

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

**TWO HUNDRED FOURTEENTH STATED MEETING**



**JUNE 5-7, 2018**

**BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**FLAT ROCK, NC**



## PROCEEDINGS

## BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

The 214th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) was held at the Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC, June 5-7, 2018.

## MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018

Registration for the General Synod 2018 was held in the Patrick Meeting Room of the Lodge at 2:00 P.M.

The Pre-Synod Conference was held in the Chapel at 7:00 P.M. and featured Dr. Lon Allison.

SPECIAL SYNOD WEEK DENOMINATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

World Witness hosted a golf tournament on Monday, June 4. The *Synod's Kid's Camp* for ages 7-18 was held Tuesday through Thursday at various times. Free child care was offered each day for infants to 6 years old at the Maryalice Cottage.

Reformed Theological Seminary hosted a lunch on Tuesday in the Bonclarken Dining Hall.

On Wednesday, Erskine Seminary hosted a breakfast at 7:00 A.M. and a BBQ lunch at noon in the Headspring Pavilion. In addition, ARP Women's Ministries hosted a Pastors' Wives Gathering at 10:00 A.M. and "*Oasis*" at 2:00 P.M.

Outreach North America's "*Church Planting Breakfast*" was held Thursday morning at 7:00 A.M. ARPWM also hosted a breakfast in Synodical Hall for wives of church planters and missionaries.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018

Earl and Harriet Linderman led in the informal "Coffee and Psalm Sing" on the Dining Room porch at 7:10 A.M.

Registration continued at 9:00 A.M. in the Patrick Room of the Lodge.

The *Orientation for New Ministers and Delegates* was held at 9:00 A.M. followed by presbytery meetings at 10:00 A.M.

Lunch was served at 12:15 P.M.

The Opening Worship and Communion began at 2:00 P.M.

**OPENING WORSHIP  
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018  
Youth Activities Building**

Informal Psalm Sing	C. Earl Linderman
	Harriet S. Linderman, Accompanist
Prelude	Anne Katherine Ragsdale
*Call to Worship	Lee Shelnutt, Moderator
*Song: "Psalm 145A"	
*Invocation and the Lord's Prayer	Lee Shelnutt, Moderator
*The Constituting of the General Synod	Lee Shelnutt, Moderator
Memorial Service	Bill McKay, Vice Moderator
The Listing of Deceased Ministers	
The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders	
*Song: "For All the Saints"	
Sermon	Lee Shelnutt
"Commended Through Our Faith"	
Text: (Hebrews 11:32—12:2)	
*Song: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"	
The Administration of the Lord's Supper	Lee Shelnutt/Rick Barnes
*Song: "Now Open Wide the Gates"	
*Benediction	
Postlude	Anne Katherine Ragsdale
(See <b>Appendix</b> for the tributes and the list of deceased Elders.)	

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

Retiring Moderator Lee Shelnutt addressed the Synod.

*As all former Moderators can attest, one is not able to serve the church as Moderator without the prayers and support of so many people. I have been humbled by the concern, love, and encouragement that so many of you fellow ARPs have shown for and to me over this past year. You've lifted me up in prayer unto the Lord in my duties and in my illness. You've prayed for me,*

*my family, and my congregation, and thus, as the Apostle Paul would put it, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you!" And "it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." Amen.*

*Let me give specific thanks to my dear wife and daughter, Joni and Neidin, to my family, to the Session and Congregation of the Huntersville Church and our wonderful staff, especially Associate Pastor Jim Curtis and our Administrative Assistant Heidi Reckard. I have been on the road much this year and even when home my mind and time have often been preoccupied. You have been so exceedingly understanding, loving, and supportive. I'm such a blessed man. Thank you!*

*Also, as all former Moderators can attest, we've got some great folk to work with, from the officers, to the staff of Central Services, to the Executive Directors, Presidents, Provosts, staffs, and board and committee members of our institutions and agencies. We are exceedingly blessed by some phenomenal people of grace! Thank you all – and special thanks to Cindy and Roger. I'll miss working with you all because it has truly been a pleasure.*

*I've always envisioned retiring Moderators' addresses as something akin to a President's State of the Union Address. Mine will not be that long and I don't intend to give you all a laundry list of programs that I think we ought to implement. What I will say, as I have said again and again, is, don't despise the day of small things. The Lord is at work within our midst. I know I am biased, but in the Reformed and evangelical world we inhabit as a denomination, I believe the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is the best thing going! Why do I say so? Because here there is an ever-deepening commitment to the inerrant Word of God; to a faithful, winsome, confessional, expression of the Reformed faith; and, to being on mission with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in our increasingly secular and antagonistic culture and world. Then, when you place those commitments within a denominational ethos that is familial and rooted deeply in history, I believe you have something truly wonderful! And something for which we should all thank our God!*

*Yet, we are not without our challenges. How do we deepen our unity in such commitments without demanding a stifling uniformity that goes beyond them? How do we work out our commitments in consistent, pastoral, and Christ-honoring ways? How do we avoid being Machen's Warrior Children on the one hand, battling over everything, as if everything were of primary significance, or broad Latitudinarians on the other hand that act as*

*if **nothing** is worth fighting for? How do we appreciate our ARP family ethos and history without idolizing either? How do we not despise the day of small things and have a William Carey type of faith which expects great things from God and attempts great things for God? How do we face the significant financial challenges before us with a sound stewardship that is full of such faith? How do we face the on-going and significant cultural shifts and challenges in ways that are faithful to King Jesus and evidence His love and holiness? How do we develop stronger ties with other brothers and sisters in Christ for kingdom purposes while maintaining and promoting our commitments and ethos? How do we turn the other cheek, extend a cup of cold water, **and** boldly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints?*

*Maybe the words of the author of Hebrews are worth hearing again:*

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Lee Shelnutt

Retiring Moderator Lee Shelnutt presented the Moderator-Elect, Phillip Malphrus, Sr., to the Synod. Mr. Malphrus was escorted to the podium where Retiring Moderator Lee Shelnutt transferred the Moderator's Shield to Mr. Malphrus with brief remarks. Moderator Malphrus presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Lee Shelnutt.

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

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. I Cor. 16:13*  
*Fathers and brothers,*

*It is June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and we are gathered here for the 214<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Reflecting on the history of the ARP Church in America and around the globe, we have witnessed the workings of our great and mighty God and the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Despite the turmoil, intrigue, and volatility that seemingly abounds in the world around us, our God reigns and is building His Church. It is in light of the current climate we face as the Church and as men called to serve that I implore you to take this Moderator's Challenge to heart.*

*My challenge to you today is a short one and, in fact, really isn't even my challenge at all. Instead, my desire is to simply point you to the challenge we have all received from God's Word and implore you to heed the instructions revealed in it. In his letter to the church in Corinth during his third missionary journey, Paul wrote "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." (I Corinthians 16:13) This message is as applicable today for us as it was when Paul wrote this letter some 2000 years ago.*

*Be watchful.* *Be watchful of what and when and where? Well to quote Luke 12:48, "to whom much is given, much is required." We each have a particular calling to which we will be held accountable. So it is imperative that we should be watchful and aware of the circumstances that surround us, so that our witness to others would be fruitful and that God's will would be accomplished in the many circumstances that we face. We should be watchful for the schemes of the evil one who seeks to divide and conquer. We should be watchful for the opportunities of love and service the Lord brings our way.*

*Stand firm in the faith.* *Day in and day out we are confronted with issues that may shake the faith of believers that we shepherd. We certainly live in a fallen world where distractions abound and it seems that evil triumphs over good at just about every turn. It seems that there are more choices and cultural dilemmas confronting us than ever before. So, it is important that, as leaders of the church, we be sober-minded, prayerful, and delve heavily into God's Word, so that our faith may be strengthened as we seek to do God's will in whatever place or circumstance we find ourselves serving the Lord. Galatians 6:9-10 tells us "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up. So, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."*

*Act like men and be strong.* *In II Timothy 4: 1-5, Paul tells Timothy "I charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure 'sound' teaching, but have itching ears. They will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."*

*Men, in a world where husbands and fathers have been relegated to serve as instruments of comic relief at best, if they are present at all, and in a world where truth is seen as subjective, where lines between right and wrong are blurred, and where orthodox teaching on biblical manhood and womanhood is often viewed as hate speech or a tool of oppression, it is past time for us to follow the simple instruction to be men who are faithful servants of the Lord.*

*It is past time for us to love our wives as Christ loved the Church and to raise our children and the next generation in the fear and admonition of the Lord. It is time for us to be strong in the Lord, led by the Holy Spirit.*

*We as leaders in the ARP Church, whether ruling or teaching elders, have the incredible privilege and responsibility of shepherding the flock wherever God has placed us. By being watchful, standing firm in the faith, acting like men, and being strong in the many circumstances in which we find ourselves, may God find us faithful to fulfill His will. I Peter 5:6-7 says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." May we at the appointed time and day, by God's grace and mercy, be able to say as Paul told Timothy, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Until the time God calls us home, may the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob endow you with knowledge and wisdom from above so that your call to service will be pleasing to Him.*

Phillip Malphrus, Sr.

Moderator Malphrus introduced the Vice-Moderator, Kyle Sims, to the Synod.

Vice-Moderator Sims presented the proposed program for the 2018 Meeting of the General Synod. After a few changes were announced, the program was adopted as amended.

Moderator Malphrus introduced his wife, Kathy.

Vice-Moderator Sims made the following formal introductions to the Synod:

Fraternal delegates were recognized.

Chip Sherer and the Bonclarken staff were thanked.

Pages serving this year: John Paul Bell, Paxton Brown, Nicholas deVusser, Trey Fairbairn, and Rob Smith

Videographer: Ben Scott

Sound Technician: Lee Lane

Psalm Sing Leaders: Earl and Harriet Linderman

Musician: Anne Katherine Ragsdale

New ministers, new missions/congregations and new students/licentiates who have been received and ordained since the 2017 Meeting of General Synod introduced themselves.



Earl Linderman presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Synod Employees and Missionaries. Mr. Linderman led the Synod in prayer.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Chaplains present at the meeting addressed the Synod. Synod was led in prayer for our chaplains by Mr. Sutherland.

Vicki Marsh, President of the ARP Women's Ministries, brought greetings from Women's Ministries.

A motion carried to print the greetings in the 2018 Minutes of Synod. Tim Phillips led in prayer for ARP Women's Ministries.

*Thank you, members of Synod, for allowing me the privilege of speaking about Women's Ministries to you today. ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages, equips, and connects the community of ARP women to minister to each other and together for God's glory and purpose. We operate in local churches under the authority of our sessions, on the presbyterial level under presbyteries and on the synodical level under Synod. Slightly more than half of our churches have organized Women's Ministries, but any church that has at least one woman contributing her talents to the work of the church does have a Women's Ministry.*

*Close your eyes for a moment and imagine that there are no women in your church. Who would cook the bereavement meals, run the nurseries, maintain a food and clothing closet for those in need, organize the Jubilee Birthday to support missionaries, send gift cards or baked goodies to your college students, decorate the church for special holidays or functions, and raise the children in a Christian environment to prepare them for their participation in the "world" when they grow up? And these are only a few of the ways that women serve in our churches. They mentor each other and children, support each other through friendship and fellowship, hold Bible studies to grow spiritually, attend conferences and retreats to meet other women from the denomination and share ideas for ways to serve in the church. One of the most recent projects for Women's Ministry is the Erskine Care Partners which was implemented in the fall of 2017. Ladies in our denomination, who were willing, were paired with female freshmen students at Erskine. They texted, sent cards and care packages, emailed and tried to be a friend for these students who were in their first year of college away from their families. In many ways, your women are the glue that holds your congregation together. If there is a need, it is often the women that provide for that need. I've only*

*been given five minutes so I cannot possibly list all that our women are doing in their churches and communities but I assure you that they do a lot!*

*Why is having a Women's Ministry important? There is no one-size-fits all model of how a women's ministry is organized or what it does. However, an oftenseen model is a leadership team or board which oversees the work of women's ministry in circles in a local church or all of the local churches on the Presbyterial level. A circle is a group of women of the same general age or of a variety of ages who often meet in someone's home or at the church. A meeting usually consists of food, fellowship, prayer, offering, a Bible study lesson and a time of sharing prayer concerns and praises, and discussion of a project for the next meeting. Projects might include sending a gift card to missionaries, providing food, recipes, and instructions for a meal to a local women's shelter or a shelter for girls who are the victims of trafficking, bringing candy and filling Easter eggs for the children's upcoming Easter egg hunt, filling a bag with various items for Pastor Appreciation month (or Pastors' Wives Appreciation month), providing jackets for those without them at a local middle school or organizing a spaghetti supper to raise money for mission trips.. It is a time when our ladies come together and share difficulties and provide support for each other and, a time for offering prayers for our families, our church, our community, our country, and our missionaries. Prayers for Andrew Brunson have been lifted often in recent months and will continue to be made for him until he is released.*

*In our desire to equip our women for service, Women's Ministry has begun offering seminars at many of our retreats and annual meetings on a variety of topics such as leadership training, information on how to teach the current Bible study, Treasurer's workshops, and ARP 101. These sessions are often filmed by Christian Education Ministries and are available through our website for those who would like to see them but could not attend the session. We currently have a website which gives updates on upcoming events, contact information for current officers, minutes from our most recent Annual meeting, information on the study books recommended for the coming year, etc. And the ARP Magazine is an excellent source for information and articles about Women's Ministry!*

*As I hope you can see from this brief report, Women's Ministry members are ready, willing, and able to serve in their churches, presbyteries, and the denomination wherever and however they are needed. We want to be an integral part of the church and should be!! If your church does not have an organized Women's Ministry, you are missing out on a valuable resource in your church! As the pastors and leaders of your churches, I urge you to encourage your women to organize a Women's Ministry in your church if you do not have one and to appreciate what the women are doing in your church if*

*you already have Women's Ministries. Thank you for your support of Women's Ministries and for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today.*

Vicki Marsh

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

Moderator Malphrus made his appointments to the Moderator's Committees.

The Principal Clerk noted that the official reports of Synod's Boards are on the table for reference to the Moderator's Committees.

A memorial not distributed in the packet was read and referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Following a prayer for Chairman of Stewardship, Mike Thomason, Nathan Beard presented the **Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. Following discussion, the allocation was adopted.

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

AGENCY	2018 Approved	2019 Requested	2019 Recommended	% of Total Based on Recommended 2019
<b><u>Boards and Agencies</u></b>				
Central Services	\$ 326	\$ 320	\$ 320	12.0%
Benefits (covers board expenses)	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.2%
ARP Center Facility	22	23	23	0.9%
Executive Board & Contingency (2)	171	184	184	6.9%
The ARP	102	106	106	3.9%
Stewardship/Foundation	99	101	101	3.8%
<b><u>Commission &amp; Committees</u></b>				
Inter-Church Relations	7.6	7.6	7.6	0.3%
Worship	15	15	15	0.6%
Other Committees (1)	27	27	27	1.0%
<b>Sub-Total for Non-Program</b>	<b>\$ 777</b>	<b>\$ 792</b>	<b>\$ 792</b>	<b>29.6%</b>
Bonclarken	\$ 113	\$ 112	\$ 113	4.2%
Christian Education Ministries	206	206	207	7.7%
Erskine	422	459	425	15.9%
ARP Student Union	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.0%
ONA Operations	566	566	570	21.3%
World Witness	566	565	570	21.3%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,651</b>	<b>\$ 2,701</b>	<b>\$ 2,678</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- (1) Other committees include: Revision, Investment, Minister & His Work, Nominations, Ecclesiastical Commission and Special Committees
- (2) Executive Board reflects an increase as a result of an insurance coverage review and improved coverage in some areas. Ultimately this insurance cost and a corresponding amount of Denominational Ministry funds will be allocated to the appropriate agencies. Other than this item, allocations remained relatively flat with the prior year with agencies receiving a minimal increase.

Jeff Kingswood led in prayer for the Denominational Ministry Funding.

Synod's afternoon session closed with the blessing and closing prayer by Patrick Malphrus.

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 5, EVENING ACTIVITY**

The Moderator's Committees met during the evening hours.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, MORNING SESSION**

Earl and Harriet Linderman led the informal "Coffee and Psalm Sing" on the Dining Room porch.

The morning devotional was led by Andrew Di Iulio.

The Moderator asked all those who have studied under Bob Cara to stand. To honor Bob, all ministers were given a copy of his book, "Cracking the Foundation of the New Perspective on Paul." William Duncan also spoke to honor Mr. Cara. Mr. Cara's son and daughter were recognized. The Synod was led in prayer by Kyle Sims.

Following a break, the morning business session began.

Billy Barron introduced the Fraternal Delegate from the PCA, Dr. Andrew Silman, who brought greetings from the PCA and reported on all aspects of the PCA at present. Vice-Moderator Sims presented a gift bag from Synod to Dr. Silman.

The Report of the **Special Committee to Revise the *Book of Discipline*** was presented.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVISE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

It is with a sense of humility and relief, your committee herewith submits its third and final draft of a completely rewritten *Book of Discipline*, and submits the following recommendations:

##### Recommendations:

1. That this draft, with appendices, be adopted as the new *Book of Discipline*.
2. That the Revision Committee consider amending the *Form of Government* to provide a means whereby an ordained officer may be

divested of his office voluntarily and without discipline. See *Form of Government* 8.4, 8.8 and 9.67.

3. That the Revision Committee consider including in the *Form of Government* those provisions in the current *Book of Discipline*, Chapter X.B. which deal with "Review," as those provisions are more administrative than disciplinary, and have not been included in the proposed revision of the *Book of Discipline*.
4. That the Revision Committee consider addressing the issue of withdrawing from membership in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. While our polity clearly does not provide for unilateral withdrawal, secular courts appear to honor unilateral withdrawals.
5. That the Revision Committee consider clarifying the terms "under discipline" and "pending discipline" as used in the following provisions of the *Form of Government*: 3.25 F., 8.B, and 8.24, as those terms are not defined anywhere in the *Form of Government* and are arguably ambiguous, especially in light of the highlighted language used in the proposed revision of the *Book of Discipline* 2.5 which reads:  
The censures of Suspension, Removal from Office, and Excommunication are durational, which is to say that they continue in effect until the person censured has been restored, and the censure is removed. Thus, a person who has been censured with Suspension, Removal from Office or Excommunication is to be considered "under discipline." The censures of Admonition and Rebuke are not durational, which is to say that they do not continue in effect, and thus a person who has been censured with an Admonishment or Rebuke is not to be considered "under discipline."

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Ruschky, Chairman

ATTACHMENT: *Book of Discipline* draft (June 2018) on file at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

An amendment to the report and its recommendations was presented and **ADOPTED** as follows:

*That 1) the report of the Special Committee to Revise the Book of Discipline be received as information; and that 2) the committee be dismissed with thanks; and 3) that the draft be referred to Synod's Committee on Theological and Social Concerns so that it can be further revised and refined in keeping with our doctrinal standards.*

A motion to adopt the report as amended **carried**.

The report of the Special **Committee on 2019 Concurrent Synod Logistics** was presented and its recommendations **ADOPTED**.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON 2019 CONCURRENT SYNOD'S LOGISTICS**

Following the unanimous vote to accept the invitation to have concurrent synod meetings with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, Moderator Lee Shelnuitt appointed a special committee to handle the logistics. The Special Committee on Concurrent Synods has met via conference call four (4) times. Chip Sherer led a team on a site visit to Geneva and met with college officials to look at the facilities.

At the first meeting, tasks were assigned and the committee members have been working to pull together the various details necessary to make our concurrent synod meeting a success. We will meet together at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, on June 11-13, 2019.

Our goal is to put together a picture of how the Synod meeting next year will go. The following is a description at this point of how we see the meetings will run. There are still many details that cannot yet be worked out, therefore, this is a preliminary look. The committee welcomes any feedback or comments from the Synod.

#### **Proposed Schedule from RPCNA**

Monday evening:

A Pre-Synod Psalmody Seminar led by the RPCNA with the ARPC participating. The purpose is to promote mutual understanding of

each other's application of the regulative principle in the area of Psalmody. It will take place on Monday evening, June 10, 2019.

Tuesday morning:

This time has been set aside for Presbytery meetings (8:30 - 10:30 am). We will have a joint worship service led by the RPCNA's retiring Moderator beginning at 11:00 am.

Tuesday afternoon:

The official opening worship service with communion will be held jointly. Our Moderator's committees will meet.

Tuesday evening:

A joint meeting with the ARP retiring Moderator's address and greetings from fraternal delegates and women's ministries will start off the evening. This will be followed by a prayer time.

