects of “leading from the second chair” that is required for effective oversight in church planting efforts. Given the urgency of this training for our Provisional Elders, we are also working with Steve Childers to create a “Pathways” learning curriculum and cohort.

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

ONA is blessed to have a dedicated and committed staff to implement the Board’s vision and plans. In addition to our Executive Director, Rev Mike Jones, the staff includes Erin Hipps, Event Coordinator and Office Manager; Connor Hipps, Systems Engineer; and Elinor Griffin, Refugee Ministry Coordinator. Part time staff includes Rev. Wayne Frazier, Church Vitality Coach, Rev. Ali Mitchell of Ethne Outfitters, Tessa Taylor, Communications Coordinator, and Joel Gardner, Financial Advisor.

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

Presented.

Response of the ONA Board to motion from the 214th General Synod of the ARPC:

At the 214th meeting of the General Synod of the ARP Church, June 2018, the following motion was carried.

That ONA be tasked with investigating the matter of establishing a holding presbytery or some other entity to have oversight of and provide service to congregations and missions which are outside the boundaries of our present presbyteries.

The Board of Directors of Outreach North America has considered this motion and believes that the proposed “holding presbytery” for new church developments outside the geographical boundaries of our existing presbyteries should not be pursued for the following reasons:

Currently, ARPC presbyteries offer our church plants at least four things:

- a. prayer support
- b. national endorsement and ministry credentials
- c. provisional session leadership and
- d. financial support- both in direct presbytery funding and in the implicit authority to ask individual churches within the presbytery for direct financial support.

Prayer support is encouraged for each ARP mission church and church plant through the ministry of the presbytery Church Extension Committee to the presbytery, the churches in that presbytery and all the members of that presbytery. Additionally, all members of the ARPC are encouraged to pray for and are informed of the progress and specific needs of all ARPC church plants through the monthly prayer updates and newsletters of ONA and the ARP Magazine.

With regard to the proposed holding presbytery, churches planted outside the geographic boundaries of a presbytery could be afforded national endorsement through this holding presbytery of the ARPC. That is, the legal entity endorsing the work for tax and ecclesiastical purposes could be accomplished by a new holding presbytery. With Synod's permission, and in concert with the systems already in place by ONA, this presbytery could be structured to become the endorsing entity for areas outside our existing presbyteries' stated boundaries. Thus, mission developers could apply for EINs with the federal and local governments, work under Synod's non-profit status for tax deductible gift receipts and other structural benefits. (In fact, this purpose of the holding presbytery is already available to any ARPC mission developer through ONA's accounting services [Central Services] and our systems development staff, working with presbyteries to advise and support the local mission developer.)

The other symbiotic relationships of church plant to a local presbytery are not as simply resolved.

- e. Provisional leadership and presbytery accountability would normally come from the local presbytery. Should we form a new holding presbytery, especially one that is centered upon new church development, from what pool shall we recruit provisional elders?
- f. If provisional elders are to come from a variety of presbyteries,

- shall the church extension committee overseeing their work also be composed of members of various presbyteries?
- g. ONA already brokers a portion of Synod's DMF financial resources to mission developers across presbyteries by virtue of ONA's commission from Synod.
 - h. Currently, Synod's DMF funds are matched by the local presbytery. Thus, at a minimum, Synod's funds are doubled. With a new holding presbytery- one that is presumably without assets or particularized churches, where shall these matching funds be found?
 - i. Should we pursue a new paradigm, we would need to work through finding the source of local funding which presbytery currently provides.
 - j. In the case of new or transferring ministers, a minister and his works committee would be needed to examine and prepare candidates for licensure. Additionally, the candidate would need to be examined by the presbytery. Should the holding presbytery become a reality, the membership and structure of said presbytery would need to be extensive enough to be able to accomplish this function.
 - k. Finally, there is a standing policy that a mission developer has carte blanche to cast vision, recruit prayer support and raise funds from any church within their presbytery as well as any ARP church with whom they have a pre-existing personal relationship. Should we develop the holding presbytery, which churches would constitute the "legal" pool from which he may fish?

These are some of the systemic challenges we would need to overcome should the holding presbytery be adopted. The ONA Board does not oppose the intent of the motion, but we are concerned about implementing the intent without compromising our proven systems or hampering new fields of ministry because of a lack of resources.