Wednesday morning:

A joint worship time with the ARPC leading.  
Business session.

Wednesday afternoon:

Ministry seminars will be held together with delegates choosing which seminars to attend. Subjects being considered include: publications (areas of mutual benefit), revitalization (yoked churches), evangelism (Christianity Explored, etc.), mercy ministries areas of mutual benefit, and counseling (a NAPARC suggestion of having jointly sponsored counseling centers).  
Dinner will be a cookout.

Wednesday evening:

Business session.

Thursday morning:

A joint worship time with the RPCNA leading.  
Business session.

Thursday afternoon:

Business session.

Thursday evening:

Business session.



**Specific Topics****Transportation:**

The committee did not believe that it was feasible to try to arrange a transportation option on the Synod level. Consequently, everyone will be responsible for own transportation (as we do normally when meeting at Bonclarken). Presbyteries or people in the same geographic areas may want to coordinate transportation both to the meeting as well as daily from the hotel.

**Lodging:**

There are several lodging options for the delegates. There may be limited dormitory space for those wanting to stay in a college dorm room. A list of hotels, within a 30 minute drive, has been produced by Geneva College to give the variety of options available (see the attached for rationale and options). We are working with the hotels for some group prices and registration deadlines. Everyone will book their own lodging as we normally do at Bonclarken.

**Meals:**

We have worked out a meal package with Geneva College that will cover the lunches and dinners during the times of our meetings (6 meals for under \$35 dollars). The meal package will be included in the registration.

**Registration:**

Registration will need to be earlier next year and will include the meal plan. The dates and exact costs will be sent out as soon as available.

**End of Synod:**

Synod is scheduled to run through Thursday and everyone needs to make plans to stay through the close of the meetings. Therefore, the meal plan is calculated that way and you should book hotel rooms accordingly.

**Special Committee:** John Barron, Henry Bartsch, Bob Elliott, Ike Hughes, Jonathan Kuciemba, Tom Shoger, Kyle Sims, and Billy Barron, chairman. **Advisory members:** Phillip Malphrus, Cindy Scott, Lee Shelnutt, Chip Sherer, Chip Smith, and Roger Wiles.

**Recommendations:**

1. That we participate in, promote, and encourage the Pre-Synod Psalmody Seminar. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
2. That we encourage delegates to look for ways to consolidate transportation based upon geographic areas of the Synod. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
3. That we would use the Psalms and acapella music when having combined services. Philip Bunch has agreed to coordinate the music. **SYNOD APPROVED.**
4. That each church commit, unless providentially hindered, to send delegates and for those delegates to stay through the entirety of the meeting. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Notes: Remember that we voted unanimously at the 2016 meeting of Synod to accept the invitation from the RPCNA to participate in the concurrent synods meeting. They have made several major adjustments in order to make these meetings work. They have changed their meeting dates and location at our requests.

***Our Form of Government (6.8.Q) states that each session is "to select from among its elders delegate(s) to the meetings of the Presbytery and the General Synod to represent the church."***

Respectfully submitted,  
Billy Barron, Chairman

The report of the **Special Committee on Directory of Private and Family Worship** was presented and its recommendation **ADOPTED.**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORY OF  
PRIVATE/FAMILY WORSHIP**

**INTRODUCTION**

At the 2017 Meeting of the General Synod, the Synod heard and approved the following recommendation made by the Synod's Committee on Worship: "That a special committee be appointed by the Moderator of General Synod to consider the merits of re-

trieving or composing a 'Directory of Private and Family Worship' and report back with their recommendations at the 2018 Meeting of the General Synod."

The motion above gave the special committee a very specific task. We were not tasked with considering the merits of private and family worship generally (though we do report on that briefly below). Nor were we tasked with the work of producing a "Directory of Private and Family Worship" for inclusion in our ARP Standards. Rather, it fell to this special committee strictly to consider "the merits" of retrieving or composing such a document. To that end, our committee was convened on October 2, meeting again on December 12 and February 20, and carried out several investigations as subcommittees between meetings.

In the course of our work, we discovered a particularly rich history of family worship in our denomination's heritage. Prior to the advent of the Reformed Church in Scotland in 1560, the Reformed faith existed only in hearts and homes. Here it was nourished as fathers led their households in Scripture reading, discussion, prayer and the singing of Psalms. After the Reformed Church of Scotland was organized in 1560, the practice of private and family worship remained a centerpiece of the church's teaching and life, and to this practice was attributed a substantial portion of the church's growth (confirming the later observation of Benjamin Morgan Palmer that "[t]he family of God was primarily made to grow through the faithful families of men"<sup>1</sup>).

Accordingly, the Westminster Assembly (1643-1649) produced a document that has, however, been all but forgotten in our day. In addition to "The Westminster Confession of Faith," the "Larger Catechism" and "Shorter Catechism," "The Form of Presbyterial-Church Government," and "The Directory for the Publick Worship of God," the original Westminster Standards also included "The Directory for Family-Worship" (approved August 24, 1647), which supplied specific exhortations for family worship as well as for "secret" (or private/personal) worship.<sup>2</sup>

This 1647 "Directory for Family-Worship," once part-and-parcel of the Westminster Standards, was among the founding Standards of the ARP Church. However, as documented in the report submitted by the Worship Committee to the 2017 Meeting of the General Synod, and as recounted in a section of our report below, this document no longer exists in our Standards (nor in those of the PCA, RPCNA and OPC). For the reasons outlined be-

low, our committee recommends that the ARP Synod take the lead in recovering a “Directory of Private and Family Worship,” one that is composed after the manner of the original 1647 “Directory for Family-Worship” and attentive to the present challenges and realities facing families and individuals today.

#### BIBLICAL MERITS OF A *DPFW*

The Bible assumes throughout its pages that the very light of nature itself teaches us that the one true, living God of all creation is a Divine Being who rightly demands and justly deserves to be worshipped and honored by all His creatures (WCF 21:1; Ps. 19:1-6, Rom. 1:20). Such worship should be brought to God not only in public assemblies, but also in private families daily and in secret, each one by himself (WFC 21:6). Even those who are without the benefit of God’s special revelation are charged with folly and called to repentance for negligence in worship (Acts 14:15-17, 17:24-30, Rom. 1:18-21). Ungodly Gentiles are referred to by Jeremiah as “families who do not call on Your name” (Jer. 10:25).

If such worship is expected even of the heathen, it should come as no surprise that the Lord fills the narrative of His holy writ with commandments, examples, and encouragement for it as people of God. We find that even at the time of the fall, Adam and Eve are already accustomed to hearing “the sound of the LORD walking in the Garden in the cool of the day,” presumably to meet with them (Gen. 3:8). Their sons are introduced to us as offering sacrifices (Gen. 4:3-4). Noah emerges from the ark and offers sacrifices, and with this God is well pleased (Gen. 8:20-22). In Genesis 18:19, the LORD expresses His expectation that Abraham, whom He has chosen, will surely command his children and his household after him to keep the way of Lord in order that He might bring to him the blessings He has promised. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Ephesians 6:4 convey this expectation as an imperative. In Psalm 145:1-6, the covenant people are given a song in which they cheerfully affirm, “Every day I will bless You” (v. 2), and anticipate that “One generation shall praise Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts,” (v. 4). In Psalm 78:5-8, fathers who neglect this duty are accused of hiding the truth from the children, while in Proverbs 8:34-36, blessing is pronounced on the man who listens to Wisdom, waiting daily at His gates. In Acts 10:1-4, we see the blessing that came to Cornelius while engaged in his customary rituals. Faithful Daniel could not be stopped in his morning and evening devotions toward the altar at Jerusalem (though it was dust and ashes) even

though he had been ordered to desist upon pain of death (Dan. 6:10). Clearly, private and family worship is a duty expected of all who belong to the Covenant of Grace.

It is therefore helpful and proper for assemblies of believers, including churches, presbyteries, and synods, which are appointed for the better government and edification of the church in all times and places, to encourage and instruct their members in the fulfillment of this important duty (WCF 31). Such assemblies are to shepherd the churches under their jurisdiction (Acts 15; 21:15-24) by urging the wayward and slothful to attend to such duties and by providing proper guidance and assistance in fulfilling them (Ezek. 34; Acts 20:28-31). Inasmuch as private and family worship has been sorely neglected in all ages of the church as it is in our day, Scripture would warrant that the ARP Synod seek to correct this. As the highest court of our church, the publication of a “Directory of Private and Family Worship” by the Synod would provide practical help, guidance, and encouragement in fulfilling such duty (Acts 16: 4-5).

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF PRIVATE AND FAMILY WORSHIP DIRECTORIES

Prior to the advent of the Reformation there is little historical record of specific “directories” aimed at families. This owes partly to how the nature of, and relationships within, the family changed radically after the Enlightenment, and especially with the onset of the Industrial Revolution (as Steven Ozment records in his work, most notably in his *When Fathers Ruled: Family Life in Reformation Europe*, 1985). There are records of Catholic rulebooks that encouraged private piety, but none specifically aimed at the family (as now understood). This is not to say there was not an interest in the early or medieval Church in regards to regular devotions, but when copies of the Bible were much more difficult to get a hold of and the devotional life was largely given over to the monastic and priestly classes, the interest and ability of the Church to direct was limited. However, there are quotations that can be found in the early church Fathers that instruct husbands to lead their wives and children in prayer and in what can only be described as regular worship in the home. For example, Tertullian writes:

How can I paint the happiness of a marriage which the church ratifies, the oblation (the celebration of the communion) confirms, the benediction seals, angels announce, the Father declares valid. Even upon earth, indeed, sons do not legitimately marry without the consent of their fathers. What a union of two believers—one

hope, one vow, one discipline, and one worship! They are brother and sister, two fellow-servants, one spirit and one flesh. Where there is one flesh, there is also one spirit. They pray together, fast together, instruct, exhort, and support each other.<sup>3</sup>

A contemporary of Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, also commends the spiritual practices of the Christian family. His teachings are summarized as follows:

The husband and the wife living in chaste matrimony, and the child which God bestows, are three in sweet society, who may claim and enjoy the promise. This reflects great light upon the Christian home, as it rose, like a flower, out of the "Church in the house." Family prayers, the graces before and after meat, the hymn "On lighting the lamps at eventide," and the complines, or prayers at bedtime, are all the products of the divine contract to be with the "two or three" who are met in His name to claim that inconceivably precious promise.<sup>4</sup>

At the dawn of the Reformation, Martin Luther changed how we look at this question with the introduction first of his "Small Catechism" (1529) and then of his "Large Catechism" (1530). His intention was to see the head of the household raise his family up in the fear and admonition of the Lord and to provide a guide to assist in accomplishing this goal.

In the Post-Reformation era, the focus upon regular and designed family/private worship grew in each succeeding generation. A good representation of the importance the Puritans placed on this means of grace can be found in this quotation from Lewis Bayly's *Practice of Piety* (1611), a handbook of sorts for daily living which was ubiquitous among English and Scottish divines and laymen:

Therefore, if thou desirest to have the blessing of God upon thyself and upon thy family, either before or thy own private devotions, call every morning all the family to some convenient room; and first either read to them thyself a chapter in the word of God, or cause it to be read distinctly by some other. If leisure serve, thou mayest admonish them of some remarkable notes; and then kneeling down with them in reverent sort, as is before described, pray with them in this manner.<sup>5</sup>

Of course the most well known resource of this period in the life of the Church was the “Directory of Family-Worship” produced by a Church of Scotland assembly meeting in Edinburgh in 1647. The directory makes clear that the responsibility to make sure this was accomplished in individual homes was to be grounded with the Minister and Ruling Elders, but ultimately and centrally with the Presbyteries and the General Assembly itself. The reasons given for family and private worship are announced in the opening lines:

Besides the publick worship in congregations, mercifully established in this land in great purity, it is expedient and necessary that secret worship of each person alone, and private worship of families, be pressed and set up; that, with national reformation, the profession and power of godliness, both personal and domestick, be advanced.

Those Churches which descended from the Scottish tradition largely continued this practice, even when established in foreign territories. In the United States, when the “Sunday School” movement began, it was the Presbyterians who expressed concerns that these Sabbath Day classes might have the unintended consequence of undermining family worship by encouraging parents to feel that the Church was taking care of the spiritual nurture of their children (a concern that seems to have come to fruition, as the subsequent increase of activities in the church has corresponded with a decrease in family worship in the home).

#### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF “THE DIRECTORY OF PRIVATE AND FAMILY WORSHIP” IN THE ARP SYNOD**

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod’s history holds several noteworthy facts with regard to a “Directory of Private and Family Worship.”

First, there is historical precedent to the document. Until 1903, the “Directory of Family Worship” was considered a substantively unchanged and unchallenged element of the Standards of the ARP Church. With hard evidence from our early annals (1817, 1832, and 1874), substantive continuity is easily established. It is worth noting that even after the unintended consequences of an 1888 memorial and 1903 approved amendment, recognition of the importance of private

and family worship has survived (though with diminishing emphasis) in each successively amended Constitution until the present.

The story of how “The Directory of Family Worship” was removed from our Standards begins with an 1888 memorial that was presented before Synod with two clauses. One clause dealt with musical instruments, while the other dealt with the discipline clause included in “The Directory of Private and Family Worship” (the document explicitly called for heads of households who did not lead their families in devotions to come under discipline). At that time, many congregations were already using instruments, and Sessions had ceased to discipline heads of households who did not lead their families in worship. The intention of the 1888 memorial, therefore, was to adjust the Standards so that they accorded with prevailing (and functionally accepted) practice.

The 1888 memorial gave rise, however, to two unintended consequences. The first was an almost decade-long battle regarding instruments in worship. The second consequence was the slow erosion, with each successively amended Constitution, of content pertaining to private and family worship. From two documents – “The Directory of Public Worship” and “The Directory of Private and Family Worship” – the Synod amended the Constitution to have only one document, “The Directory of Worship.” This merged document included a chapter with specific instructions on private and family worship. However, that remaining chapter was subsequently removed in 1970. Accordingly, “The Directory of Worship” was renamed “The Directory of Public Worship” in 2007, reflecting the true scope of its content.

Thankfully, the drafters of our amended Constitution retained some notable references to private and family worship. Though mentioned only in a few places, where private and family worship is mentioned it seems to be elevated to a level of great importance:

Finally, since this is a directory for the public worship of God’s people as they meet together corporately, *we must recognize that public worship flows most beautifully when the people of God also meet with the Lord in private, as individuals or families* (DPW Preamble, final paragraph; emphasis added).

Regular individual and family worship are *essential expressions of Christian worship* (DPW 3.5, emphasis added).



This accords with the teaching of the WCF that “God is to be worshipped everywhere in spirit and in truth; *as in private families daily, and in secret each one by himself*” (WCF 21.6, emphasis added). In this pair of significant statements from the DPW, together with the clear direction from the WCF, we find an emphasis put on private and family worship that would call for a needed seventh document in the current Constitution — “The Directory of Private and Family Worship.”

#### FAMILY WORSHIP: CULTURAL CHALLENGES

According to Harvard historian Steven Ozment, “marriage and the family were in a crisis in late medieval and Reformation Europe.” But as a result of the labors of the Reformers to recover a biblical view of domestic life, “various measures gave marriage and family life a new importance in Reformation Europe, which may be described as the heyday of the patriarchal nuclear family.”<sup>6</sup> This renewal of the family provided favorable conditions for the practices of family devotions and catechizing led by the father as one of his utmost spiritual priorities.

In the centuries since the Reformation, the process of secularization and influence of technological advance have vastly changed these conditions. In the wake of no-fault divorce laws passed in the 1970s, the nuclear family has been shattered.<sup>7</sup> Industrialization has moved economic production outside of the home. The automobile has enabled a proliferation of activities that turn parents into chauffeurs and eliminate the family dinner as a daily highpoint in the family’s life.<sup>8</sup> Television, personal computers, smartphones and tablets have contributed to a profound fragmentation of the family’s attention even when its members are gathered together.<sup>9</sup> And with its own complex and well-documented history, sports in America has become the national religion—even the public exercises of worship on the Lord’s Day are neglected by families prioritizing their child’s athletic endeavors or rooting for their favorite college or professional teams.<sup>10</sup> In short, the present conditions are unfriendly, if not aggressively adverse, to the recovery of family worship.

As for the practice of family worship itself, it has all but disappeared. Families in our congregations today have, except in rare cases, no vestigial memory or experience of it on which to draw. Moreover, parents fear that attempting family devotions will expose their own biblical illiteracy before their children.<sup>11</sup> Parents hearing the call to recover the practice of family devotions face, in and of itself, an intimidating task.

Given these realities, the provision of a document outlining the grounds and grammar of family worship is needed, but we must acknowledge that a document alone is not enough. We must also challenge the conditions that prevent the practices of family worship commended by such a document from taking root, and make every effort to teach and model biblical alternatives. Our families especially need clear exhortation from God's Word on matters of: 1) honoring the Lord's Day, 2) avoiding excessive busyness, and 3) using technology in a way that serves rather than undermines both private and family worship. Moreover, as it concerns the practice of family devotions, ministers and elders (and supporting bodies of Presbytery and Synod) must be prepared to go "above and beyond" in training, equipping and resourcing families to recover a vital practice that has been altogether lost.

#### CONCLUSION

We can only imagine what Thomas Manton, the English Puritan clergyman who served as clerk to the Westminster Assembly, would say of this present state of affairs and of the present omission of a "Directory of Private and Family Worship" from our current Standards. In his "Epistle to the Reader" (see Appendix II), which served as the preface to the second edition (1658) of the Westminster Assembly's Confession of Faith and Catechisms, Manton observes:

The devil hath a great spite at the kingdom of Christ, and he knoweth no such compendious way to crush it in the egg, as by the perversion of youth, and supplanting family-duties. He striketh at all those duties which are publick in the assemblies of the saints; but these are too well guarded by the solemn injunctions and dying charge of Jesus Christ, as that he should ever hope totally to subvert and undermine them; but at family duties he striketh with the more success, because the institution is not so solemn, and the practice not so seriously and conscientiously regarded as it should be, and the omission is not so liable to notice and public censure. Religion was first hatched in families, and there the devil seeketh to crush it . . . Now, the devil knoweth that this is a blow at the root, and a ready way to prevent the succession of Churches: if he can subvert families, other societies and communities will not long flourish and subsist with any power and vigor; for there is the stock from whence they are supplied both for the present and future.

For the sake of the future increase of the church and of the advance of the kingdom of Christ, we heartily and unanimously make the recommendation below that the Moderator appoint a committee to produce a new “Directory of Private and Family Worship” for the ARP Synod. Moreover, as a fruit of our investigations, we would humbly encourage such a committee to consider producing a document that is:

- a. designed after the general manner of the 1647 “Directory for Family Worship” in its broadly descriptive (rather than tightly prescriptive) approach and in its abundant use of Scripture and of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms,
- b. intended for inclusion in the Standards of the ARP Church,
- c. attentive to the realities and challenges facing individuals and families today,
- d. able to provide direct guidance to ministers, elders, and church members on the matter of Sabbath observance and the 21<sup>st</sup> century nature of organized sports and similarly organized recreational activities, and aided by additional specific recommendations to ensure and advance the real-life reception of the document’s guidance and exhortations (for instance, that it be published as a standalone booklet, that particular agencies of the General Synod be charged to promote its teachings, etc.)