These address the logistical and structural issues regarding forming a holding presbytery within the General Synod, but they do not address the Biblical ramifications of forming a presbytery simply for expedience in geographic purposes. Consider the churches of Antioch, Cyprus and Galatia in Acts 11:19-29, and Chapters 13-15. In Antioch, *"a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."* (Acts 11:21) The Church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas, to evaluate and over-

see the rapidly growing congregation. As the churches walked and worked together in the cause of the Gospel, they discovered God's purpose in "associational relationships," including:

- Outreach (including church planting).
- Theological discussion, particularly on issues related to the contextualization of the Gospel in new cultures.
- To serve as examples (good and bad) to each other, learning by each other's experiences.
- To raise money for mission causes, such as the relief offering for the church in Jerusalem.
- To commend ministerial leaders to each other (e.g., Acts 18:27 and Titus 3:13).
- To hold each other accountable for the apostolic instruction they received.

While some of these functions might be accomplished through a new holding presbytery, we believe the corporate nature of our historic presbyteries will serve these biblical functions much better than creating a new presbytery. Therefore, the Board of ONA does not believe that a holding presbytery will serve the best interest of the presbyteries of the ARP General Synod at this time.

Recommendations:

1. That the Synod ask presbyteries to set aside a day after each presbytery meeting in 2019-2020 as a day of voluntary fasting and prayer, specifically focused upon evangelism, discipleship, new church development and church vitality. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That the General Synod not pursue a holding presbytery to have oversight of and provide service to congregations and missions which are outside the boundaries of our present presbyteries. **SYNOD APPROVED.** (Response to motion from the 214th General Synod of the ARPC)
3. That Synod strongly encourage all ARP churches to engage in some sort of intentional evangelism training for the members of their congregations in 2019. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That Synod encourage churches to include home missions as part of their total missions responsibility and program, and to look for ways to include Outreach North America and ARPC mission congregations and mission developers in their missions conferences and missions budgets. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

5. That Synod encourage presbyteries and their churches to take advantage of church renewal training offered through the Erskine Theological Seminary and ONA joint certificate and/or DMin degree. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
6. That Synod encourage existing ARP churches to consider becoming a part of the “Framing the Future of Your Church and Ministry” cohorts being offered by Rev. Wayne Frazier and Rev. Mike Jones. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
7. That Synod thank ARP Women’s Ministries for the support they have given to mission developers each year. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
8. That the proposed budget be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
9. That the report of the Board of Outreach North America be approved. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jan Sattlem, Chairman

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

	2018 Synod Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Synod Approved	2020 Proposed
Revenues				
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 566,296	\$ 566,296	\$ 569,910	\$ 566,296
Contributions for Ministry	75,500	68,566	90,500	70,500
Other Revenues	299,459	109,944	306,724	185,332
(Increase)/Use of Operations Reserve	35,198	101,402	5,287	142,814
Total Revenues for Operations	\$ 976,453	\$ 846,208	\$ 972,421	\$ 964,942
Expenses				
New Church Development (NCD)				
Total Explorers Supplement Expenses	108,000	27,000	103,500	108,000
Total Church Plant Supplements	275,415	201,750	177,083	135,833
Total NCD Support Expense	72,000	77,569	105,274	110,274
Total New Church Development (NCD)	455,415	306,319	385,857	354,107
Total Evangelism/Multi-Cultural Exp	105,327	105,247	113,161	100,841
Total Church Vitality	78,020	95,290	89,715	100,652
Total National Presence	28,566	22,253	44,142	45,245
Administration Expenses				
Total Payroll & Benefits	239,101	254,950	262,081	285,943
Total Adm. Support Exp (includes Board Exp)	70,024	62,148	77,465	78,154
Total Administration Expenses	309,125	317,098	339,546	364,097
Total Expenses	\$ 976,453	\$ 846,208	\$ 972,421	\$ 964,942
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 186,402	\$ 186,402	\$ 85,001	\$ 412,665
Ending Operating Fund Balance	\$ 151,204	\$ 85,001	\$ 79,714	\$ 269,851

A video was shown to introduce the report. The Moderator's Committee on ONA recommended adoption of recommendations 1-9 of the Board. Recommendations 1-9 of the Board were **adopted**.