**Recommendation:**

1. 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.” Synod **APPROVED**.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew S. Miller, Chair

**APPENDIX I: QUOTES PERTAINING TO FAMILY WORSHIP**

Regarding the inclusion of family Worship in the Westminster Confession of Faith and London Confession: “The fact that these groups inserted a statement about family worship in their confessions of faith is especially interesting. Churches usually put their commonly-held *beliefs* in their confessions of faith, and their mutually agreed-upon *activities* (such as commitments to love and pray for one another) in documents

known as church covenants. But even though family worship is an activity, these early Presbyterian and Baptists considered the *practice* so essential that they included a declaration about it in their *doctrinal* statements. - Donald Whitney, *Family Worship* (2016), 72 (endnote 6 of ch. 2)

Donald Whitney again, quoting Matthew Henry's famous statement on family worship and interacting with it: "And it was Matthew Henry who made one of the most remarkable of all statements on this subject. Regarding family worship he said, 'Here the reformation must begin.' In other words, the reformation that we long for and pray for in our churches also involves the home." - Donald Whitney, *Family Worship*, 35

"Two factors contributed to the high esteem in which Family Worship was held by the Puritans. In the first place, religion was not associated with a sacred building for them, as it was for the Church members of the Establishment... The second factor tending to promote the observance of Family Worship was the new significance given to family life by the Reformers. God's covenant, which was invariably read at Baptismal services, was 'to you and to your children' and this welded family life into solidarity in Christ. The head of the family, who had promised at the baptism of his children to supervise their Christian nurture, was in duty bound to teach his children the Scriptures, to lead and instruct them in prayer and praise." - Horton Davies, *The Worship of the English Puritans* (1997), 278

"Instead of spiritual concerns contributing to an already frantic pace of life, the family should commit itself to the time-proven, biblically-based means of spiritual nurture—public and family worship. In these settings great Psalms and hymns are sung, children are catechized, sins are confessed, and the Scriptures are read and taught. Instead of running all over town, children and parents heading out in every direction, commitments are focused upon the Lord's Day services and daily worship at home. Life is simplified!" - Terry Johnson, *The Family Worship Book: A Resource Book for Family Devotions* (2009), 13

"Very few men are such well-mannered gentlemen at home as they are in company. No man dresses for his wife and children, as all men so scrupulously dress for court and ceremonial. But some select men do. They have a queen every evening at home, and young princes and princesses at table with them. And they have their reward. And so in the matter of family prayers. Few men, ministers or others, prepare themselves for family prayers as they do for State services, and ceremonial devotions. But some men do: and they, too, have their reward.

Thomas Boston made it a rule to prepare himself for family worship, as regularly, and as honestly, as for the pulpit or the prayer-meeting. And he had his remarkable rewards, as you will see when you read his remarkable Memoirs of himself. An old college friend of mine keeps me posted up with the work of grace that always goes on in his congregation, and in his family. And, not long ago, I had a letter from him telling me that God had given him the soul of another of his children: and the best of it was that it took place at, and sprang out of, the family worship of the manse. You and I would be taken aback if any one—a child, a servant, a guest—said to us that they had ever been any the better of any family worship of ours. We do not expect it. We do not prepare for it. We do not really wish it. And we do not get it. And we never shall." -- Alexander Whyte, *Lord, Teach Us to Pray: Sermons on Prayer* (1922 [reprinted 1998]), 210

"In their Christian graces no one virtue should usurp the sphere of another, or eat out the vitals of the rest for its own support. Affection must not smother honesty, courage must not elbow weakness out of the field, modesty must not jostle energy, and patience must not slaughter resolution. So also with our duties, one must not interfere with another; public usefulness must not injure private piety; church work must not push family worship into a corner. It is ill to offer God one duty stained with the blood of another. Each thing is beautiful in its season, but not otherwise." -- C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*, July 18

"Surely we ought to gather at least once a day around the family altar. Where Abraham pitched his tent he erected the altar. A prayerless home is apt to become a worldly and unhappy one. There is no such keystone to the arch of home-life and home-love, as the habit of family worship." -- F.B. Meyer, *A Daily Homily*, #214

"How such a general neglect of family-religion first began to overspread the Christian world, is difficult to determine. As for the primitive Christians, I am positive it was not so with them: No, they had not so learned Christ, as falsely to imagine religion was to be confined solely to their assemblies for public worship; but, on the contrary, behaved with such piety and exemplary holiness in their private families, that St. Paul often styles their house a church: 'Salute such a one, says he, and the church which is in his house.' And, I believe, we must for ever despair of seeing a primitive spirit of piety revived in the world, till we are so happy as to see a revival of primitive family religion; and persons unanimously resolving with good old Joshua, in the words of the text, 'As for me and my house, we will

serve the Lord.'"-- George Whitefield, "The Great Duty of Family Religion," in *Sermons of George Whitfield* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2009), 27

"After the final collapse of the Libertine party in 1555, the peace was not seriously disturbed, and Calvin's work progressed without interruption. The authorities of the State were as zealous for the honor of the Church and the glory of Christ as the ministers of the gospel. The churches were well filled; the Word of God was preached daily; family worship was the rule; prayer and singing of Psalms never ceased; the whole city seemed to present the aspect of a community of sincere, earnest Christians who practiced what they believed." -- Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, vol. 7 (1907), 516

"To set up and keep up family worship, family religion. Let this be an agreed thing between you; that as holy, good Joshua resolved, 'I and my house will serve the Lord, whatever others do, we will serve the Lord.' As a corrupt nature comes by birth, and wickedness springs up so, so it is nourished and cherished, in great part, by the ungodliness of parents. In families where there is no calling on the name of the Lord, O how doth it thrive! That wickedness that is natural, how doth it grow and improve in an irreligious family, a profane family! So doth the wickedness of this world grow, the wickedness of England, the wickedness of London. And the misery thereof is growing *pari passu*, with an equal pace. And if dreadful calamities are coming upon us, coming upon the land, coming upon this city, we have reason to apprehend here is the very source of all the mischief, even family profaneness. God is banished out of the families of the most: and what will this come to?" --John Howe, in *The Posthumous Works of the Late Rev. John Howe*, ed. John Hunt, vol. 3 (London, 1832), 522-23

"In family prayer, Acts 10:2, 3. Never one that gives Christ heart-room, but they will be willing to give him house-room too. And there are none that walk with God themselves, but they would fain all their family walked with God too, Josh. 24:15. And there are none who have gone about it seriously, but must say, that family worship is an ordinance in which God is to be found. Prayer-less families are in a dangerous condition; they are as if the owners should uncover the roofs of them, that wrath may be showered down on them; Jer. 10 *ult.*, 'Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name.' And I think if people were walking with God in family-duties, they would not lay by the morning-exercise, as many of you do. And what is it that hinders it? What but the weary world? Ye cannot get time for it, because of your business. But are ye

not afraid of God's curse on that business that shuts out his worship? And if it should thrive, ye take the way to get leanness to your souls. It looks not like walking with God to stand off from family worship, till they have no other thing ado, and it is a graceless-like thing to offer only that time to God that costs you nothing." --Thomas Boston, *The Whole Works of Thomas Boston: A Series of Sermons and the Christian Life Delineated*, ed. Samuel M'Millan, vol. 10 (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1851), 600

"The epic flow of the covenant runs across this table this night." – An ARP Ruling Elder, addressing his family before dinner with family devotions

APPENDIX II: "EPISTLE TO THE READER" PRESENTED BY  
THOMAS MANTON (1658)

CHRISTIAN READER,

I CANNOT suppose thee to be such a stranger in England as to be ignorant of the general complaint concerning the decay of the power of godliness, and more especially of the great corruption of youth. Wherever thou goest, thou wilt hear men crying out of bad children and bad servants; whereas indeed the source of the mischief must be sought a little higher: it is bad parents and bad masters that make bad children and bad servants; and we cannot blame so much their untowardness, as our own negligence in their education.

The devil hath a great spite at the kingdom of Christ, and he knoweth no such compendious way to crush it in the egg, as by the perversion of youth, and supplanting family-duties. He striketh at all those duties which are publick in the assemblies of the saints; but these are too well guarded by the solemn injunctions and dying charge of Jesus Christ, as that he should ever hope totally to subvert and undermine them; but at family duties he striketh with the more success, because the institution is not so solemn, and the practice not so seriously and conscientiously regarded as it should be, and the omission is not so liable to notice and public censure. Religion was first hatched in families, and there the devil seeketh to crush it; the families of the Patriarchs were all the Churches God had in the world for the time; and therefore, (I suppose,) when Cain went out from Adam's family, he is said to go out from the face of the Lord, Gen. 4:16. Now, the devil knoweth that this is a blow at the root, and a ready way to prevent the succession of Churches: if he can subvert families, other societies and communities will not long flourish and subsist with any power and

vigor; for there is the stock from whence they are supplied both for the present and future.

For the present: A family is the seminary of Church and State; and if children be not well principled there, all miscarrieth: a fault in the first concoction is not mended in the second; if youth be bred ill in the family, they prove ill in Church and Commonwealth; there is the first making or marring, and the presage of their future lives to be thence taken, Prov. 20:11. By family discipline, officers are trained up for the Church, 1 Tim. 3:4, *One that ruleth well his own house*, etc.; and there are men bred up in subjection and obedience. It is noted, Acts 21:5, that the disciples brought Paul on his way with their wives and children; their children probably are mentioned, to intimate, that their parents would, by their own example and affectionate farewell to Paul, breed them up in a way of reverence and respect to the pastors of the Church.

For the future: It is comfortable, certainly, to see a thriving nursery of young plants, and to have hopes that God shall have a people to serve him when we are dead and gone: the people of God comforted themselves in that, Ps. 102:28, *The Children of thy servants shall continue*, etc.

Upon all these considerations, how careful should ministers and parents be to train up young ones whilst they are yet pliable, and, like wax, capable of any form and impression, in the knowledge and fear of God; and betimes to instill the principles of our most holy faith, as they are drawn into a short sum in Catechisms, and so altogether laid in the view of conscience! Surely these seeds of truth planted in the field of memory, if they work nothing else, will at least be a great check and bridle to them, and, as the casting in of cold water doth stay the boiling of the pot, somewhat allay the fervours of youthful lusts and passions.

I had, upon entreaty, resolved to recommend to thee with the greatest earnestness the work of catechising, and, as a meet help, the usefulness of this book, as thus printed with the Scriptures at large: but meeting with a private letter of a very learned and godly divine, wherein that work is excellently done to my hand, I shall make bold to transcribe a part of it, and offer it to publick view.

The author having bewailed the great distractions, corruptions, and divisions that are in the Church, he thus represents the cause and cure: Among others, a principal cause of these mischiefs is the great and common neglect of the governors of families, in the discharge of that duty which they owe to God for the souls that are under their



charge, especially in teaching them the doctrine of Christianity. Families are societies that must be sanctified to God as well as Churches; and the governors of them have as truly a charge of the souls that are therein, as pastors have of the Churches. But, alas, how little is this considered or regarded! But while negligent ministers are (deservedly) cast out of their places, the negligent masters of families take themselves to be almost blameless. They offer their children to God in baptism, and there they promise to teach them the doctrine of the gospel, and bring them up in the nurture of the Lord; but they easily promise, and easily break it; and educate their children for the world and the flesh, although they have renounced these, and dedicated them to God. This covenant-breaking with God, and betraying the souls of their children to the devil, must lie heavy on them here or hereafter. They beget children, and keep families, merely for the world and the flesh: but little consider what a charge is committed to them, and what it is to bring up a child for God, and govern a family as a sanctified society.

O how sweetly and successfully would the work of God go on, if we would but all join together in our several places to promote it! Men need not then run without sending to be preachers; but they might find that part of the work that belongeth to them to be enough for them, and to be the best that they can be employed in. Especially women should be careful of this duty; because as they are most about their children, and have early and frequent opportunities to instruct them, so this is the principal service they can do to God in this world, being restrained from more publick work. And doubtless many an excellent magistrate hath been sent into the Commonwealth, and many an excellent pastor into the Church, and many a precious saint to heaven, through the happy preparations of a holy education, perhaps by a woman that thought herself useless and unserviceable to the Church. Would parents but begin betimes, and labour to affect the hearts of their children with the great matters of everlasting life, and to acquaint them with the substance of the doctrine of Christ, and, when they find in them the knowledge and love of Christ, would bring them then to the pastors of the Church to be tried, confirmed, and admitted to the further privileges of the Church, what happy, well-ordered Churches might we have! Then one pastor need not be put to do the work of two or three hundred or thousand governors of families, even to teach their children those principles which they should have taught them long before; nor should we be put to preach to so many miserable ignorant souls, that be not prepared by education to understand

us; nor should we have need to shut out so many from holy communion upon the account of ignorance, that yet have not the grace to feel it and lament it, nor the wit and patience to wait in a learning state, till they are ready to be fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. But now they come to us with aged self-conceitedness, being past children, and yet worse than children still; having the ignorance of children, but being overgrown the teachableness of children; and think themselves wise, yea, wise enough to quarrel with the wisest of their teachers, because they have lived long enough to have been wise, and the evidence of their knowledge is their aged ignorance; and they are readier to flee in our faces for Church privileges, than to learn of us, and obey our instructions, till they are prepared for them, that they may do them good; like snappish curs, that will snap us by the fingers for their meat, and snatch it out of our hands; and not like children, that stay till we give it them. Parents have so used them to be unruly, that ministers have to deal but with too few but the unruly. And it is for want of this laying the foundation well at first, that professors themselves are so ignorant as most are, and that so many, especially of the younger sort, do swallow down almost any error that is offered them, and follow any sect of dividers that will entice them, so it be but done with earnestness and plausibility. For, alas! though by the grace of God their hearts may be changed in an hour, (whenever they understand but the essentials of the faith,) yet their understandings must have time and diligence to furnish them with such knowledge as must stablish them, and fortify them against deceits. Upon these, and many the like considerations, we should entreat all Christian families to take more pains in this necessary work, and to get better acquainted with the substance of Christianity. And, to that end, (taking along some moving treatises to awake the heart,) I know not what work should be fitter for their use, than that compiled by the Assembly at Westminster; a Synod of as godly, judicious divines, (notwithstanding all the bitter words which they have received from discontented and self-conceited men,) I verily think, as ever England saw. Though they had the unhappiness to be employed in calamitous times, when the noise of wars did stop men's ears, and the licentiousness of wars did set every wanton tongue and pen at liberty to reproach them, and the prosecution and event of those wars did exasperate partial discontented men to dishonour themselves by seeking to dishonour them; I dare say, if in the days of old, when councils were in power and account, they had had but such a council of bishops, as this of presbyters was, the fame of it for learning and holiness, and all

ministerial abilities, would, with very great honour, have been transmitted to posterity.

I do therefore desire, that all masters of families would first study well this work themselves, and then teach it their children and servants, according to their several capacities. And, if they once understand these grounds of religion, they will be able to read other books more understandingly, and hear sermons more profitably, and confer more judiciously, and hold fast the doctrine of Christ more firmly, than ever you are like to do by any other course. First, let them read and learn the Shorter Catechism, and next the Larger, and lastly, read the Confession of Faith.

Thus far he, whose name I shall conceal, (though the excellency of the matter, and present style, will easily discover him,) because I have published it without his privity and consent, though, I hope, not against his liking and approbation. I shall add no more, but that I am, Thy servant, in the Lord's work,

Thy servant, in the Lord's work,

THOMAS MANTON

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin M. Palmer, *The Family in Its Civil and Churchly Aspects* (Richmond: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1876).

<sup>2</sup> The full title is "The Directory for Family-Worship, Approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for Piety and Uniformity in Secret and Private Worship, and Mutual Edification" (1647). It may be accessed here: [http://www.reformed.org/documents/wcf\\_standards/index.html?mainframe=/documents/wcf\\_standards/p009-manton\\_to\\_the\\_reader.html](http://www.reformed.org/documents/wcf_standards/index.html?mainframe=/documents/wcf_standards/p009-manton_to_the_reader.html)

<sup>3</sup> Tertullian, *Ad Uxorum*, I.II.c.8, translated by Philip Schaff, *Christian Church*, 2:364-65.

<sup>4</sup> See Roberts and Donaldson, *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 2, 406.

<sup>5</sup> Lewis Bayly, *The Practice of Piety* (1714 edition), 195.

<sup>6</sup> Steven Ozment, *When Fathers Ruled: Family Life in Reformation Europe* (Harvard University Press, 1985), 1-2.

<sup>7</sup> Congregations pursuing the recovery of family worship need to be especially careful that they not make single parents, especially single mothers, feel like "second class" members of the church.

<sup>8</sup> In 1957, Harvard sociologist Pitirim Sorokin lamented what he foresaw for the American family. His predictions have proved remarkably accurate: "The family as a sacred union of husband and wife, of parents and children will continue to disintegrate. Divorces and separations will increase until any profound difference between socially sanctioned marriages and illicit sex-relationship disappears. Children will be separated earlier and earlier from parents. The main sociocultural functions of the family will further decrease until the family becomes a mere incidental cohabitation of male and female while the home will be a mere overnight parking place mainly for sex-relationship." Pitirim Sorokin, *Social and Cultural Dynamics: A Study of Change in Major Systems of Art, Truth, Ethics, Law and Social Relationships* (Boston: Extending Horizon Books, 1957), 700.

<sup>9</sup> See Andy Crouch, *The Tech-Wise Family* (Baker Books, 2017), and Tony Reinke, *12 Ways Your Smartphone is Changing You* (Crossway, 2017).

<sup>10</sup> William J. Baker (*Playing with God: Religion and Modern Sport* (Harvard University Press, 2007). Baker notes how the confluence of continental European immigration, industrialization, and World War I eroded the traditional Sabbath, into which rushed an expansion of professional and organized sports. In his *The Practice of Piety* (1611, mentioned earlier in this report), Lewis Bayly warns that “lawful sports...do more (to) steal away our affections from the contemplation of heavenly things (Isa 59:13-14) than any bodily work of labour” (1842 edition, p. 118). One thinks also of the quip by the French atheist philosopher, Voltaire, “If you want to abolish Christianity you must first abolish their Sabbath.”

<sup>11</sup> On the causes and degree of biblical illiteracy in America, see Boston University religion professor Stephen Prothero, *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—And Doesn't* (HarperCollins, 2007).

The report of the **Special Committee to Study Domain Names** was presented and its recommendations **ADOPTED**.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DOMAIN NAMES

At the 2017 meeting of General Synod, the following motion was passed: *That the Moderator appoint a special committee to study the matter of domain names, the committee to include Tony Locke and Sal Macaluso, and that Roger Wiles be advisor to the committee. The committee may report to the Executive Board its findings, conclusions, and motions. If the Executive Board determines that the matter is of an emergency nature, it may act to adopt the motions. If not, the committee will report to General Synod 2018.*

The Moderator of Synod appointed the following as members of the committee: James (Skip) Goldsmith, Mark James, Tony Locke, Sal Macaluso, Tim Phillips, Ken Turner, and Robert White. In addition, the following individuals served as advisory members to the committee: Leland Beaudrot, Phillip Malphrus, Anthony Navarro, Lee Shelnutt, and Roger Wiles.

The following were elected to serve as officers for the committee:

Tim Phillips	Chairman
Sal Macaluso	Vice-Chairman
Anthony Navarro	Secretary

The committee met four times via conference call (Sept 11, 2017; Oct 17, 2017; Dec 3, 2017; Jan 8, 2018). At the initial meeting of the committee, it was agreed upon by the members of the committee that the

matters were not of an emergency nature and did not need to be reported to the Executive Board of Synod.

A great deal of discussion by the committee centered around whether there was a need to “protect” the ARP Church name and the various legal options that would make this possible. The committee agreed that there was much wisdom in registering certain trademarks in order to protect the name of the ARP Church. While the name “ARP” cannot realistically (or likely legally) be trademarked due to the preponderance of “ARP” in other copyrighted names, the full name (“Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church”), simpler versions of the full name (e.g., “Associated Reformed”), and the ARPC logo could be trademarked. The cost to trademark each name (or logo) would be \$225, with only about a half dozen trademarkings being needed. It should cost less than \$1500 to take this course of action.

The committee discussed the possibility of having compliance standards (i.e., a “code of conduct”) that could be utilized by churches in order to protect the ARP name, deal with issues of hijacking domain names or dealing with issues of conduct that might arise (such issues could include slander, profiteering, cyber-squabbling, etc.). The committee acknowledged that churches already have a mechanism to help when they lose access to their domain when it is under the control of a church member - church discipline - that can address situations when a church member, officer, or even pastor, causes issues with their website or with social media outlets (in particular, the vow as to keeping the peace and purity of the church). The issue is that churches or courts are often unwilling to discipline, which is outside of the scope or control of the committee.

The committee also discussed whether to recommend that Central Services manage all domains centrally. This was not deemed feasible for several reasons:

- When having to update, renew, or register domain names, an individual at Central Services would be responsible for doing so as a central registrar. With 300+ churches in the ARP, this would add an additional burden for Central Services to manage renewals and cancellations each month. As churches are created, closed, and undergo name changes, it would be a great communications and logistics burden.
- Updating contact information for each domain (owner, registrant, technical contact, billing contact, etc.) would need to also be maintained by the individual at Central Services. This information can change annually and needs to be reviewed and confirmed annual

per ICANN [The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers] standards - a burden of answering several emails per year per domain.

- Unless Synod will be paying for all domains for ARP Churches, chargebacks to individual churches would have to be implemented, adding an additional administrative burden in processing annual payments for domains.
- Adds, moves, and changes to domain properties (i.e. website pointing, email address pointing, adds/moves/changes of emails, etc., subscriptions to web services like Google Mail for Business, etc.) would not only add an administrative burden, but a technical burden as well to Central Services, as someone would need to be available at the times that website launches, etc., occur per webmaster scheduling.
- Presbyteries have oversight of our churches, not Central Services. Granting Central Services this centralized power would not be "good form" per our ecclesiology.

The committee decided that including a document of suggested website guidelines could be helpful to our churches and presbyteries. Past scenarios which have presented problems in this area (problems that could be avoided) include:

- The death of a church webmaster whereby when the domain expired, no one received the emails except the decedent, and the church website and email went down for almost a month while death certificates, drivers licenses, church incorporation documents, session minutes, etc., could be procured for the registrar to give the domain back to the church.
- The less-than-optimal departure of the webmaster from the church where a domain, email system, or social media site could be "hijacked", shut down, and the normal mode of business disrupted, especially as it pertains to email.

In order to prevent problems like this in the future, the committee is including suggested guidelines that can be used as a resource. These are included as an addendum to this report.

The committee wishes it be made known in this report that Central

Services is available to our churches as a resource to assist in the acquisition and management of domain names.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Synod allocate the necessary funds for Central Services to trademark the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church name, simple variations of the ARPC name, and the ARPC logo. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. That the attached “ARP Church Website Guidelines and Recommendations” be considered as a resource for churches in our denomination, and that this document be made available on the ARPC denominational website, along with a link to other resources that Central Services makes available to our churches. **Synod Approved.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Phillips, Chairman

The report of Synod’s Archivist was received as information and is printed in the Appendix.

The report of the **Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight** was presented and **ADOPTED**.

**COMMITTEE ON CAMPUS MINISTRY OVERSIGHT**

The Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight met Wednesday, September 20, 2017 and Thursday, March 15, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC.

**Officers for 2017 – 2018:**

Bob Stone	Chairman
Nathan M. Frazier	Vice Chairman
Mackay Smith	Secretary/Administrative Officer

The Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight continues to celebrate God’s work through our faithful ARP campus ministers. Our number of RUF (Reformed University Fellowship) works has grown to three, as Rev. Scott Andes is now on the ground serving at the University of South Carolina with RUF-International. RUFi ministers specifically to the countless international students who populate American universities, thus our Synod is now utilizing our agreement with RUF to spread the Gospel with a worldwide mindset.

Your committee has received yet more interest in expanding our ARP-RUF ministry to other college campuses. Thus, the Committee is working hard to smooth administrative processes and streamline the means by which other works can be established. Our recommendation to amend the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* reflects the committee's expanding responsibilities to our growing number of campuses.

As you read the reports from our Campus Ministers, pray that God will continue to bless RUF.

RUF Campus Ministry at Erskine College - Rev. Paul Patrick, Campus Minister

RUF at Erskine is grateful to God for another busy year of productive campus ministry. We welcomed two new interns in August, Mr. Josh Harper, a graduate of Samford University, and Ms. Emma Carter, a graduate of Belhaven University. They have worked to help fold Erskine freshmen into the warm and welcoming environment of ministry with RUF small groups, events, and large group Bible study.

At the Barn in the Fall of 2017, we considered a redemptive Christian worldview and our call "Fix Broken Things." Then, in the Spring of 2018 we had a series on "The Gospel: Something Worth Singing About" which considered various hymns, hymn writers, the Gospel story and theological content of each. These weekly large group gatherings and cookouts continue to be a highlight in the RUF Erskine experience.

Small group Bible studies are also provided each semester, led by the campus minister, interns and sometimes upperclassmen.

Our annual participation in the Southeastern RUF Fall Conference at Camp Greystone continues to be a blessing to our students, as does the RUF National Summer Conference at Panama City Beach.

A few highlights from outreach events beyond our weekly offering of ministry events we offered the campus this year were:

The Fall BBQ and Hymn Sing was led by Mr. Jeremy Casella of Indelible Grace and was utilized by Erskine as a visitation event for Admissions. This event is always well received and creates a welcoming environment to host youth groups and prospective Erskine students each year.

The Spring Break Widows' Ministry event with Bill May continues to be an effective way to model ministry and service with our students. Eighteen (18) students participated this year and ministered to



local widows whom they can continue to visit and serve throughout their Erskine years.

The Barn-K “for JOY!” run (or walk) from the Erskine campus to the Barn to raise money to send local Due West resident Warren Sullivan to Camp Joy continues to be an effective way for students to learn and participate in ministry and service to others. Students are then invited to remain at the Barn for a pizza dinner, large group fellowship and Bible study.

All of our ministry events and activities are purposed to reach and equip students with the Gospel. We are grateful to be able to provide and host these different avenues of ministry and community for Erskine students through our relationship with Reformed University Fellowship and we pray **for God’s continued blessings and favor on Erskine and her students in the years to come!**

RUF Campus Ministry at Queens University of Charlotte - Rev. Josh Grimm, Campus Minister

RUF at Queens University of Charlotte is thankful for a fruitful year of ministry! This school year the ministry grew in number and in developing student leadership.

The fall semester began with RUF welcoming students back to campus through multiple outreach events over the first weeks of classes, ranging from a bowling night to a barbecue dinner. We were encouraged by turnout at these events, and made great connections with freshmen and sophomore students especially. Between those new contacts and students inviting their friends, our active small group participation grew significantly. Our weekly co-ed small group Bible studies were led by the campus minister and looked at “Encounters with Jesus” from the gospels and “Rest and Busyness.” A group of students were also refreshed by going to RUF’s Fall Conference at Camp Grey-stone.

Following the encouraging gathering of students in the fall, our focus in the spring semester was on equipping our student leadership and deepening opportunities for community through student-led small groups. The campus minister led a bi-weekly ministry team of student leaders, several guys fellowship events, and four weekly co-ed small group Bible studies on a biblical view of relationships. Two upperclassmen girls led a bi-weekly girls fellowship group, and another upperclassmen girl led a girls Bible study during the month of February on finding confidence in Christ. Students remarked on how these

small groups helped them grow in a biblical view of God, themselves, and their fellowship with others. Our small groups averaged 26 students per week, an increase of 60% from spring 2017. We were also encouraged by seeing more students begin to connect with local Reformed churches, including King's Cross ARP in Charlotte.

Our spring outreach focused on students inviting their friends and in hosting several dinner conversations open to the campus led by Christians in the Queens or greater Charlotte communities. Conversation topics ranged from avoiding burnout to the gospel and race. We finished the school year by hosting our first large group fellowship (which will become a regular avenue of ministry in the fall) on April 8 (45 students in attendance) and sending another group of students to RUF Summer Conference in Panama City Beach, FL. We are thankful to see the progress of the gospel through RUF at Queens and look forward to seeing how the Lord will use this ministry to impact the lives of students next year!

RUF-International Campus Ministry at the University of South Carolina - Rev. Scott Andes, Campus Minister

It has been a great privilege this past year to be involved in launching the RUF International student ministry at the University of South Carolina within the ARP denomination. God is providing us unprecedented opportunities in world missions by bringing international students and scholars to USC from countries traditionally closed to missionary activity. This academic year, there are several thousand international students and visiting scholars at the USC campus. The majority of these individuals are graduate students pursuing either masters degrees or PhDs. Their course of study will typically last anywhere from two to five years. Because of the length of study, most come here with their wives and children. These individuals have been highly vetted by their governments and are usually among the best and brightest in their countries. Contrary to the current debate regarding the influx of immigrants, these internationals will be expected to return to their home countries at the conclusion of their studies, to fulfill positions of influence in society, whether in government, education, or business. The strategic nature of this ministry, therefore, cannot be overstated. If these international students and scholars can be reached with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ during their time at USC, and equipped in discipleship prior to their return, it is very likely the Gospel will be carried by them back to their home

countries and shared in a language and culture that is fitting and effective to those where traditional missionaries may not go.

RUFİ's purpose may be summarized by three words: welcome, explore and equip. These correspond to our avenues of ministry. First, we welcome international students, scholars and their families. At the start of the school year, we held a number of different welcome events aimed at meeting new students and making them feel welcomed and accepted. First Presbyterian Church of Columbia hosted a large welcome banquet with approximately three hundred internationals in attendance. My family hosted a backyard BBQ at our home with approximately 25 attending. In October, we joined the RUFİ ministry from Clemson for an overnight and day hike through the Appalachian Mountains. We have held movie nights followed by worldview discussions and provided almost weekly personal invitations for internationals to join us around the dinner table. During the Thanksgiving holiday, I helped place several students from Saudi Arabia, as well as a number of students from Iran and China, with Christian families who graciously opened up their homes and hearts to show biblical hospitality.

Second, RUFİ's purpose is to explore the Gospel with interested international students in a safe and non-threatening atmosphere. This past year I have been leading a Sunday school class specifically for international students. We've been studying an overview of the central message of the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, using an easy to read guide called, *The King of Glory*. There is also growing interest from a small group of Iranian students to begin meeting together for conversation on various topics of interest, one of which will be, of course, the Gospel and its application to everyday life.

Last, RUFİ's purpose is to equip believing students to become ambassadors of Christ prior to their return home. I have been meeting regularly with a Chinese PhD candidate from the Darla Moore School of Business who became a believer in Christ last semester. At the start of the second semester I met a young couple from China; the husband is a visiting scholar in the mathematics department, and his wife is an English professor and a follower of Jesus Christ. The husband is open to the Gospel but remains a member of the Chinese Communist party and admits to doubts about Jesus' identity and history. I am meeting weekly with them as a couple to read through a helpful book on the life of Jesus and its significance.

During the annual RUFİ training for new Campus Ministers, we were encouraged to focus on three main tasks for this first year of min-

istry: 1) get to know our campus and its demographic, 2) meet internationals, and 3) work toward establishing a solid financial base for the ministry. Objectives one and two are being met adequately. The third, however, has required additional work. Since our transition as World Witness missionaries in June 2017 to that of Campus Minister with RUF, we have lost the financial support of a number of ARP churches as well as individual supporters. There was some confusion on the part of churches as to our support structure. For example, some believed that we had a separate income stream through RUF, which we do not. Others were reluctant to support a non-World Witness ministry regardless of its strategic nature or benefit to the cause of world missions. Individuals who had supported us faithfully for over a decade may have gotten lost in the transition due to a change in the level of administrative support offered by the ARP Central Services office which processes monthly gifts in support of the RUF ministry at USC. And our monthly expenses (namely health insurance premiums and social security taxes) have also increased substantially. As a result of these issues, our support account ended 2017 in a deficit. I have been focusing much of my time since February to regain the support that was lost and to secure the financial stability of the ministry for the coming year.

We are, nevertheless, encouraged by the on-going deepening of relationships with the internationals to whom God has led us. We continue to be convinced of the strategic importance of this work and are eager to recruit others to join with us in it. We would greatly appreciate your prayers as we welcome those whom God has brought to USC, explore with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and equip those who have come to believe in Him to return home as ambassadors for His Kingdom.

Recommendation:

1. That the "Campus Ministry Oversight" chapter of the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be amended to reflect Appendix A. **Synod Approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Stone, Chairman

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

## APPENDIX A

### COMMITTEE ON CAMPUS MINISTRY OVERSIGHT

Membership: At Large: (6) members. Four (4) shall be ministers and two (2) shall be ruling elders. Advisory: President of Erskine College, Moderator of Synod, Moderator-Elect of Synod, Executive Director of Central Services.

Terms of Service: At Large: Five (5) years. Advisory: As determined by the office to which appointed.

Stated Meetings: One (1) in January and one (1) during the Fall Semester, and others as needed.

Organization: Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary.

Authority: The Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight shall provide ecclesiastical oversight for the campus ministers and campus ministries within the ARP that are affiliated with Reformed University Fellowship . This oversight includes the effect of any institutional changes which impact or influence a campus minister or campus ministry.

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

#### Duties:

1. To oversee and provide support to the campus ministers and ministries within the ARP that are affiliated with Reformed University Fellowship.
2. To ensure that campus ministry at Erskine conforms to the Overview of Erskine Campus Ministry approved by the General Synod.

3. To ensure that each of the campus ministries comply with the terms of the affiliation agreement with Reformed University Fellowship as approved by General Synod.
4. To serve as a Minister Search Committee when a new campus minister is needed, to bring a recommendation for a new campus minister at Erskine to the Executive Board of Synod, and to bring a recommendation for a new campus minister on a non-Erskine campus to the presbytery committee that initiated the previous campus minister's call .
5. To prepare the Terms of Call for the Erskine Campus Minister, to review the terms at least annually, and make recommendations for changes to the Executive Board of Synod. The Call and subsequent changes shall be in accordance with proper protocol of the Campus Minister's presbytery.
6. To review the Terms of Call with all other campus ministers at least annually, and make recommendations for changes to the appropriate presbytery committee. The Call and subsequent changes shall be in accordance with proper protocol of the Campus Minister's presbytery.
7. To make an annual report to the General Synod.

A video on the work of RUF was shown and prayer was offered.

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 13 and March 20, 2018. We also have communicated via email on a number of issues since the 2017 meeting of our General Synod.

##### **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** - The 2017 meeting of NAPARC was held at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, on November 14-16, 2017. Kyle Sims, Patrick Malphrus, Tim Phillips, and Billy Barron represented the ARPC at this meeting. We had private discussion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church North America (RPCNA), the Or-

thodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Heritage Reformed Church (HRC), and the Canadian Reformed Church (CRC). The next meeting of NAPARC will be held in Philadelphia, PA, on November 13-15, 2018. The NAPARC Constitution, bylaws, member churches, and minutes of the most recent meeting are available at [www.naparc.org](http://www.naparc.org).

**WRF** - The WRF is an organization that is made up of denominations, churches, and individuals from around the world. The WRF hosted an October 2017 event to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Wittenburg, Germany. More information on WRF can be found at [www.wrfnet.org](http://www.wrfnet.org).

**ICRC** - The ICRC meets every five (5) years with the last meeting being held July 12-19, 2017, in Jordan, Ontario. We sent two (2) delegates to the meeting: Heiko Burklin and Billy Barron. Our committee has two (2) recommendations coming out of this meeting. More information on ICRC can be found at [www.icrconline.com](http://www.icrconline.com).

#### **Churches in Fraternal Relations**

North American Churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARPC are the Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). It has been our practice to exchange delegates annually with the RPCNA and the OPC. Our practice is to alternate years of sending and receiving with the other North American churches. We also have fraternal fellowship with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW) and the Free Church of Scotland (FCoS). With these two bodies, we exchange delegates occasionally.

The RPCNA invited the ARPC to join them for another concurrent Synod meeting in the Summer of 2019. At our General Synod meeting in 2017, we unanimously voted to accept their invitation. The Concurrent Synod meeting will be held June 11-13 at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. Our committee is excited about this opportunity to further our relationship with what we see as one of the most similar denominations to the ARPC. Given our common history and similar size, expanding and deepening our relationship with the RPCNA makes good sense. Like our own denomination, they operate a college, a seminary, and a denominational magazine. They also have a strong record of church planting. There are many places where we can learn from and support each other in ministry. There is no desire or discussion of merger, just a desire for a closer and mutually benefi-

cial relationship. In order to facilitate this upcoming meeting, Moderator Shelnutt has appointed a special committee to work on the logistics of the 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 2018, we intend to send as fraternal delegates: Tim Phillips to the OPC and the United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA) which are meeting concurrently, Kyle Sims to the RPCNA, and Kent Moorlach to the EPC. We are sending Drew Goodman as a delegate to both the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW) and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland (EPCI). Delegates to NAPARC are still to be determined.

This year we have extended invitations as delegates to the OPC, RPCNA, and PCA. We have extended invitations as fraternal observer to the Free Reformed Church of Canada.

#### **Corresponding Synods**

The ARP Church has relationships with two ARP synods overseas: Synod of Pakistan and Synod of Mexico. The main connection between these synods and the ARPC is through World Witness which has a long history of mission work with these churches. This year, we have a delegate from the ARP Synod of Mexico with us for our meeting, Isaac Meraz.

#### **Other Relationships**

In 2010, we were tasked by the General Synod to work with World Witness to "...investigate establishing relationship with at least one national church in all countries where we have missionaries serving" (Minutes of Synod 2010, p. 366). Two years ago, we approved a formal fraternal relationship with the Free Church of Scotland (FCoS) and last year with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW). We are continuing to explore relationships with churches in other nations.

#### **Concerns**

One of the duties of the Inter-Church Relations Committee is to "evaluate present relations of our church with other church bodies and



interdenominational agencies and to make recommendations accordingly" (*Manual of Authorities and Duties*, p.82, duty #10). Your committee is seeking to address issues observed in a couple of these bodies. At present, we have no recommendations in this area. If at any time any of our members have concerns with other denominations, the proper way to address these concerns is to bring them to this committee.

**Officers for 2018 – 2019:**

Billy Barron	Chairman
Patrick Malphrus	Vice Chairman
Tim Phillips	Secretary

**Recommendations:**

1. That Synod receive fraternal delegates at the 2018 meeting from the OPC, RPCNA, PCA, and Synod of Mexico. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. That Synod authorize the following ministers to serve as fraternal delegates this summer: Tim Phillips, OPC; Kyle Sims, RPCNA; Kent Moorlach, EPC; Drew Goodman, EPCEW; and Drew Goodman, EPCI. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That Synod authorize the Committee on Inter-Church Relations to assign fraternal delegates for the meeting of NAPARC and any other fraternal situation as needed. **Synod APPROVED.**
4. That the Inter-Church Relations Committee send at least two delegates to each meeting of the International Conference of International Churches (ICRC) which meets every four (4) years. And whenever possible, at least one of the delegates be someone who has attended a meeting of the ICRC in the past. **Synod APPROVED.**
5. That the Inter-Church Relations Committee enter into conversation with delegates from any of the International Conference of International Churches (ICRC) and/or North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) churches to find ways that we might cooperate in the work of the Kingdom. **Synod APPROVED.**
6. That all other actions herein reported be sustained. **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
William L. Barron, Chairman

## COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

	<b>2018 Synod Approved</b>	<b>2019 Proposed</b>
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 7,600	\$ 7,800
<b>Expenses:</b>		
General Office Expense	\$ 50	\$ 50
Committee Travel	450	500
Synod Planning	1,000	1,000
ARP Fraternal Delegates/Representatives	4,000	4,100
Hosting Fraternal Delegates	600	650
WRF Dues	500	500
NAPARC Dues	1,000	1,000
ICRC Dues	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,600</b>	<b>\$ 7,800</b>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

The report of the **Committee on Investment** was presented and **ADOPTED**.

## COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT

The Investment Committee 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. 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 its Investment Policy Statement on an annual basis to revise as needed.

The Committee revised its 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 and Endowment-type Funds, and Charitable Remainder Trusts and 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, 2017, was approximately \$56,129,126. The value of assets invested as of December 31, 2016, was approximately \$51,725,000.

(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 the 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, 2017, endowment and endowment-type funds totaled approximately \$26,450,389. As of December 31, 2016, endowment and endowment-type funds totaled approximately \$18,813,000.

(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, 2017 of approximately \$326,174. The balance in the Gift Annuity Fund on the same date was \$140,691. The total sum of funds under the management of Cornerstone Management as of December 31, 2017, was

\$466,865. The total sum of funds under the management of Cornerstone Management as of December 31, 2016, was \$432,100.

- 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. The overall report was positive and encouraging in all aspects evidenced by a 15.23% annual return for 2017.

Cornerstone reported that individual portfolio allocations were very good, yielding a cumulative 11.54%.

- 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. Interested constituent groups are encouraged to contact the Executive Director of Central Services with questions regarding the financial services that may be available to respective churches, presbyteries, or agencies.

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

While 2017 was certainly positive for the performance of ARP investments, 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 better 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.

Officers for 2018–2019:

Matt Wylie	Chairman
Michael Noel	Vice Chairman
Chip Smith	Treasurer
Roger Wiles	Secretary/Administrative Officer

**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

COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Revenues</b>		
Denominational Ministry Alloc	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
<b>Expenses</b>		
Committee Travel & Meeting	\$ 5,300	\$ 5,300
General Office-Copy, Etc	200	200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$ -	\$ -

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

COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The Synod Committee on Minister and His Work met on April 5, 2018 at Bonclarken. John Rogers gave a report on the Presbyterian and Reformed Council on Chaplains (PRCC). Jim Carter is the new Executive Director for the PRCC. We are thankful for the excellent care that

the PRCC provides for our chaplains. The three representative to the PRCC meeting in February of 2018 were: Charles Edgar, Mike Yarman and John Rogers. Charles Edgar, Mike Yarman and Hank Wilson were nominated as delegates for the 2019 PRCC meeting. John Rogers was nominated to be the alternate.