An abstention was requested by Dave Rentschler of Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery.

The **Report on Memorials** was presented.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL #1

CANADIAN PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL (Freemasonry):

Whereas, the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church has concluded that Freemasonry is a religious institution and therefore anti-Christian; (1)

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church of America and the Free Church of Scotland have made similar statements; (2)

Whereas, our current position on Freemasonry in the ARP has proven a hindrance to ecumenical relations with other confessional denominations; (3)

Whereas, candidates for Freemasonry are "said to be in darkness, an allegory of Masonry that signifies that everyone outside of Masonry is in darkness and that only Masons have the true knowledge that will bring light to the world," and whereas candidates are required to bow before "The Worshipful Master" and confess that they are "seeking the light of Freemasonry." (4)

Therefore, the Canadian Presbytery memorializes the General Synod of the ARP to direct the Theological and Social Concerns Committee to study and compile the scriptural teaching on "secret societies" ~~so that the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church can~~ and create a policy and draft a public statement regarding membership in such societies;

And further, to return with the results of the study no later than the meeting of the 2020 ARP General Synod. **SYNOD APPROVED (as amended).**

(1) <http://opc.org/GA/masonry.html>

(2) https://jubileeresources.org/?page_id=584

(3) <https://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/reformed/archive97/nr97-108.txt>

(4) Carlson, Ron and Decker, Ed. Fast Facts on False Teachings. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1994

MEMORIAL #2**NORTHEAST PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL (FOG Chapter 9):**

Northeast Presbytery, ARPC, respectfully memorializes the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to direct the Committee on Minister and His Work to give study to and to make recommendations for, revisions to Chapter Nine (*The Minister*) of the **Form of Government (FOG)**, with particular attention given to the following:

- A. Identify and increase the personal accountability and responsibility of all ministers to the presbytery in which they are a member.
- B. Provide for the position of Assistant Pastor serving in local churches and being a member of a particular presbytery.
- C. Clarify the responsibilities and authorities of ministers serving as missionaries of the ARPC or other non-ARPC mission agencies.

Concerning Item A:

Personal accountability by and for ordained ministers is a necessity in today's society. Presbytery oversight of the ministers on its rolls needs to be clearly identified to insure there is proper accountability and fulfillment of responsibilities for all of its members. Several sister denominations (i.e. NAPARC churches) include clear language in their standards providing for regular reports and other procedures to aid their presbyteries to provide oversight and maintain accountability for all enrolled ministers. The current **FOG** does not give special attention to this need. It is the desire of Northeast Presbytery that revisions be made to the **FOG** to aid the presbyteries in fulfilling their responsibility to properly oversee and provide accountability for the fulfillment of responsibilities by all ministers who are members of the presbytery.

Concerning Item B:

There is no provision in the current **FOG** for the position of an Assistant Pastor. This position is recognized by several sister denominations. The position is typically filled by a man for a limited period of time and with specific responsibilities (i.e., "youth pastor," "pastor of visitation," etc.) Assistant Pastors are members of the presbytery in which they serve. Assistant Pastors are typically called by the Session of a local church with congregational approval. Presently there are Korean ARP churches which have Assistant Pastors on their staffs, however such men are not members of the local presbytery. It is the desire of Northeast Presbytery that the position of Assistant Pastor be added to the authorized *Responsibilities Of A Minister* which are listed in Chapter Nine of the **FOG**.

Concerning Item C:

The current language in the **FOG** concerning the role of a minister as a missionary are both extremely broad with regard to authorities given to a missionary, as well as unclear as to a missionary's responsibility and accountability to his presbytery. Contemporary technology can provide for closer involvement of presbyteries in the work of missionaries and reduce the wide latitude of authority given to missionaries. Further, differences should be noted regarding authorities and responsibilities given to missionaries serving as ARPC missionaries (i.e., under an ARP Board or Agency) and ministers who are serving as missionaries of other non-ARP agencies. Northeast Presbytery desires that increased clarity and revisions be made to the **FOG** regarding the responsibilities and authorities for ministers serving as missionaries.