The Minister and His Work Committee budget for 2019 was considered. The following items were considered for the 2019 budget to be submitted to the Synod for approval:

\$23,300.00	PRCC Chaplains' Due*
430.00	Room/meals (3 delegates) to the PRCC meeting in Atlanta, GA in February 2019.
600.00	Travel to the PRCC (3 delegates)
2,300.00	Committee Travel and Meeting
<u>100.00</u>	General Office
\$26,730.00	TOTAL

\*Note to Presbyteries: The total for the Chaplains' Dues for the PRCC is \$23,300.00. The dues for the 23 chaplains is \$1000.00 each (plus 3 volunteer chaplains at \$100.00 each). Synod contributes \$600.00 per chaplain and the balance of \$400.00 is the responsibility of the Presbyteries. \$400 per chaplain who is a member of the Presbytery should be included in Presbytery budgets.

The officers for Minister and His Work for the coming year are John Rogers, Chairman; and Kent Moorlach, Vice-Chairman.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the representative to the PRCC for 2019 be Charles Edgar, Mike Yarman and Hank Wilson, with John Rogers as the alternate.  
**Synod APPROVED.**
2. That the budget for 2019 for Minister and His Work be approved.  
**Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
John M. Rogers, Chairman

## COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Revenues</b>		
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 16,610	\$ 17,530
Presbytery-PRCC above \$600/minist	7,200	9,200
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ 23,810	\$ 26,730
<b>Expenses</b>		
Committee Travel & Meeting	\$ 2,110	\$ 3,430
Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Con	21,700	23,300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 23,810	\$ 26,730
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$ -	\$ -

Mike Yarman introduced the new Executive Director of PRCC, Jim Carter, to the Synod. Chaplain Carter spoke to the Synod. Prayer was offered for the chaplains and the work of the PRCC.

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

## COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

After discussions within the Theological and Social Concerns (TSC) Committee, the committee has come to the following conclusions regarding Second Presbytery's Memorial:

- 1) The memorial does not request of the TSC Committee to study and report on any particular points of concern within the memorial.
- 2) Synod has not directed the TSC Committee to study and report on any specific points within the memorial, but to conduct "further study" (2017 Minutes p. 153). This request is vague leaving the TSC Committee to decide what issues it wishes to consider as they relate to the Memorial rather than the desires of Synod.
- 3) It appears to the TSC Committee that Synod's desire is for a more thorough examination of the memorial's content and implications as

they relate to the current *Form of Government* (FOG) and not for a biblical, theological, ethical, or historical study of ecclesiastical parity, which would encompass the purview of the TSC Committee.

4) The Committee suggests that the jurisdiction for addressing the content of Second Presbytery's Memorial is not the responsibility of the TSC Committee, but rather the FOG Revision Committee since the issue relates to changes made to the ARP Form of Government.

5) Once the FOG Revision Committee has made its observations and recommendations to Synod, it may be appropriate for the TSC Committee, if requested by Synod, to add further studies of specific concerns related to Second Presbytery's Memorial if those studies would better prepare the members of Synod to vote responsibly on the Memorial.

6) The TSC will make itself available as a resource to the FOG Revision Committee while they consider Second Presbytery's Memorial if requested to do so by either Synod or the Revision Committee.

**Recommendations:**

1. The TSC Committee recommends to Synod that 2017 Second Presbytery's Memorial regarding parity among pastors and elders be referred to the Revision Committee for study and recommendations to be presented at the 2019 General Synod of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. That Synod advises the Revision Committee that the TSC Committee is willing to assist with research on specific issues if needed and requested. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That the report of the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns be received as a whole. **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Chipman, Chairman

**A motion carried**

*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.*



The report on the **Committee on Worship** was presented and **ADOPTED**.

#### COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

*Psalm 133:1: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*

It is always a privilege and joy to sing Psalm 133 at the close of our Presbytery and Synod meetings. What better way could there be to remind us all of the truth of God's promises, and what better way to foster unity in the life of our denomination than singing God's Word together?

We dwell in unity when we speak the Word of God to one another, both in public and private/family worship. We have a great heritage and privilege of dwelling in the revealed will of God. Let us sing this Word together. Your Committee on Worship has been hard-at-work behind the scenes this year. Crown & Covenant graciously blessed us with an opportunity to advance psalm singing in our church plants/missions and revitalization works. We have been and will be working with ONA in order to disseminate copies of *The ARP Psalter*. Your Committee received 120 copies for a greatly reduced cost, so the Committee desired to gift them to congregations or missions in order to encourage psalm singing.

In accordance with duties 2 and 4 in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, the Committee continues to equip local congregations for the right worship of God on the Lord's Day. To this end, we are working in conjunction with *The ARP Magazine* to help churches in public worship and to encourage families in private worship. Be on the lookout for these resources for you, your family and our churches. We would also love to receive any feedback for future resources related to private or public worship.

If you visit [www.arpchurch.org](http://www.arpchurch.org), you will find a 'Worship' section under the 'About' tab. This landing page introduces no new material. However, it provides helpful links to our *Directory*, as well as the list of *Recommended Psalters and Hymnals*. We have also collated, though not published, many good resources regarding worship and worship planning and are encouraging local Sessions to work with their Presbyteries in these endeavors. We would greatly appreciate any feedback or advice on how best to use the website or keep other resources available to the denomination.

In accordance with duty 3, the Committee continues to appoint and provide oversight to its subcommittee for the Bonclarken Music Con-

ference. The conference continues to further musical excellence and spiritual edification. Trip McGill and Lynn Grimsley consistently provide a forum for musical education, as well as ample fellowship and worship for believers. The Committee sincerely honors their service.

In accordance with duty 5, the Committee recommends (see below) that the Synod approve the prepared 2019 budget for the Worship Committee. This budget also includes our annual commitment and support of the Bonclarken Music Conference, sponsored by the denomination.

Finally, the Committee always solicits and welcomes cooperation for the accomplishing of our chief end, be it of the committee or of our individual persons: *to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*

**Recommendations:**

1. That the General Synod encourage individuals and Sessions to submit nominations of individuals qualified and willing to serve on the Worship Committee to Synod's Nominations committee. **Synod APPROVED**
2. That the General Synod encourage local Sessions to review the *Directory of Public Worship* annually and consider their own Lord's Day public worship in light of the *Directory's* teaching. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That the proposed 2019 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**

For God's Glory,  
Philip Bunch, Jr., Chairman

## COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

Acct Description	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed
Music Conference		
Revenues		
Worship Committee DM Allocation	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000
Music Conf Special Offering	1,200	1,200
Music Conf T-Shirt Sales	1,500	1,500
Music Conference Registration	68,800	63,500
Total Revenues	\$ 84,500	\$ 79,200
Expenses		
WC Program Material & Resource		
Music Conf Room & Board-See below	\$ 21,000	\$ 19,000
Music Conf Honorariums/Fees-see below	24,000	22,000
Music Conference Travel	4,500	4,000
Music Conference Supplies-see below	13,500	15,000
Music Conference Fees	20,300	18,000
MC Special Offering Expense	1,200	1,200
Total Expenses	\$ 84,500	\$ 79,200
Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

## MUSIC CONFERENCE

Acct Description	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed
Worship Committee		
Revenues		
Worship Committee DM Allocation	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Total Revenues	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Expenses		
Worship Committee Meeting Exp	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Worship Comm Travel	0	0
Worship Comm Misc Expenses	0	0
Total Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

A motion **carried:**

*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 report of **Outreach North America** was presented.

#### OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

In June 2011, our Synod Moderator, Rev. Andrew Putnam, challenged the 207<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the ARPC with a vision of growth by 20 new churches by 2020. As an update to that challenge, by God's grace and provision, it appears that we are on track to surpass that challenge! Since 2011, the ARPC has started 23 new mission congregations and we have welcomed 9 organized churches into our denomination. (Note: these numbers are gross gains. The net figures reveal an actual loss of two congregations in the ARPC: 269 in 2011 vs. 267 in 2017.) However, 32 new missions and congregations in the ARPC particularized or started within the last 7 years is a reason for celebration! But there remain more...

**Outreach North America has a strategic vision and plan to partner with presbyteries to grow our denomination by over 90 new ARP churches by 2030.**

By way of explanation, in the Fall of 2015 the Board of ONA adopted a new church planting model that would fiscally support funding 6 new church plants per year. When fully realized, this means that as presbyteries locate suitable fields and church planters, there will be 24 active church plants or explorers in the field receiving provisional elder leadership, as well as 9 presbytery and General Synod financial support at any given time. As a result, in twelve years (2030), God-willing and God-leading, we will have planted and supported at least 72 new ARP churches!

However, this projection only tabulates those "conventional" church plants that participate in the Presbytery/ONA system. We pray to the Lord of the Harvest that there here will be others that will be planted by our particular churches and presbyteries, such as the

Murray, KY (Mississippi Valley Presbytery) daughter-mission under the leadership of Rev. Mike Chipman.

In addition, as we have observed over the last 7 years, there are organized churches (outside of the ARPC) who are interested in joining our “Winsomely Reformed” denomination. And this interest is increasing! Our current projection is modest in anticipating that one church per year would align with us. Therefore, our growth projection is as follows:

- 72 new ARP church plants
- Plus 12 years of one organized church per year joining the ARPC
- Plus, each of our 9 Presbyteries adding at least one daughtered church over the next 12 years
- Net result: at least 93 ARPC churches in 12 years!

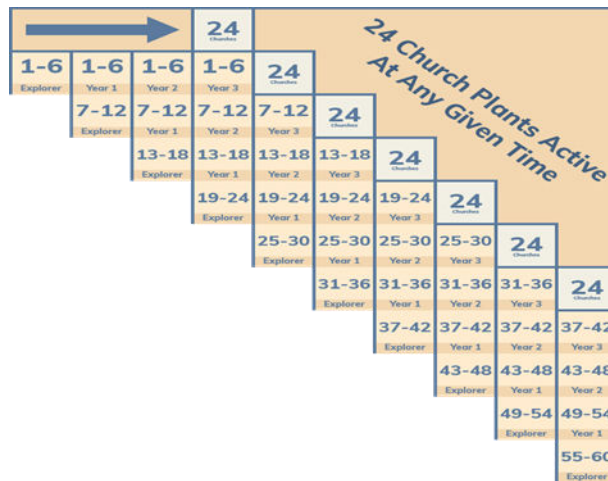
What barriers and/or opportunities can we anticipate as our denomination strategizes to reach this goal?

- Church planters- We will need gifted, called and entrepreneurial church planting families.
- Provisional Elder Leadership- We must have trained, called and equipped servant leaders ready to serve as Provisional Elders.
- Pioneering church planting team members- willing to travel to or move to the target area with the church plant in order to invest themselves in a church planting opportunity.
- We must major in producing and maintaining healthy, vitalized ARP churches and presbyteries
- We must develop and increase financial resources for the task ahead.
- We must continue to support visionary Church Extension Committees leading presbyteries that will reach cities, communities and neighborhoods both within, and outside of, their geographical bounds in order to “fish where the fish are.”

While we do not want to judge the health of our denomination through numerical growth alone, we do realize the shifting social and demographic realities of North America, as well as the net loss of ARPC members annually does not bode well for our future prosperity. By positioning ourselves to meet those realities proactively, and by making the hard choices of where to invest strategically, we have faith that we will realize the God-given opportunities to which the Lord has called us. While we do not know exactly what the future holds for the

ARPC, we do know that our Lord has a purpose for us, and “...*who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*” (Esther: 4:14b ESV).

ONA Church Planting Paradigm  
(approved by the ONA Board, Fall 2015)



**Pipeline:** At least 6 assessed, qualified and gifted church planters at any given time.

**Leadership:** up to 72 provisional elders serving one of 24 active church plants at any given time.

**Strategic Locations:** Highest strategic priority: Statistical metropolitan areas of 500,000 or more.

**Secondary locations-** under-reached areas that are near presbytery centers.

**Tertiary locations:** Areas that are particularly dear to a church planter but not deemed strategic to expansion of the ARPC.

**Finances:** \$324,000 per year. When fully realized: 24 church plants funded at some level. (This figure does not include Dare to Plant churches.)

**Dare to Plant:** Subject to restrictions: Expands funding from \$54,000 over four years to \$100,000 over three years (typically).

Outreach North America is your agency charged with encouraging church health and growth in the ARPC General Synod of North America. As such, our commission includes five macro areas of ministry-

each interdependent in progressing towards our Kingdom goals: As a Board, we want to thank you for the cooperation and support you have shown to presbyteries Church Extension committees; the ONA Board; Rev. Mike Jones, our Executive Director; the ONA staff and the church planters and churches who look to ONA for support.

To consider in more detail, the areas of responsibility entrusted to us by the General Synod, we will discuss our report using these five macro areas: New Church Development, Church Vitality, Evangelism and Multi-Cultural Ministry, National Presence, Finance and Administration.

### **New Church Development**

ONA is financially supporting 12 new church developments in 7 presbyteries. Canadian Presbytery is also supporting two mission church plants.

- **Catawba:**  
Arsenal Hill, Columbia SC, Rev. Rob Turner  
Kings Church, Irmo, SC, Rev. Matt Awtrey  
Shem Creek, Mount Pleasant, SC, Rev. Ben Carver
- **Florida:**  
Trinity Presbyterian, Norman, OK, Rev. Justin Westmoreland  
The Downtown Church, Boca Raton, FL, Rev. Brooks Pipher  
Iglesia en Movimiento, Lake Placid, FL, Rev. Tim Sewell
- **First:**  
Grace Reformed Church, Clayton, NC, Rev. Ken Kunkel  
Trinity Chapel, Weddington, NC, Dr. Michael Milton
- **Mississippi Valley**  
River City Reformed Church, Little Rock, AR, Rev. Howard Wheeler
- **Northeast:**  
Christ Presbyterian Church, Westminster/Philadelphia, PA,  
Dr. Iain Duguid
- **Second:**  
Village Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC, Rev. Jay Crout
- **Virginia:**  
Christ Central Church, Charlottesville, VA, Rev. Nathan Scholl
- **Canadian Presbytery** (with Canadian DMF funds)  
Hope Church, Toronto area, Rev. Kevin Carter  
Faith ARP Church, Tillsonburg, Rev. Steve Richardson

There are also three new church planting explorer fields currently being cultivated for new church development in 2019. They are:

Los Angeles, CA, Rev. Leon Brown (Catawba)  
Savannah GA, Rev. Soren Kornegay (Second)  
Boston MA area, Rev. Josh Kitchen (Northeast)

Pending fields of ARP new church development include Nashville, TN, (TN/AL), Baltimore, MD (NE) and Louisville, KY (MV). Your Church Extension committees and ONA staff are actively recruiting and networking pastors and students who show an interest or gifts in church planting with the hopes of creating a pipeline of potential church planters. Please continue to pray for the Spirit-led recruitment of future church planters in the ARPC!

ARPC church planters are supported by ONA through Synod-wide prayer initiatives, training, including annual retreats and financial support. Our church planters are indebted to the Synod for your investment in them.

#### **Church Vitality**

Rev. Wayne Frazier has done a terrific job of presenting to presbyteries and churches the need to engage in the dialogue of becoming a more vital church. Rev. Frazier's history of church planting and pastoring churches through vitality have uniquely positioned him to be a great resource to ARP churches. Wayne has been trained and is conversant in several current vitality strategies, including Embers to a Flame. He is available to any ARP church as a vitality coach.

The Erskine Theological Seminary DMin in Church Vitality, in cooperation with ONA, continues to challenge and equip pastors for ministry in an increasingly postmodern world.

We encourage each ARP church to take advantage of MissionInsite, an online demographic tool that ONA makes available. Connor Hipps offers personalized training in this powerful tool that "gets under the numbers" of demographics to reveal the general spiritual temperature of population "mosaics" within the geographic area of your church. The goal is to provide objective information so that each ARP church may develop a specific ministry strategy to reach their community.

#### **Evangelism and Multi-Cultural Ministries**

Evangelism *must* be a major emphasis of the ARPC as well as every Christian. This is true not only as an act of obedience to our Lord (Matt 28:18-20), but out of compassion for the lost and spiritually dead, as we all once were (Eph. 2). However, it is also an area that constant-



ly needs attention, both in our churches and in our personal lives. ONA seeks to speak into this in several ways. The September Evangelism emphasis month of devotionals was delivered to 2313 recipients each day of September. These evangelism themed daily devotionals were written by ARPC pastors and others and were well received. In March, we completed a month of daily devotionals with a multi-cultural emphasis which also included video testimony by Mansour Khajehpour, a Muslim convert and World Witness missionary candidate. These were viewed by more than 4400 people. In June, a month of daily devotionals centering on faith in action are being delivered daily. These are written by youth and youth workers from our churches and missions.

We also seek to empower and encourage personal and corporate evangelism through the Gospel Conversations seminar led by Rev. Mike Jones and available to any ARPC congregation or presbytery. Rev. Jones, in partnership with our Christian Education Ministries, presented Gospel Conversations to more than 40 ARP churches in 4 presbyteries last year. Rev. Jones is available to present the Gospel Conversations seminar to groups of ARP churches.

ONA partnered with the Arsenal Hill mission in Catawba Presbytery for the Breaking Down Walls conference on April 27-28 at Arsenal Hill mission church in Columbia, SC. This event featured presentations by Dr. Carl Ellis, a prominent African American Reformed theologian and professor at RTS, Covenant College and the City to City network. Recordings of this conference are available on the ONA website. ONA hopes to continue this important dialogue through a seminar based on "Multi Ethnic Conversations" training in 2019.

Elinor Griffin continues to inspire and inform churches and presbyteries to engage in refugee ministry in their area. Next week she is leading a team of ARPC college students and adults to an intensive refugee ministry experience in Dallas, TX.

Last September, 30 Korean ARPC pastors held an ONA sponsored retreat in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Michael Milton and World Witness Executive Director, Alex Pettett, as well as other ARPC staff encouraged the brothers in their participation in the corporate life of the ARPC. The next retreat is scheduled for September of 2018. One result of this interaction is the formation of the Korean ARPC Assistance Services for Korean Churches (ASK). This service is available to churches and presbyteries seeking assistance recruiting or assimilating Korean churches into their presbytery. The Korean ARPC pastors wish to

convey their most sincere appreciation for the support of presbyteries and the General Synod, through ONA.

ARP Connect continues to be an effective ministry to Muslims in the US and Canada. Ken Lotze and Ali Mitchell are excellent resources to the ARPC and we encourage each church and presbytery to take advantage of their perspective and expertise in “introducing Christians to Muslims and Muslims to Christ” in the USA and Canada.

We are excited to assist Catawba and Florida Presbyteries in the planting of two intentionally multi-ethnic church plants. Rev. Leon Brown is responding to the Lord’s call to return to his childhood home of Los Angeles, CA, to bring the Gospel to this inner-city area. Rev. Brown’s testimony of God’s pursuing Grace is compelling! Iglesia en Movimiento will be an ARPC mission to Hispanics in South Central FL. Under the leadership of Rev. Tim Sewell, who is bi-lingual, and partnering closely with First ARPC of Lake Placid, this “church within a church” is set to reach the Spanish speaking population with a passion for the Gospel.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, ONA hosted Dr. Lon Allison, former Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism and current teaching pastor at Wheaton Bible Church. Dr. Allison is an authority in “conversational evangelism” and presented on his “prayer, care and share” strategy. We also distributed the results of the Lifeway/Billy Graham Center for Evangelism/ONA survey that revealed the most effective strategies to grow small churches through evangelism.

#### **Finance**

Currently, the ONA finances are in good order. However, our primary income is static while our expenses are rising. We have set spending and income production goals that will allow ONA to continue our prime ministries for now. These include realizing interest accrued from our moderate and conservative investment strategies and the mortgages held by ONA. We are also being diligent and carefully budgeting of our resources. ONA funding is heavily dependent upon the Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF). While giving to the DMF has been steady for the past several years, we are seeking to build other sources of income to maintain the vital, proactive ministries of ONA into the future. For example, to fund the church planting paradigm of funding 24 churches at any given time will require at least \$324,000 per year, given current church planting support levels. 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. However, since the Denominational Ministry Fund is the primary source of funding for

the work of ONA and the ministries of our General Synod, we beseech each ARP church to engage in covenantal and consistent percentage giving to the DMF.

**National Presence**

ONA remains active in several national leadership organizations. 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) is hosted by the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton and is the North American convener of the Lausanne International Conference on Evangelism. 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 the Amplify Evangelism conference from other trainings.