SYNOD APPROVED (as amended with the deletion of Item B)

MEMORIAL #3**NORTHEAST PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL (FOG Chapter 11):**

Northeast Presbytery, ARPC, respectfully memorializes the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to establish a Special Committee to give study to and to make recommendations for revisions to Chapter Eleven, paragraphs 11:23 and

11:24 (*Organization Of A Mission Into A Church*) of the *Form of Government* (FOG), with particular attention given to the following:

A. Paragraph 11:23 states "ONA guidelines for incorporating an organized church shall be followed."

This paragraph is ambiguous in that an organized church is not under ONA supervision when deciding when and/or how to incorporate or not. This is a presbytery responsibility.

Further, paragraph 11:23 appears to place ONA as a higher authority than the General Synod. The Synod approves the *FOG*, and the *FOG* should therefore specify the particulars to be followed by a mission church which seeks to be organized, and not leave these particulars to be subject to the "guidelines" of a Board or Agency of the Synod, as such "guidelines" are not approved by the Synod, but only by the Executive Director and/or members of the Board or Agency.

Further, paragraph 11:23 states that "ONA guidelinesshall be followed." However where are these "guidelines?" They are not in

the ONA portion of the Manual of Procedure. If one does a search on the ONA website there is a page which gives a "Procedure for Organizing A New Church" and states the procedure is from the *Form of Government* of the ARP. However this procedure is NOT part of the current *Form of Government*, but was part of the previous *Form of Government*. If this procedure was omitted from the current *FOG* then it should not be given as the "guidance" to which the current *FOG* refers.

Also, any procedures that the *FOG* requires should be included in the *FOG* or at minimum, immediately available and properly referenced as to their location and not left to the imagination of a person as to where to find them.

Northeast Presbytery desires that paragraph 11:23 of the FOG be revised to include the specific, and unambiguous, procedure for ARP presbyteries to follow when organizing a mission church.

B. Paragraph 11:24 is nearly identical to *FOG* Paragraph 9:54, subparagraph L. Is it necessary to have this identical material placed in two locations of the *FOG*?

These paragraphs seek to provide instruction and information regarding installing a church planter as pastor at the organizational service of a mission church into an organized church. There is possible ambiguity and a lack of clarity in the context of the material.

When does the "called meeting of the petitioners" need to occur? Simply stating "prior to the service," could mean having a "congregational meeting" (of the petitioners) to approve the call immediately before the beginning of the organizational worship service. The presbytery could approve (with advance knowledge) the call, subject to the approval of the petitioners.

Or must there be a period of time (days, weeks, etc.) between the called meeting of the petitioners and the organizational service?

In as much not all (or any) of the ARP Presbyteries have "Commissions on the Minister and His Work," though some have Committees on the Minister and His Work, or similar Committees, this reference should be omitted from the paragraphs, as it quite clear that the presbytery must approve the calls, and can delegate this responsibility and/or authority as **when and if it seems best suited to do.**

Northeast Presbytery desires that the FOG, Paragraphs 11:24 be revised (or removed in light of near identical material being contained

in Paragraph 9:54, sub-paragraph L) to provide non-ambiguous clarity regarding the calling and installation of a church planter to be the pastor of a mission church at the time that it is being organized.

SYNOD DID NOT APPROVE MEMORIAL #3 (from Northeast Presbytery)

MEMORIAL #4

TENNESSEE-ALABAMA PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL (Letters to Government):

Since we are uniquely and wonderfully made, and made in the image of our Creator, that Synod call upon the Moderator of Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church: to write a letter to the members of Congress, and to the United States Supreme Court, and to the President of the United States, reminding them of the sacredness of life; calling to their remembrance that God establishes all who rule, and that all men, including Civil Servants, will one day give an account to the Lord Jesus Christ of their deeds done on this earth.

SYNOD APPROVED (as amended).

The **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended that the Memorial #1 from Canadian Presbytery be **approved**, that the Memorial #2 from Northeast Presbytery **not be approved**, that the Memorial #3 from Northeast Presbytery **not be approved** and that the Memorial #4 from Tennessee Alabama Presbytery be **approved**.

The Moderator's Committee submitted three additional recommendations:

5. That Moderator of General Synod also write a letter equal to Memorial #4 and that it be sent to the members of Parliament, Supreme Court, Prime Minister & Governor General of Canada and that both letters convey to our leaders our prayers for them. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
6. The committee recommends that General Synod refer to the Revisions Committee to give study and to make recommendations for revisions to Chapter Eleven, paragraphs 11:23 and 11:24 (organization Of a Mission Into A Church) of the Form of Government (FOG), with particular attention given to the following:

- A. Paragraph 11:23 states: ONA guidelines for incorporating an organized church shall be followed.”
- B. Paragraph 11:24 is nearly identical to FOG Paragraph 9:54, sub-paragraph L. Is it necessary to have this identical material placed in two locations of the FOG? **SYNOD APPROVED.**
- 7. The committee recommends that General Synod take the time to pray for our leaders surrounding the issues of abortion and sanctity of life. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

The Memorial #1 from Canadian Presbytery **as amended** was **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Prayer was offered for the study just instituted.

The Memorial #2 from Northeast Presbytery with the exception of (B) be referred to Minister and His Work Committee for study and recommendation. **SYNOD APPROVED (as amended with the deletion of Item B.)**

The Memorial #3 from Northeast Presbytery was introduced. Memorial #3 was **NOT APPROVED.**

The Memorial #4 from Tennessee Alabama Presbytery was presented. The memorial was amended to instruct the Moderator of General Synod to write the letters, (including the Canadian letters. **SYNOD APPROVED (as amended.)**

Prayer was offered for our leaders in Canada and the United States.

A motion **carried:**

That Synod direct the Committee on Theological & Social Concerns to interview Freemasons, including, but not limited to, some who are members in the ARP church as a part of their task in studying Freemasonry.

A motion **carried:**

That the 215th General Synod express their thanks to Geneva College, RPTS and the RPCNA Synod for their warm hospitality in hosting our 2019 Concurrent Synod Meeting.

Synod rose with a round of applause in appreciation of Geneva College and the RPCNA for their hospitality.

A motion **carried**:

That the Committee on Nominations be authorized to act as a commission only for the purpose of filling the empty positions on the Revisions Committee, giving particular attention to those allocated to elders, and to disseminate all names elected to this committee to the Clerks of Presbyteries, and to conclude this work no later than December 31, 2019.

A motion **carried**:

That the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns be tasked with studying in what ways it is or is not appropriate for women to lead in worship and report back to the 2020 Synod with their study and whatever recommendations they deem appropriate based on their study.

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

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations (CON) met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC and again by teleconference on April 4, 2019. During these meetings several items of business were addressed.

The following officers were elected for 2019-2020:

Paul Patrick	Chairman
Patrick Malphrus	Vice Chairman
Eric Hancox	Secretary

The 2020 stated meeting of the Committee on Nominations is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 9:00 am at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

The deadline for submitting names to the Committee on Nominations (excluding Erskine) will be Friday, January 3, 2020.

The committee appointed Patrick Malphrus to serve on the 2019-2020 Sub-Committee on Erskine Nominations (SCONE).

The Committee on Nominations, by consensus, presents to the Synod the persons listed in our report as nominees to serve on Synod's 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, 2019, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve, if elected.

The committee expresses appreciation for those who submitted nominations, and for those who were nominated and are willing to serve.

Recommendations:

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That each presbytery consider appointing an alternate representative to Synod's Committee on Nominations in the event that the chairman of a presbytery's committee on nominations is not able to attend Synod's committee meeting. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That presbyteries consider making recommendations for service during their fall meetings. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That sessions consider making recommendations for service during their November and December meetings. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
5. That recommendations for the Board of Erskine College and Seminary be made by October 31, 2019. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
6. That those making Recommendations for Service to the Committee on Nominations (by mail or online) use the proper form and provide helpful information concerning qualifications for each person recommended. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
7. That various boards, committees and commissions of Synod provide a clear and concise needs analysis and recommendations for service to the CON following their Fall stated meetings and that they clearly communicate their ministry and needs to pastors, sessions and presbyteries through in-person presentations, video, or other social media in order to educate the larger connectional church regarding opportunities to serve. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