Thanks in large part to the attention of our Systems Engineer, Connor Hipps, we have seen a considerable uptick in our web presence. We are optimizing and expanding 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 primarily digital mediums.

The D. James Kennedy Institute of Reformed Leadership continues to take shape under the leadership of Dr. Michael Milton. With his recent retirement from the US Army (41 years!), he is prioritizing the Institute in his schedule. He has recently completed the draft of the textbook for the 12 competencies the Institute will emphasize. Our goal is to host the first group of DJK fellows in the Spring of 2019. In addition to training newly ordained ministers for the pastoral work of ministry, the institute will also seek to train provisional Elders in the unique aspects of “leading from the second chair” that are required for effective oversight in church planting efforts.

We encourage each Presbyterian attending Synod to stay for World Focus on Thursday and Friday to enjoy the fellowship with one another and the Spirit, the worship led by Laura Story and the teaching on the future of church planting and evangelism in the western world led by Scott Thomas of the City to City Church Planting Network.

**Administration**

ONA is blessed to have a dedicated and committed staff to implement the Board’s vision and plans. At this time, the staff is well-tasked, well-apportioned and well-supported.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Synod encourage each delegate to attend the World Focus event, June 7-8, at Bonclarken. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. That Synod encourage ONA's efforts to train provisional elders in the unique role they have in new church development. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That each presbytery *be encouraged to refer* the findings of the Life way/BGCE/ONA study, "Ten Factors That Predict Small Church Growth Through Evangelism" to each of their congregations for consideration, application and encouragement. **Synod APPROVED.**
4. That General Synod endorse the strategic plan to realize, by God's grace and provision, over 90 new churches by 2030. **Synod APPROVED.**
5. That churches and groups of churches collaborate to host a Gospel Conversations Evangelism seminar in their area. **Synod APPROVED.**
6. That Synod encourage churches and presbyteries to use the Korean ARPC ASK council when needed. **Synod APPROVED.**
7. That presbyteries *encourage* churches to utilize the MissionInsite tool and ONA training as a source of important and accurate information about their community so that they may develop a strategic ministry plan to reach their communities for Christ. **Synod APPROVED.**
8. That Synod thank the ARPC Women's Ministry for their ongoing and fervent support. **Synod APPROVED.**
9. That Synod encourage churches to include home missions as part of their total mission' responsibility and program and to look for ways to include Outreach North America and the ARPC missions and developers in their budgets. **Synod APPROVED.**
10. That Synod encourage each ARP church to take advantage of church renewal training, congregational encouragement and coaching offered by Rev. Wayne Frazier. **Synod APPROVED.**
11. That pastors and sessions of plateaued churches seriously consider taking advantage of the training and education offered by ONA and ETS through the DMIN or Certificate program in Church Vitality. **Synod APPROVED.**
12. That the proposed 2019 ONA budget be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**
13. That Synod strongly encourage ongoing support of Denominational Ministry Fund giving of 10 percent of the general fund from each church and mission of the ARPC General Synod. **Synod APPROVED.**

14. That churches and presbyteries *be encouraged to* set aside time to specifically pray for congregational and personal evangelistic fervor, church planter recruitment and intentional church vitality within the ARPC. (With special prayer emphasis coinciding with the monthly devotionals; March-Multi Cultural ministry, June-Faith in Action and September-Evangelism.) **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Sattlem, Chairman

#### OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
Revenues		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 566,296	\$ 569,910
Contributions for Ministry	352,860	380,130
Invested Fund Transfers for Operations	22,099	23,026
Total Revenues for Operations	\$ 941,255	\$ 973,066
Expenses		
<u>New Church Development (NCD)</u>		
Total Explorers Supplement Expenses	108,000	103,500
Total Church Plant Supplements	275,415	157,083
Total NCD Support Expense	72,000	105,274
Total New Church Development (NCD)	455,415	365,857
Total Evangelism/Multi-Cultural Exp	60,100	66,100
Total Church Vitality	78,020	89,715
Total National Presence	19,000	34,000
<u>Administration Expenses</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>3%</u>
Total Payroll & Benefits	281,894	307,284
Total Adm. Support Exp (includes Board)	82,024	115,397
Total Administration Expenses	363,918	422,681
Total Expenses	\$ 976,453	\$ 978,353
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (35,198)	\$ (5,287)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 186,402	\$ 103,010
Ending Operating Fund Balance	\$ 151,204	\$ 97,723

The **Moderator's Committee on Outreach North America** recommended that Synod adopt all 14 of ONA's recommendations. The Moderator's Committee also made an additional recommendation:

15. That the Board and staff of ONA be commended for their diligent work.

**A motion carried:**

*That recommendations #3, 7 and 14 of the Moderator's Committee Report on ONA be amended as follows:*

*3. add "presbyteries be encouraged to refer"*

*7. add "that presbyteries encourage churches"*

*14. add "presbyteries be encouraged"*

**A motion carried:**

*That Synod grant Catawba Presbytery permission to develop a mission in Los Angeles, CA, with Rev. Leon Brown.*

**A motion 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.*

**A motion carried:**

*That the ONA director's remarks be included in the Minutes of Synod.*

Mr. Moderator, Fathers, Brothers and Guests-

*There are those that say that denominations and churches are a thing of the past. Headlines like "The American Church is Dying" grab our attention. Granted, the religious Nones- those that claim no religious affiliation, are the fastest growing segment of western culture, but, as Mark Twain once said,*

*"the rumors of my death are greatly exaggerated!" Things are not as good as they could be, yet they are not as bad as some have said.*

*Our Moderator has given us the theme from 1 Cor. 16:13 which includes the admonition to "be watchful...." As such, are we aware of what's going on in our culture and our church, the great opportunities the Lord has given us? For example, while there are lots of mega churches, and many of them are doing exciting ministry, studies show that 46% of church goers in North America are involved in small churches- those under 100 members. As our retired Moderator has encouraged us- "Don't despise the day of small things."*

*A recent Billy Graham Center for Evangelism and ONA study also showed that the number one way in which small churches grow is through the personal evangelism engagement of the pastor and leaders- leaders leading others to a first time personal commitment to Jesus Christ.*

*Again, if we were to believe the media, we would think that we people want us to keep our faith to ourselves- no one is interested in what we believe. However, a recent study by Lifeway Research found that 80 percent of "nones" are willing to talk about faith if we have a relationship with them and are willing bring it up. One ARPC pastor recently said "we don't need to pray for opportunities (Col. 4:5), those are all around us- we need to pray for boldness! (Acts 4:29!)" We need to realize that we have what Roman's 10:15 describes as "beautiful feet!" and we live in spiritually exciting times! Many are wide open to the great news of Jesus Christ and have had no experience with the Gospel- but we must also recognize that we have rapidly moved from an Acts 2 world in which there was more common knowledge of the Biblical narrative to an Acts 17 world to which we stand and say- Men of Athens, I see that you are religious! A lot of folks today are truly ignorant of the Good News- they simply don't know. But studies, and I hope your own experiences of sharing your faith, show that many are open to faith conversations. To that end, ONA offers a seminar called "Gospel Conversations" in which we expose your church members to effective evangelism strategies and encourage personal evangelism.*

*And, "they" would tell us that the church in North America, and especially in the USA is dying, that our best years are behind us. Wrong again! Studies show that since 1970, there has been a slow, but steady uptick in overall church involvement, at least until 2014. Not quite what we wish, but at least it is in the right direction!*

*The point- the Lord is still pleased to grow His church in North America! On this rock He IS Building His church! (Mt 16:18)*

*So, what about the ARPC? Since the 70's, we too have seen a slow but steady increase in our congregational totals.*

*In 1970- Richard Nixon was in the white house, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was song of the year, The movie M\*A\*S\*H came out, and there were 146 ARPC churches in North America.*

*1980-The song of the year was Kenny Rogers' "Lady," Post-It notes were introduced, and there were 159 congregations in the General Synod of the ARPC, an increase of 13 churches in ten years.*

*1990- The internet was introduced, and there were 190 North American ARP congregations.*

*2000- The year of the Y2K scare, hanging chads and the General Synod of the ARP church consisted of 255 congregations, an increase of 65 congregations in ten years.*

*2010-The General Synod of the ARP Church had 295 congregations, up 40 congregations in ten years.*

*2016... The General Synod of the ARP church had 267 congregations, a decrease fueled in part by the dismissal of the Pacific Presbytery*

*So, what's next for the ARPC? We could remain growing incrementally, or we could intentionally and strategically set out to impact over 90 communities with new ARP churches over the next 12 years. This would be a 35 percent increase in the current number of ARP churches.*

*Outreach North America has a strategic vision and plan to partner with presbyteries to grow our denomination by over 90 new ARP churches by 2030.*

*The formula is:*

- *72 new ARP church plants (6 new ARP churches per year for 12 years)*
- *Plus 12 years of one organized church per year joining the ARPC*
- *Plus, each of our 9 presbyteries adding at least one non-Presbytery/ONA funded church plant over the next 12 years (like Murray KY under the leadership of Rev. Mike Chipman.*
- *Net result: at least 93 ARPC churches by 2030!*

*While this may sound like an ambitious goal, in reality it is not. If anything, it is modest. Ask any of our church planters or others who have come into the ARPC and they will tell you, the ARPC is the best kept secret in the country! Our solid theology, long history, deep passion for the written word as inerrant, vision for the future and deep concern for one another as family is rare and exceedingly precious. These are what makes the ARPC "winsomely Reformed."*

*As we raise our profile through networking and effective recruitment, and as the desire for faithful Reformed fellowship grows, we will be in position to*



continue to recruit gifted church planters, receive unaffiliated Reformed congregations and vitalize current churches.

What will it take to reach this reachable goal? Gary McIntosh's book, *"Staff Your Church for Growth"* states that you must "prepare for the vision you cast" As such, ONA and your Church Extension Committees are seeking to prepare for the future of the ARPC as we move towards this goal. Specifically, we would ask your prayer and support as we:

- **PRAY!** Ask the blessing and provision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ- led by His Spirit and granted by our Heavenly Father! Matthew 9:37-38 says "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

We would ask that you join together as ARPC congregations to pray specifically, and at least monthly, as a church, for our denomination to grow as the Lord would see fit through church planting and receiving new churches. We ask the Lord of the Harvest to send the fruit of the harvest to us and that we would be good and faithful shepherds, evangelists and teachers. The foundation is prayer, Psalm 127:1 reminds us that "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

- We will also need to recruit gifted, called and entrepreneurial church planters to join the 16 families currently planting or exploring in 8 of our nine presbyteries.

I am overwhelmed when I think of the quality, giftedness, passion for the lost and the great pastors that the Lord has led to plant in the ARPC. They are reaching areas and cities that have never had an ARPC congregation to call home, and most of those reached are new believers! As Ed Stetzer has said, "you evangelize a church into existence, and then you teach the newly evangelized!" These families have taken that challenge to evangelize, gather, envision and grow a church in areas as diverse as Little Rock, AR; South Florida; Charlottesville, VA; Toronto, Canada and Norman, OK. Through the work of our presbyteries, we are going further north and further west in the USA in our expansion of church planting. Northeast Presbytery is planting a new congregation just north of Boston, MA, and Catawba Presbytery will be planting in Los Angeles, CA. God is gracious!

While time does not permit us to deeply consider each of these wonderful works of the Lord, I want to encourage you to meet these gifted and committed church planters and come by the ONA booth at World Focus to sit and hear from them their stories and their passion for reaching their communities and to pray with them for this mission work for the Kingdom. There is an update from each in the handout that we provided to go along with this report.

ONA has been blessed to gather our Korean ARP brothers on retreat over the last few years and we have seen a dramatic increase in that fellowship.

*One of the outcomes is a new service being offered by ONA to churches or presbyteries who would like to include Korean ARP churches, but feel dismayed at the linguistic challenges. The Assistance Services for Korean Pastors and Churches, or ASK, is a group of Korean pastors who are willing to serve as translators and advisors. Please see me at the ONA booth or at World Focus for more details.*

*Church planting, multicultural ministry and evangelism are key to growing the ARPC now and into the future. Prayer is critical to success. Each month ONA sends a prayer letter to each ARP church and about 2500 individuals. I would ask that you remember these ministries, our church planters and their families in corporate and individual prayers as they are truly daughter churches of each ARP Church!*

*I would also challenge each of you and your churches to identify potential church planters so that the pipeline of at least 6 gifted, assessed and available planters per year will always be full. As you pray over and identify these folks, please let your presbytery's Church Extension Committee or ONA know.*

*To faithfully fulfill this vision, we will also need,*

- *Provisional Elder Leadership- We must have trained, called and equipped servant leaders ready to serve as provisional elders.*

*We cannot overstate the strategic importance of these men as they serve church plants and encourage our church planting families. Many of these men serve not only the church plant but their home church as well. We recognize that these roles, though similar, are also unique. To that end, the D. James Kennedy Institute of Reformed Leadership will offer a track to train not only newly ordained pastors in pastoral ministry, but also provisional elders in 12 areas that are unique to church planting. In partnership with Dr. Michael Milton, as well as others, we hope to prepare men to serve in this vital role to ensure the success and longevity of our church plants as well as care for our church planting families.*

*To reach our vision of over 90 churches in the ARPC over the next 12 years, we will need to expand our models of church planting to include colonies. Therefore, we will need:*

- *Pioneering church planting team members- willing to travel to or move to the target area with the church plant to invest themselves in a church planting opportunity.*

*All too often we will "lose" a gifted and committed family to a professional move out of the area. Or, our graduates will accept a job in a new city, and most of the time, there is little thought given to the potential pioneering opportunity to plant a new church. We encourage each church to champion the home missions spirit that led my grandmother from the "comforts" of Centen-*

nial church in Columbia to the mission field of North Carolina in the early 1900s. She was a college trained teacher and instead of taking a job just anywhere, she moved to help the Sandy Plains church in Tryon, NC, by teaching in the Sandy Plains-sponsored Hillcrest school for underprivileged children. That same pioneering spirit is a strategy that is still valid today. As students and others transfer for jobs, family or other reasons, prayerfully, those moves can become opportunities to plant and support other ARP Churches.

But while planting new churches is vital to the ongoing vision of the ARPC, our existing churches are also crucial.

- We must focus on producing and maintaining healthy, vitalized ARP churches and presbyteries

ONA is committed to seeing every ARP church retain or regain vitality. God has called each church to be unique and to reach their community for Christ. We are here to help you with that in a variety of ways, both through our partnership with Erskine Theological Seminary to offer the DMin in church vitality, and to provide to your pastor and church personal coaching in church vitality.

Rev. Wayne Frazier, a pastor who has served as our moderator, a church planter, pastor and led a church through the revisioning/revitalizing process is working with ONA to coach others in the process. He is well versed and qualified in a variety of strategies: "Embers to a Flame," "Vision Framing," organic outreach and others. Wayne is a blessing to all of us and is available at World Focus or anytime to talk to you about the vitality of your church. He won't have all the answers, but like a good coach, he will ask you the kinds of questions that will lead you to find the answers. Regardless of where you would place your church on the "incline, recline, decline" continuum, I want to encourage you to speak to Wayne to see how he might coach you and your leadership to "maximum vitality!" As you do, not only do you honor Christ in your community, you ensure the future of the ARPC's presence in that community and in seeing the Kingdom come on earth, even as it is in Heaven.

What else will we need to reach our goal of more than 90 new ARP church in the next 12 years?

- We must develop and increase financial resources for the task ahead.

By God's grace and provision, and through the wisdom and foresight of former boards of ONA and executive directors, Dr Jim Corbitt and Dr. Alan Avera, the assets of ONA are being leveraged to produce as much income as possible. We are also actively seeking new revenue streams. We have been blessed with several visionary individuals and churches that have given directly to the vision of ONA. Individual churches and presbyteries in the ARPC are incredibly generous in financially supporting the ministry of new

*church development within their presbyteries. For that we are humbled and extremely grateful. However, reaching our national goals will be expensive. Simply funding the church planting paradigm requires most of the Denominational Ministry Support that we receive. While we are extremely grateful for this amazing and ongoing support, and are deeply indebted to each church who gives, to fulfill Synod's mandate for ONA, we respectfully challenge each ARP church to become percentage givers and to give generously to the DMF. In fact, if your church is a part of this denomination but is not supporting the DMF, we would ask that you prayerfully examine why you are not generously supporting our corporate ARPC ministries? The DMF is evidence of the connectionalism and shared ministry that has marked the ARPC for more than 200 years.*

*We live in a North America that is rapidly changing. New housing, gentrification, multigenerational families under one roof- it's tough to keep up with the neighbors! We must seize upon every ministry opportunity that the Lord is providing. To that end, we encourage each church and church plant to take advantage of the MissionInsite program that ONA and your presbytery offers. MissionInsight allows you to not only identify the numbers of people in your community, but it "gets beneath the numbers" to reveal the carnal motivations, period of life (retirement, empty nesters, young children, etc.) in which they are and even how they prefer to be contacted (direct mail? Facebook/social media?) MissionInsite will give you that information as well as many other dynamics that a simple address list will not. This service is offered free of charge to any US ARPC congregation through ONA and your presbytery. If you would like to know more about MissionInsite, please come by the ONA booth while you are at Synod or World Focus, or contact Connor Hipps at the ONA office.*

*God has given each ARP church an historic opportunity to impact their community for Christ. Not only those who have been in that community for years, but also those that often are most foreign to our towns and cities- the refugees who have been resettled in our area by the US Govt. This is a Gospel opportunity to show the love of Christ to these lost and least. As Franklin Graham recently posted "These people are not just numbers or Syrians or refugees, they have names and stories. They used to have homes, they used to have lives. Now they're just called migrants and refugees." We also have a Biblical mandate to love the foreigner and a cultural mandate to "do something about it." There are many in our culture, especially millennials and Gen Z, who will gladly join our cause before they will join our community or embrace our faith. We have many stories of church plants and churches who have engaged in this incarnational ministry to these who are most vulnerable that has opened the door to Nones in a way that less missional opportunities have not. When we offer them a cause that they are passionate about while*

*fulfilling Christ's call, we are, like the early Christians in the days of Decius (the Roman emperor during the plague in Rome), running towards an opportunity to minister to those in need. If you would like to know more about how your church can engage and impact refugees in your area, please see Elinor Griffin at the ONA booth or reach her at the ONA offices.*

*There are many other ministries of ONA that I have not mentioned specifically in this overview but are detailed in the ONA report in your packet. If you have questions or would like more information, or to meet some of your church planters, please stop by the ONA table or the booth at World Focus.*

*The Board and staff of ONA are indebted to the partnership and support of our visionary Church Extension Committees who are working with presbyteries to reach cities, communities and neighborhoods both within and outside of their geographical bounds. Together, we are committed to helping you reach your communities for Christ and to grow the ARPC as the Lord leads and provides.*

*As we approach our vision for 2030 as well as our the on-going ministries of the ARPC through ONA, we rely on the fact that we serve the Ephesians 3:20-21 God! The One "who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us. To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

Mike Jones  
ONA Executive Director

The order of the day prevailed. Synod recessed for lunch with a blessing and closing prayer by Peter Waid.

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, AFTERNOON SESSION**

The afternoon devotional was led by John Paul Marr.

Bill Barron introduced the Fraternal Delegate, Peter Van Doodewaard, who brought greetings from the OPC and reported to the Synod on the status and work of the OPC.

Prayer was offered for the OPC and the PCA denominations.

A motion **carried:**

*That all in attendance be requested to take three minutes to complete the ARPConnect questionnaire that has been distributed, if they have not done so already.*

A motion **carried:**

*That the Moderator form a committee to review the income and expenses of each Board and Committee in light of where the denominational ministry fund was used and report their recommendations at Synod 2019.*

The report the **William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.** was presented.

**WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.**

Officers for 2018 – 2019:

Bill Everett - Chairman

Calvin Draffin - 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 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> 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 fall 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 2018 – 2019, 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)	\$10,000
Hope for the Fatherless (Ethiopia)	\$ 8,000
Reach the Children of Rwanda International (Kigali – Rwanda)	\$12,500

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 four 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 \$13,977. 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.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Synod give thanks to God for his provision of resources for Dunlap Orphanage and its long history of service to orphans, and



that prayer be offered for children in need of Christian love and assistance. **Synod APPROVED.**

2. That sessions make their congregations aware of the services and assistance offered to children by the William H. Dunlap orphanage, and to encourage members to contribute to Dunlap. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That sessions make their congregations aware of the Dunlap Adoption Assistance Fund and the opportunity to give to this fund to assist in adoptions. **Synod APPROVED.**
4. That it be announced that the Jim Barker fund is in need of additional donations in order to grant a scholarship to an ARP orphan student who exhibits characteristics of Christian leadership at Erskine College. **Synod APPROVED.**
5. That ARP members be made aware of child sponsorship at the Mabel Lowry Presley Hostel in Pakistan and Reach the Children of Rwanda International in Rwanda. **Synod APPROVED.**
6. That the budget for April 2018 - March 2019 be approved as shown.

Respectfully submitted,

William Kidd, Chairman

**WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.**

Description	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b><u>Executive Summary</u></b>		
Anticipated Revenue	\$ 170,816	169,073
Beginning Fund Balance	8,600	7,634
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$ 179,416</b>	<b>176,707</b>
<b>Less:</b>		
Reserve for Potential Revenue Shortfalls	(8,500)	-8,500
Percentage of Revenue	5.0%	0
Administration	(9,725)	-8,775
Committed for 1st Qrt next year		
Erskine	(20,000)	-20,000
<b>Remaining for Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 141,191</b>	<b>139,432</b>

Description	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Ministry Expenditures</b>		
Erskine-guaranteed	20,000	20,000
Collins Home	6,397	6,625
Palmer Home	6,397	6,625
World Witness-Mabel Low eryl Pressley home Girls' Hostel	4,500	4,500
French Camp Academy	6,397	6,625
Calvary Home	2,500	2,500
Boys Farm	3,750	0
Miracle Hill	2,500	0
Hope for the Fatherless		2,000
RCWI		3,125
Committed for 1st Qrt next year		
Remaining for allocation	108,751	107,432
<b>Sub-Total Ministry Expenditures</b>	\$ 161,191	159,432
<b>Administration</b>		
Central Services	\$ 4,500	4,500
Board	3,900	2,800
Promotional	1,000	1,000
General Office	200	200
Bank Fees	125	275
<b>Total Ministry Expenditures</b>	\$ 170,916	168,207
Net Income over/(under) expenditures	\$ (100)	866
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 8,600	7,634
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	\$ 8,500	8,500

The **Moderator's Committee on William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.** recommended adoption of all recommendations. All recommendations were **ADOPTED**.

Prayer for the work of the Dunlap Board was offered.

**A motion carried:**

*That all committees and boards include in their reports the previous year's approved budget and actual expenditures along with the current year's approved budget and the proposed budget.*

Representatives from Erskine addressed the Synod. Sam James, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, spoke first. Then, Leslie Holmes, Provost of Erskine Theological Seminary, addressed the Synod, followed by President Robert Gustafson.

**A motion carried:**

*That Rob Gustafson's and Leslie Holmes' comments be recorded in the Minutes of Synod.*

**Dr. Leslie Holmes Address:**

EBENEZER! "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, 'Thus far, the LORD has helped us'" (1 Sm 7:12).

EBENEZER! The name of that stone raised by Samuel to commemorate a victory over the Philistines at Mizpeh. It was a memorial that marked God's action in preserving His people against all odds; a reminder of His ability to save them, often in spite of themselves! As we at ETS enter 181 years in service to Christ and His Church.

EBENEZER! Ebenezer says that we are witnesses to something that is bigger than we are; something that only God can do. So, we say with David, "The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes!" (Psalm 118:23). If you want to be a part of something so great that only God could make it happen, pray for ETS, send your students to your seminary, and, yes, remember us in your church budget and personal stewardship.

There is nowhere in the world today where people or churches get a bigger "bang for their mission buck" than investing in the training of a new generation of faithful Gospel ministers. That is what Erskine Theological Seminary--your seminary--is all about. Here is how it works: You give your gift to train pastors. Those pastors go out and preach and people get converted. Among those converts are some who will sense God's call to pastoral ministry. They will get trained, go out and pastor churches, people will get converted and among them some will sense God's call to Gospel ministry. That ripple effect will keep going until Jesus comes.

*As I speak, "Celebration" Celebrating God's gracious providence for 180 years, a new book by our seminary faculty, is being distributed to each church for the library... Copies will be available from ETS next week.*

*Joining us this year is our new ARP teaching elder, Dr. Duncan Rankin, PhD Edinburgh, on the Doctrine of Scripture; Dr. David Smith, PhD Trinity Int'l U, Old Princeton Theology this Fall; Matt Miller, (soon ETS D.Min) as Executive Director of our Greenville campus; and John Paul Marr (currently writing theology dissertation for Aberdeen) as associate Dean.*

*Our recruiters, led by Robin Broome, David Cathcart and Crystal Tolbert have done an excellent job and we are all blessed because of them. While other seminaries are closing and many are struggling, we are showing signs of renewal and growth. Our faculty are working well together. EBENEZER! To God be all the glory!*

*We're excited to announce at this Synod the inauguration of the Erskine Theological Seminary David Livingstone Institute for Theology, Medicine, and the Sciences, named for the famous Scottish missionary physician. This institute is focused on one thing: Training medical professionals to think Christianly in matters of medical ethics. This is a primarily Greenville-based degree of M.A.T.S. with an emphasis on medical ethics. Faculty for this program include, among others, Dr. Neil Stewart, M.D., MDiv.; and Dr. Noel Brownlee, M.D., Ph.D., each of whom joins our faculty in an adjunct capacity. No other seminary offers such an opportunity!*

*A new partnership with Tolle Lege Institute, Warsaw, Poland, (ARP teaching elder, Dr. Darius Brycko, is Director) in which we are collaborating in training students from Poland to work towards their MATS degree before coming to ETS for their final year to receive their M.Div degree. Dr. Mark Ross was there teaching in January/February. We plan to send two professors each year and will be helping students come to ETS for their M.Div.*

#### **THE SEMINARY THAT FITS!**

*Do you (or does someone you know) have family responsibilities? Church commitments? Part-time or full-time employment obligations? And God is calling you into the Gospel ministry?... Consider Erskine Theological Seminary... THE SEMINARY THAT FITS! Under our new schedule, a sharp student can now complete the M.Div. degree by attending evening and Saturday classes in 3-4 years. A fully accredited degree from your seminary. EBENEZER!*

*With your help, we hope that we will end up this year in the black because we believe that the best seminary budgets always end up wearing black!*

*We invite you to join us for the repeat of a sell-out. The 2019 Friends of Erskine Seminary-ARP Heritage Tour of the UK. We will be in London where, (because of a connection in the Britain's House of Lords) this year's*

*tour group will next Tuesday be allowed into the Jerusalem Chambers, where the Westminster Confession and Catechisms were hammered out by the Westminster Divines in 1646. The Jerusalem Chambers are no longer open to the public but God has opened a door for this tour to be there and to celebrate what God did there and what He is doing at ETS. We'll also be in Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Edinburgh, Gairney Bridge (homeland of the Erskine brothers), Northern Ireland, Donegal (home of Francis Makemie, father of American Presbyterianism), and the entire island of Ireland. EBENEZER! You can join us in 2019. Pastor, you can earn a free trip for recruiting ten people from your church or community to join us.*

*EBENEZER! God has done something bigger than we are or can ever be. He has done it often in spite of us. To God be the glory for EBENEZER! "Thus far, the Lord has helped us."*

*As I collected the rock yesterday, the volunteer lady at the museum, after asking why I wanted a great rock, and hearing my answer began singing. This is what she sang...(and won't you sing it with me)...*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Hither by Thy great help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood;  
O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.*

*God be praised! Thank you for standing with us. Some of you have stood with us even when we have not been faithful. Those days are over! EBENEZER! EBENEZER!*

Leslie Holmes

Dr. Robert Gustafson Address:

*A year ago, I stood before you and admitted that there have been some mistakes made at Erskine in the past. Without a doubt, what I inherited in the College needs repair. Last year, I affirmed that it is our responsibility in the College and Seminary to pay attention to the ARP denomination—to be loyal to the Church and its confessions—to be loyal to the Scriptures—to be loyal to the Synod's Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. Our marching orders to a great extent come from you. Whatever I implement on campus must be done in a way that you would appreciate. After all, the college students we are talking about are the sons and daughters of the Church, those who will be Church leaders in the future. At Erskine, we are on a journey, one with tremendous challenges. The journey will take time, and we must unravel some areas and mend others to effect substantive transformation. But we are committed to that transformation, knowing that we desire to lead an academic liberal arts campus with a deep commitment to Christ and His Church. All we do on campus must be under the guidance of the Church, and ultimately the Scriptures, with Christ as the Head of the Church. We want you as pastors and Church leaders to be able to walk on the Erskine campus, particularly on the College side, and to be pleased with what you see, enough so that you would consider sending students to Erskine from your own churches.*

*Whatever challenges we face and whatever opportunities they present, we need your prayers, financial support, and encouragement as we move forward. Not often does an institution from a nominal acknowledgement of its Christian roots transition to a more direct and clear commitment to the cause of Christ. In many ways we are rowing upstream, and we are counter-cultural in our efforts. As we transition, I want you to know that, contrary to what you might read on social media, high academic standards for Erskine are central in every decision and policy we implement.*

*Let me share some encouraging stories.*

*We have hired new professors for this academic year coming from as far away as California, and all of them are deeply committed to Christ. With impeccable credentials, they are outstanding scholars who come to assist us in our task of rebuilding Erskine as a College where high academic standards are upheld and where Christ and the Scriptures are honored. These new professors are called to be a part of our ministry to young people. Three new coaches will join our athletic department, all of whom desire to mentor Erskine athletes and to build Christian character into the lives of these young men and women.*

*One of our distinguished graduating seniors was accepted into the top-rated doctoral degree program in her field, and this fall she will begin her research in nuclear physics. Although she was accepted into doctoral degree*

*programs across the country, she has decided to attend Michigan State. With her brilliant mind, she desires to serve Christ as she carries out her important research. Other excellent Erskine students, twelve of our psychology majors, recently presented papers at a psychology conference held in North Carolina. Many of them received praise for their presentations, and at least one of the studies may be published in a peer-reviewed journal. Very seldom does an undergraduate complete research worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed journal. We laud this type of academic success.*

*When I pursued my master's degree in educational administration at Columbia University in New York City, Dr. Lawrence Cremens, the President of Teacher's College, gave an address to students to inaugurate the year. I remember only his first sentence. He said this: "Education happens wherever you are." It was a simple statement, but an epiphany for me in terms of how we educate our young men and women. And, of course, I thought of Deuteronomy 6, a passage that emphasizes teaching Scriptural truth wherever you go, when you are walking on the way, or when you are sitting at the table. At Erskine College, we take seriously this organic process of educating young people. We understand that everywhere on the campus, including the athletic field, the classroom buildings, the performing arts center, and the residential halls, learning takes place, and that learning must be in the context of Christ's truth and love for His people. The Gospel should be introduced to young adults in a way that will be pleasing to Him by teaching students the Gospel narrative and mentoring them in the faith.*

*Recently I heard a report of a soccer player at Erskine who was invited to RUF. He was not a believer, but one of our Erskine students had befriended him. He accompanied his friend to an RUF event, and now God seems to be working in the heart of that soccer player. He went down to Panama City Beach on a yearly evangelistic mission trip that RUF organizes with our Erskine students. This soccer player's experience there was life-changing. This is a clear example of what we do at Erskine College.*

*Endeavors in academics, athletics, and Christian mission take place organically on campus every day wherever our students are. It happens when they get to know professors, staff, and resident directors who love Christ and want to shepherd students during these critical years before they assume important roles in society.*

*Among those who love Erskine, there is a growing desire to understand at a deeper level the cultural issues that Americans face, and how, from a Biblical perspective, we can address those issues. We want to help students avoid being propagandized by the culture, but instead to influence the culture for Christ in a winsome and appropriate way. Erskine's leadership team has expressed growing concern that we guide students effectively in this process.*

*Our desire is first to please Christ and then to please the ARP Church. I am excited about the work of the ad hoc committee on the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. I intend to distribute and implement this document fully across the campus. As the President of Erskine College and Seminary, it is vital that I know clearly and fully what you expect since Erskine is your agency of the Church in higher education.*

*Although I have seen initial signs that God's hand is at work, the challenges and opportunities confronting Erskine are daunting. We are attempting something so monumental that if it is accomplished, we will know that God has done it. The challenges relate to the Ebenezer stone that Dr. Holmes talked about. God has helped us thus far, and we believe that He will continue to help us through this transformative process as we walk into the future. We want to honor Christ in all that we do. Thank you for putting in our hands — my hands and the hands of the College faculty and staff — the sons and daughters of the Church. We do not take this responsibility lightly. We want to hear the call to be faithful to Christ, His Church, and His inerrant Word. To God be the glory!*

Robert Gustafson

The report of **Erskine College and Seminary** was presented.

#### ERSKINE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

##### **Introduction**

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Theological Seminary respectfully submits this report to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The authority given to the Board as an arm of the Church and, under the Board's supervision, the responsibility given to the administration of the College and Seminary, are mandates we embrace in our desire to serve Christ and His Church. We take seriously the guidance prescribed in the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education, and we intend to implement the principles of this document in a thoroughly Christian way on the campus in Due West and at the Seminary extension sites.

##### **Financial Stewardship**

Erskine's operating budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 was \$32.7 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 \$40.2 million as of December 31, 2017. 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. The current spending rate from the endowment is 5%. Earnings for the fiscal year as of December 31, 2017, are in excess of 7% and over 14.5% from December 31, 2016, to the present.

**Advancement**

The fiscal year ending in June 2017 was another strong year for giving as the Annual Fund goal of \$1,650,000 fell short by only \$31,523.65. Faithful and loyal donors sacrificially invested a total of \$1,618,476.35 to the work of the College and the Seminary, and an increase in foundation giving during the 2016-17 fiscal year helped to bring the Annual Fund very close to its goal.

For the 2017-2018 financial year, the Advancement Office has a whole new team, which includes Michael Irvin as the new Director of Advancement; Andy Anderson as the Coordinator of Alumni Relations and Communications; and Luisa Chmielecki as the new Administrative Assistant in the Advancement and Alumni Office. We are working toward a targeted goal of \$1,650,000.00 for the Annual Fund and have seen an increase in the number of donors giving to the Annual Fund and scholarship funds. The fundraising goal is ambitious, and we deeply appreciate your prayers for alumni and friends of the institution to 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 2017, Erskine College welcomed 196 new students, including 59 transfer students. This incoming class, along with attrition from fall to spring, achieves an annual average Full Time Equivalent student enrollment (FTEs) at 577.5 for the year.

A new Health Sciences major was approved by the faculty in the spring of 2018. This major will benefit many current and future students who are called to the medical field, athletic training, physical therapy, and other health-related professions.

With regard to staffing, Mr. Scott Cook and Mr. Josh Chiles came to Erskine College in the fall of 2017 to fill the newly created positions in student success and retention. These positions were created to im-

prove student retention rates experienced by the College, a critical component of Erskine College's future academic and financial strength.

Most recently, President Dr. Robert Gustafson announced that Dr. Dan Corsi will serve as the Interim Dean of Academic Affairs in the wake of the resignation of Dr. John Basie as Provost of Erskine College. Dr. Basie and his family have answered a call to return to Impact 360 Institute in Pine Mountain, Georgia. During Dr. Corsi's interim, a national search for a new provost will be conducted.

The college welcomes several new faculty members beginning in the fall of 2018. Dr. Anna Brady (education), Dr. Matthew Campbell (biology), Professor Kaylee Baioni (athletic training), and Dr. Alessandra Brivio (history) were thoroughly vetted by faculty search committees as well as by the Provost and President, and we are confident these new hires will serve as outstanding teacher-scholars and exemplars of the Christ-centered mission of the College.

#### **ARP Campus Ministry (Reformed University Fellowship)**

Rev. Paul Patrick continues to serve as the chaplain and the campus minister for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod at Erskine College. Rev. Patrick also continues to serve on the President's Senior Team, and now (as of Fall 2017) as a member of the Erskine College Faculty. This allows him to serve on the Faculty Personnel Committee, which interviews all potential faculty members being considered for employment at Erskine College.

The presence of RUF on campus as a ministry of the Gospel to our students continues through the provision of weekly large-group fellowship meetings, small groups, and one-to-one meetings, as well as various outreach events, conferences and retreats. Erskine also continues to benefit from the chaplain's provision of weekly chapel services during the semesters, which now include the whole campus community.

Together, these various avenues of ministry provide a context for the evangelism and discipleship of our students as RUF demonstrates its continued commitment to its motto: "Reach Students for Christ and Equip Students to Serve."

Erskine remains grateful for the Synod's provision of our chaplain and campus minister, for our affiliation with Reformed University Ministries, and for the rich ministry and community that RUF has provided for students.

#### **Student Development**

Dr. Wendi Santee has continued to lead the department of Student Development during the 2017-2018 academic year. Student Develop-

ment has seen some growth and change over this past academic year. The Office of Student Success and Retention was created 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 have been hired in this office to focus on these efforts and initiatives. Mr. Scott Cook is serving as the Coordinator of Student Success and Retention, and Mr. Joshua Chiles is serving as the Student Success Coach. In addition to establishing relationships with students across campus and providing individual guidance, support, tutoring, and connecting students with their professors, with the registrar, and with financial aid advisors as needed, this office has given oversight to the Retention Committee. From this work, some new initiatives, such as the development of a First Year Experience (FYE) course is underway in addition to a revision of the advising structure for new students. In light of some of these changes, Dr. Wendi Santee has assumed the title of Vice President for Student Success.

The Department of Student Development has seen some other personnel changes from last year. Mr. Samuel Barrick is serving in the role of Coordinator of Residence Life and Housing, and he also serves as the live-in Resident Director of Robinson Hall. Combining these roles into one allows the department to continue moving forward in its focus on and investment in the residence halls and to move a step closer toward the goal of having all full-time resident directors living in the residence halls. In Residence Life, we have had some mid-year changes. Ms. Kathy Busby, who had been serving as Resident Director of Carnegie Hall, has resigned due to health reasons. Ms. Shaq Hunter stepped into the role of the Carnegie Resident Director in October of 2017. Mr. Will Milks was serving as the full-time Resident Director of Grier Hall. He accepted a church ministry opportunity and resigned in January 2018. Due to the difficulty of identifying qualified full-time applicants in the middle of the academic year, a current senior at Erskine, Mr. Kyle Keesling (3<sup>rd</sup> year RA) has stepped into the role of Lead Resident Assistant in Grier for the remainder of this academic year. A search is currently underway for a full-time RD for Grier to begin in the summer of 2018.

The focus in Residence Life continues to be working toward a model of residential life leadership that reflects a Christian world view 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.

Additionally, new leadership in Campus Life and Activities this year has brought a focus to structure, organization, training, and accountability to all of the student organizations. Ms. Rachel Brubaker is now serving as Coordinator of Campus Life. 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 is a work in progress, and we will continue to build on student leadership programs next year.

By mid-term of spring semester, over 75 student activities and events have been provided in 2017-2018 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. In the fall of 2017, a community meeting was conducted with all students when the President Robert Gustafson spoke with students about living in community on a Christian campus such as Erskine. Provost Dr. John Basie also emphasized the academic community, and Dr. Wendi Santee, Vice President for Student Success, also spoke about community standards and the healthy, positive benefits they bring. As a result, there has been a significant decrease in student conduct cases in 2017-2018. This is an important area for us as we continue to speak about Erskine as a Christian academic community.

#### **Erskine Theological Seminary**

As we have moved into the 181st anniversary of our ministry, Erskine Theological Seminary continues to rejoice in God's faithfulness to us. This report will be restricted to six specific highlights:

First, this has been a year of positive consolidation in personnel matters. Dr. Leslie Holmes, who has been on Erskine's faculty for just over a decade, is now in his second year as Provost of the Seminary. As Provost, Dr. Holmes has served effectively as the seminary CEO with oversight of all campuses and extension sites. He continues to teach in a limited capacity. Dr. R.J. Gore continues to serve as (Acting) Dean of the Seminary. Dr. Gore, a retired United States Army Chaplain (Colonel), also teaches a full load of classes. Ms. Robin Broome has been promoted to Director of Recruitment and Enrollment for the Seminary. Ms. Jordan Turner is our newly appointed Financial Aid Officer and has brought stability to that office. The full-time faculty

continue to serve faithfully, including servicing some of the needs of the Erskine College Bible Department. Faculty morale is high. Most of our faculty have produced books in their respective fields or have been published in professional journals during this past school year. Of great interest to the entire Presbyterian and Reformed community is the addition of Dr. Duncan Rankin to the seminary faculty as Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology. Your seminary is fully accredited by both SACS and ATS. There is no more highly accredited seminary in America today than Erskine.