8. That all persons resigning from Synod Boards and Agencies be reminded to submit their resignation request to the Principal Clerk of General Synod and the chairman of the board or committee from which they are resigning. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
9. That General Synod be mindful that Synod's Principal Clerk, Bill Clerk, Treasurer and Archivist are in their second terms, making them ineligible to serve after their term expires in 2020. New persons will need to be nominated Fall, 2019, and will be voted upon at the 2020 Synod meeting. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
10. That the General Synod authorize \$4,000.00 for committee expenses for 2020. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G. Patrick, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

	2018 Approved	2018 Actual	2019 Approved	2020 Proposed
Revenues				
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,390	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Total Revenues	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,390	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Expenses				
Committee Meeting	\$ 3,900	\$ 1,390	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
Committee Travel	-	-	-	-
General Office-Copy, Etc	100	-	100	100
Total Expenses	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,390	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

<i>Board/Committee/ Commission</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
Benefits	2022	
Benefits	2025	
Benefits	2025	
Benefits	2025	
Benefits	PR (A)	
Benefits	PR 2020 (F)	Rob Roy McGregor, III
Benefits	PR (G)	
Benefits	PR (M)	
Benefits	PR (T)	
Benefits	PR (V)	Duncan Rankin
Bonclarken	2025	Jim Ashburn
Bonclarken	2025	Michael S. Evans, Jr.
Bonclarken	2025	Maxwell R. Smith
CEM	2023	Terrence Little
CEM	2023/PR (G)	Ken Rufty
CEM	PR (A)	
CEM	ARPWM (2025)	Linda Dolan
Dunlap	2025	Rob Roy McGregor, Jr.
Dunlap	ARPWM 2025	Erin Ulerich
Dunlap	PR (A)	
Dunlap	PR (M)	
Dunlap	PR (T)	
Erskine	2023	Stacey Cox
Erskine	2024	John Bouwkamp
Erskine	2024	Alexander Campbell
Erskine	2024	Michael Whitehurst
Executive Board	PR (S)	Eric Skaar
ONA	2025	Wes Spring
ONA	2022	Stephen Laughridge
ONA	PR (A)	
ONA	PR (G)	
ONA	PR (S)	Seth Yi

<i>Board/Committee/</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
Stewardship	2022/PR (G)	John Kimmons
Stewardship	2025	
Stewardship	PR (A)	
Stewardship	PR (M)	
Stewardship	PR (T)	
Stewardship	ARPWM	Libby Elder
World Witness	2025	John Lim
World Witness	2025	Norman Kent
World Witness	PR (A)	
World Witness	PR (G)	Phil Williams
World Witness	PR (M)	-----
World Witness	PR (V)	-----
Ecclesiastical	2023	
Ecclesiastical	Alternate	
Campus Ministry Oversight	2024	Marc Faulkenberry
Inter-Church	2025	Seth Yi
Investment	2024	Clarke McNair
Minister & His Work	PR (A)	
Minister & His Work	PR 2020 (F)	Rob Roy McGregor, III
Minister & His Work	PR (G)	
Minister & His Work	PR (M)	
Minister & His Work	PR (V)	Duncan Rankin
Minister & His Work	PR (T)	
Nominations	PR (G)	Eric Hancox
Nominations	PR (V)	Patrick Malphrus
Revision Committee	2020	
Revision Committee	2021	
Revision Committee	2022	
Revision Committee	2023	
Revision Committee	Alternate	
Revision Committee	Alternate	

<i>Board/Committee/</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
Theological & Social	2023	
Theological & Social	ARPWM	Elaine DeVusser
Worship	2023	Garison Taylor
Worship	2023	Betsy Logeman
Worship	2021	Milette Oden
Worship	2022	T.J. Ellis
Worship	2020	Cheri Owensby
Worship	2020	
Worship	2021	Brady (B.J.) Hanes
Worship	2023	Martha McKenzie
Synod Assistant Clerk	2024	John Cook

A motion **carried:**

That Seth Yi be approved for service on the Committee on Inter-Church Relations for the class of 2025.

Following announcements, the motion to adjourn prevailed.

The Synod sang the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133.

Synod adjourned with the Scriptural Benediction pronounced by William Macauley.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Leslie Holmes, Moderator
 Rob Roy McGregor, Vice- Moderator
 C. R. Beard, Principal Clerk
 Matt Miller, Reading Clerk
 Leland R. Beaudrot, Bill Clerk
 Andrew Putnam, Parliamentarian