Second, this has been a year of progress in many seminary programs. Overall, the seminary has maintained its enrollment stability now for three years in a row. Our online Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) continues to attract students from many locations around the country, and we expect to graduate our second class of MATS students in May, 2018. Our Doctor of Ministry (DMin) enrollment continues to attract high-caliber students, and we are poised to graduate the first cohort of students in the joint ONA-Erskine Seminary Certificate in Church Vitality. Students are required to complete five doctoral level courses for this certificate, and these courses all count towards the DMin degree.

Third, our modular Master of Theology (ThM) program is attracting students who live at a distance from the Due West campus. Students take the required ThM seminar courses (one offered each in the fall and spring) using a “book-ends” format, which requires 2.5 days of residence work (in a seminar setting) at the beginning and end of each semester. In between, students do research and engage with their professors and peers in an online, hybrid classroom. Elective courses are offered in January and July as weeklong intensives, and students may take up to two courses completely online. Depending on research needs, students may also arrange to take course work as a directed study.

Fourth, Erskine Seminary has finished our first year offering Greenville classes in the new ARP Center on Pleasantburg Drive, where we have offices and classroom space to accommodate a growing enrollment in the Greenville area. This spring 50 ARP ministers gathered for Erskine Seminary’s spring conference at the ARP Center. We are excited to announce that our new adjunct, Dr. Duncan Rankin, will be teaching a course on the Doctrine of Revelation at the Greenville site this summer. We would invite any ruling elders who are interested to audit this course at no charge. Rev. Matt Miller is Director of our Erskine Seminary Greenville site.

Fifth, a joint committee consisting of faculty and administrators from Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary is working diligently to develop a Five-Year BA/MDiv program that will enable high-caliber ministerial candidates to complete the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Master of Divinity degree in a compressed time frame and graduate with significantly reduced student debt. Such programs are appearing at many seminaries around the country, and Erskine is uniquely able to provide such a program for select students.

Sixth, the faculty of Erskine Theological Seminary has collaborated to produce a 180<sup>th</sup> year book of sermons on Divine Providence, *Celebration*. This book of 23 sermons celebrates God's faithfulness to Erskine Theological Seminary and will be available in late May or early June.

We praise God for every blessing and are thankful for the ongoing support of the Church and numerous individuals. We ask each congregation and every member of our Synod for their ongoing prayers on our behalf as we continue to serve Christ and His Church as the only official seminary of the ARP, and that you consider Erskine Seminary in your ongoing personal and congregational giving as well as in planning your estate. We belong exclusively to you!

#### **Board Development**

Our Board of Trustees is continuing to implement educational programs to strengthen its members. We are also committed to activities that engage us in the life of the campus. We worshipped with students at "The Barn" this year, ate lunch with students in the dining hall, and invited faculty to board dinners to engage the Board with the Erskine Community. The Board seems to be acting in a cohesive manner, and in general, there is a great feeling of unity and consensus.

To assist the Board in maintaining better oversight of Erskine, we have developed regular reporting of key performance indicators. Our committees also now meet between Board meetings and make recommendations so that these can be received by the Board prior to our meetings. This procedure has helped us to become more effective and efficient.

We are downsizing the Board to 17 members. That process was approved, and the implementation began as we selected Board members for next year's class. Again, we are not removing board members, we are simply changing the size as we appoint fewer board members each year.

We encourage the Synod to continue its work of selecting only faithful, capable board members for the Erskine College Board of Trustees. We deeply appreciate the SCONE and have enjoyed a strong working relationship with them.

**Summary**

The 2017-18 Erskine year concluded with the graduation of our College seniors and Seminary graduates on May 19 with Dr. Albert Mohler as our commencement speaker. The year brought changes in leadership as Mr. Andy Anderson ('94) began as Coordinator of Alumni Relations and Communications, Mr. Scott Cook ('08) served as Coordinator of Student Retention, and Mr. Josh Chiles ('14; Seminary) served as Student Success Coach. With the addition of these new leaders, Erskine is in a place to make significant strides in addressing the vital areas of alumni relations and student success and retention.

This academic year brought significant changes in the admissions process as Erskine re-entered the private Christian school, home school, and charter school world with the purpose of attracting students who better fit our mission as a private, liberal arts, Christian college. These types of changes in the admissions process take time to bear fruit since many of the students in these venues knew very little about Erskine College, its history, and its mission. We continue to believe Erskine College is a place where sons and daughters of the ARP Church will know they are welcome and will find at Erskine the opportunity to mature in their faith, to prepare academically for their vocational calling, and to enjoy the experience of living in a vibrant Christian academic community. We trust that you will take this message back to your community and encourage young people to consider Erskine as they make their college plans.

Erskine Seminary has seen increased numbers in admissions, is attracting new donors, and is educating men and women out of our new extension campus in Greenville, SC.

Erskine College and Theological Seminary will continue to honor the directives articulated in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian's *Philosophy of Christian Higher Education*. We very much appreciate your work with our committee in updating this document, and we affirm that we are an agency of the ARP Church. The continued sacrificial and generous support of the Synod is deeply appreciated and needed. We also need your constant prayers since the ability to function as a Christian institution of higher education is increasingly difficult in a culture becoming more secular and increasingly disinterested in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We want to thank the Synod and the wider Church for your commitment to Erskine and for the assistance offered to us in tangible ways every year. May the Lord prosper our work so that Erskine will continue to send out students who love Christ and who desire to serve Him in the communities where they

settle across the country. I am more excited about the future of Erskine now than ever before. We have a board and a senior leadership team, along with the support of the ARPC, who are moving in the same direction. God is doing exciting things at Erskine, and we trust that the Lord has great blessings in store for Erskine as we continue the work of faithfully educating students and preparing them to serve Him. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Respectfully submitted,

Sam James, Chairman

#### SUPPLEMENT:

STATEMENT OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF  
CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL SYNOD  
June 2018

#### Introduction

Christian higher education for the service of God in church and society finds its roots in Biblical revelation. Since 1837, Christian higher education has been an integral part of the mission of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Truly, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, through its institutions of Christian higher education, has a history of distinguished Christian service. The value of its mission is immeasurable, for this mission has been an influence for good in the lives of thousands of men and women who have attended Erskine College, Erskine Theological Seminary, or Bryson College. Through many of these men and women, the Church itself has been blessed with strong Christian leadership and dedicated service.

The General Synod believes that there is a continuing need for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to express its objectives, to reaffirm its purpose, and to restate its philosophy of Christian higher education, including goals and purposes of Erskine College and Seminary.

In the following statement, the General Synod desires to preserve and incorporate all of the redeeming elements of the Church's philosophy that have prevailed at the College and Seminary from their beginning. In this



statement the terms "Erskine" and "Erskine College" refer to both the undergraduate school and the Seminary, unless the context indicates otherwise.

#### I. The Role of the Church in Christian Higher Education

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church should re-examine on a continuing basis its total program in the use of its resources and in all areas of its mission. To this end the Church should ask itself continually what it is doing and what it ought to be doing in the field of education. It is clear that every Christian denomination should involve itself deeply in Christian education. A parallel question which every Christian denomination should ask is whether it also should be involved in the field of higher education and, if so, at what level and in what way.

We believe in the importance of education, and we believe that education represents a vital part of the mission of the Church. Furthermore, we believe that our denomination has a definite role to play in Christian higher education,

We believe this is so because Christian higher education offers the Church a unique opportunity to present Christ as the Christian's summum bonum, or "highest good." It is the Christian worldview, summarized in the biblical narrative of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation, which teaches love for God and for our neighbors as ourselves, and enables young men and women to discover the value of a life which is lived in right relation to God and man. We believe that only such a life can realize its fullest potential **in service to** God, the Church, and the world.

We believe that the Church has a responsibility not only to initiate the organizational structure for Christian higher education, but also to nurture Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary and to provide theological and philosophical guidance to it.

#### II. The Biblical Basis for Christian Higher Education

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church believes: The Bible alone, being God-breathed, is the Word of God written, infallible in all that it teaches, and inerrant in the original manuscripts. The Bible reveals God as the source of all truth. Reverence for Him and commitment to Him is the beginning and essence of wisdom. Jesus Christ, God's Son, and the Holy Spirit came to reveal this truth—truth which has the power to set people free from the bondage of sin. The Holy Spirit comes to make the truth of God's love in Christ real in our hearts. Therefore, for educa-

tion to merit the term "Christian," it must be based on belief in God, the Source of truth; be centered in Jesus Christ, the Revealer of truth; and be guided by the Holy Spirit, the Inspirer of truth.

Taking their perspective from the Biblical view of God, man and the world, as expressed in *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* (See Footnote 1), Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary have a responsibility to stress Christian doctrine as well as Christian ethics; Christian commitment as well as academic excellence. Our calling in Christian higher education is to create an environment that nurtures the academic community in and by the truth of God's redemptive love in Christ and to equip its members for lives of useful service, whether in the full-time ministries of the Church, or in some other worthy calling.

### III. Implementation

The carrying out of such a philosophy necessitates careful planning by Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary in several areas in accordance with *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* (See Footnote 2) and under the guidance of the principles of this statement. Full development will be achieved as the task is approached with a sense of mission by everyone within the Erskine community.

a. The Trustees of Erskine College. The Board of Trustees of Erskine College is the authority of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church at Erskine. Representing the Church's presence in its work of Christian higher education, the Trustees are an integral part of the college community. For service in such positions of responsibility, it is incumbent upon the General Synod to select individuals who have a perception of the Church and its work that coincides with that of the Synod and who are kept informed of the Church's policies and purposes. A Trustee is a servant of Christ and His Church in one of the greatest and most sacred endeavors. In this task the Church needs Godly men and women of knowledge, wisdom, and dedication to this work.

b. The Administration. In discharging its responsibility, the Board of Trustees should recognize that the administrators of the College serve as stewards for the Church. They also have additional responsibilities for meeting the demands of academic standards

and accreditation, building a strong faculty, and presenting a program of studies which attracts students. Executive planning of this complexity requires deep Christian commitment, great professional skill, and committed dedication. It is imperative first, that the College have in these positions—as president, administrative and academic officers—individuals who have a deep personal commitment to Jesus Christ, informed and directed by the Holy Spirit through a Reformed theology and the Westminster Confession of Faith, and are highly qualified both in terms of their preparation for their vocations and faithfulness to the Board of Trustees and to the Church. These officers are charged with continuing commitment to the larger view of the College as a community of Christian scholars. Second, there must be kept open channels of regular communication between the Board of Trustees and the Synod in order to insure the most effective implementation of its educational commitments and goals.

c. The Faculty. The Board of Trustees, through the Administration, must seek faculty members having first, a genuine and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ, academic expertise, and moral integrity. Faculty members should believe in the centrality and enduring relevance of the Christian faith, demonstrate a profound interest in and commitment to faith-learning integration informed by the Reformed theological tradition as expressed in *The Standards of the ARP Church*, and facilitate classroom and co-curricular learning that sets it apart from what is found in secular settings. The instructional focus should be on the pursuit of excellence in the various academic disciplines, critical thinking, insight **and** comprehension, and should encourage flexible and innovative approaches to teaching. Most importantly, faculty members ought to create a classroom experience focused on faith-learning integration. Freedom of inquiry guided by faculty members committed to the Christian and academic goals of the College should be encouraged.

d. The Student. The student attending Erskine College becomes part of a meaningful tradition of Christian leadership and education for a life of service and witness. At a Christian college, the uniqueness of each individual is a basic premise, but our human dependence on Jesus Christ as the revealed Word of God and

Savior of the World is of paramount importance. From these truths it follows that both the individuals comprising the student body and the ethos of a college campus that is truly Christian should manifest qualities distinct from the secular norm. At Erskine College, students are privileged to belong to a community of genuine concern and conviction, which it is their responsibility to foster and to maintain as they relate its values to the world around them. Under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty, the student is expected to cooperate in creating and maintaining an environment that will honor God, promote the Christian goals of the Church and support the moral standards of the College. In the educational process, the student is expected to study and evaluate all knowledge objectively, while seeking God's guidance in biblical matters of faith, vocational calling and educational preparation.

e. The Curriculum. The curriculum for Erskine College at the undergraduate level should focus on the liberal arts, with the Reformed theological narrative of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation as the unifying framework for all of the disciplines. Emphasis should be placed on the arts, sciences, vocations, and our cultural heritage. Substantial and pervasive emphasis should be placed on the study of the Bible, Christian ethics, and Christian apologetics as requirements for graduation. Along with providing strong majors in different fields, the curriculum should address the development of the whole student. An exposure to specialized areas of social and community service is an appropriate part of the total educational experience. Erskine Theological Seminary, being the professional school of Erskine College, prepares students for gospel ministry and has a special mission in Christian higher education. Its curriculum must be in harmony with *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*, and designed so that its graduates will be fully prepared to be effective ministers of the Word in a rapidly changing world.

#### IV. Interrelationship of the Associate Reformed Presbyteria Church and Erskine College

Erskine College represents the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in higher education. The relationship between the Col-

lege and the Church is organic; that is, Erskine College is related to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as the arm of the Church in Christian higher education in carrying out the Biblical mandate to redeem all of life, especially man's moral and intellectual life, under the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

a. Responsibility of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to Erskine College. Inasmuch as Erskine College is a church-owned Christian institution, the Church has ultimate responsibility for the administrative, academic, and moral integrity of the College. This responsibility is established and maintained through the Board of Trustees. The Trustees oversee the total administration of the College as a trust of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Church also has a responsibility to support the College financially and to render encouragement and affirmation to the College as it implements the goals and purposes of the Church.

b. Responsibility of Erskine College to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In order for the goals and purposes of Christian higher education to be realized, Erskine College, through its Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty, must embrace those principles and goals of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Within the context of Christian higher education, the College has the responsibility to pursue its theological positions as a servant of the Church.

This interrelationship should result in an academic community and educational experience that shapes students, both inside and outside of the classroom. All Erskine sponsored activity, whether curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular in nature, should contribute positively toward the goals, purposes and standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

#### V. Erskine's Purpose

The purpose of Erskine College should be to provide sound training in a campus environment where evangelical Christian influence is supreme and pervasive. The role of the church-sponsored institution is the distinctive one of pursuing the integration of Christian faith and learning and responsible citizenship.

At the same time, Erskine College, seeking to present the claims of Christ to its students, should foster creative individualism by providing intellectual stimulation and by encouraging open dialogue. As a basic premise, the goals of education should be to open the mind and the heart to God's truth, to teach one to think Biblically and objectively, and to give direction to daily life. "In Thy light shall we see light." (Psalm 36:9b.)

As an arm of the Church, Erskine College exists for the glory of God, the good of the church and society, and for the education and flourishing of its students. Their interests must be valued and their individual and collective needs a matter of continuing concern. Erskine's goal must be to afford them the opportunity and encouragement to integrate knowledge and Christian faith in the development of the highest and best use of their abilities. A primary objective of the College should be to guide the student into the development of a mature Christian faith that is staunchly resistant to the impersonality and relativism of our time. Erskine's ultimate objective for every student must be the gaining of an understanding of the truth that "man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." (Shorter Catechism Q/A #1)

Footnotes:

1. See especially the *Confession of Faith*, *The Larger Catechism*, and the *Shorter Catechism*
2. *Form of Government*, Chapter XIV, A.4: "Any newly appointed employee of any board, as administrator or teacher, shall give satisfactory evidence of his belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity." See also *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, "Boards," for definition of evangelical.

ERSKINE COLLEGE & SEMINARY  
Master Cash Operating Budget  
For Fiscal Years Ending 2017 and 2018

	PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET		
	COLLEGE	SEMINARY	INSTITUTION
<b>REVENUE AND OTHER ADDITIONS</b>			
Tuition, fees, room, and board	\$ 26,124,066	\$ 899,224	\$ 27,023,290
Less: scholarships and financial aid	\$ 15,054,264	\$ 265,000	\$ 15,319,264
Net tuition, fees, room, and board	\$ 11,069,802	\$ 634,224	\$ 11,704,026
Endowment income (5% draw on endowment funds and unrestricted investments)	\$ 1,535,583	\$ 389,461	\$ 1,925,044
Annual fund	\$ 1,245,200	\$ 404,800	\$ 1,650,000
Bookstore	\$ 325,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 328,000
Other income (Athletic fundraising, rental income, etc....)	\$ 309,000	\$ 146,000	\$ 455,000
Other fundraising sources	\$ -	\$ 27,607	\$ 27,607
	\$ 14,484,585	\$ 1,605,092	\$ 16,089,677
<b>EXPENSES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS</b>			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 7,594,946	\$ 1,116,887	\$ 8,711,833
Operating expenses - (instructional & institutional)	\$ 6,866,564	\$ 396,532	\$ 7,263,096
Bookstore	\$ 253,500	\$ 2,340	\$ 255,840
Debt service	\$ 1,112,250	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,114,250
	\$ 15,827,260	\$ 1,517,759	\$ 17,345,019
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	\$ (1,342,675)	\$ 87,333	\$ (1,255,342)
<b>ESTIMATED CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (1,342,675)</b>	<b>\$ 87,333</b>	<b>\$ (1,255,342)</b>

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Final Draft of revisions to the Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. That the revised Statement replace the previous version in all official documents of the ARP Church. **Synod APPROVED.**

The **Moderator's Committee on Erskine College and Seminary** recommended that Synod approve both recommendations in the Synod report. **Synod APPROVED.**

In addition, your committee recommends :

3. *That in celebration of the renewed Christian commitment at Erskine College and Seminary, the 214th Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church encourage all Christians, churches and other organizations to give of their money, their prayers, and their student to support the work of Erskine College and Seminary.* **Synod APPROVED.**

Prayer for Erskine College and Seminary was offered.

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, and is the agency responsible for presenting to the General Synod organizational and administration changes to enhance the capability of the General Synod to fulfill its primary responsibility (*Form of Government*, 13.2.B). Further, it is responsible for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center, the Office of Central Services, and the promotional work of the General Synod. When the Executive Board acts in an emergency case on behalf of Synod, only those eligible to vote at the meeting of Synod shall be entitled to vote. The Executive Board has no authority to over-ride or act on any Presbytery matters. (1995 Synod)

The Executive Board in carrying out its duties since the last meeting of General Synod makes the following report.

Requests for emergency status: Mr. Vaughn Hathaway presented a request for an emergency designation for two items at the Fall meeting. Following discussion of the two items, the board voted that the items did not constitute an emergency designation and thus they will not be handled by the Board.

With regard to Pakistan, Alex Pettett, Andy Howard and other members representing World Witness spoke to the matter before the Board regarding why a matter rises to the level of an emergen-



cy needing Executive Board consideration/action. The Executive Board deemed it an emergency situation. The actions taken were as follows, (beginning with an adoption of certification).

Mr. Pettett asked for prayer for Andrew Howard and the difficulties that the false news being spread in Pakistan now raise. There is a minority Pakistan group in opposition to the majority of the Pakistani church. The following authentication and resolution were approved for World Witness' use in the related lawsuit in Pakistan.

#### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

To certify that: 1. I, Lee Shelnett, 104 Pinewood Drive, Huntersville, NC am presently serving as Moderator of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod for calendar year 2017-2018.. I have been authorized by the Executive Board of Synod to submit the attached resolution.

#### Resolution of Executive Board of Synod

of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, U.S. December 21, 2017 Executive Board of Synod. Members meeting by electronic media.

Moderator - Rev. Lee Shelnett, Vice-Moderator - Mr. Bill McKay, Clerk – Ron Beard, Treasurer -Chip Smith joined by World Witness Executive Director, Alex Pettett and Pakistan Field Director, Andrew Howard.

The Executive Board of Synod has been informed by World Witness Executive Director Alex Pettett of cases filed in Sahiwal, Pakistan, against World Witness by the Pastor Daniel Younas, etc. being alleged representatives of so-called Montgomery Presbytery with the stance that said Montgomery Presbytery is the real representative of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA in Pakistan and that World Witness has no concern with the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA and as well as with suit properties.

The above said issue came under discussion and about this the historical record of Synod was perused. Accordingly, it is evident that The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod met and was officially established in Philadelphia, PA, USA in 1782. The Synod became the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1804 meeting in Greencastle, PA, USA. It was then in-

corporated as the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of the South in SC, USA in 1905. In 1907, the Synod made its subordinate organization namely "The Board of Foreign Missions of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod " to manage and supervise mission work in foreign countries, which was retitled in 1978 as World Witness, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA. The record further transpires that just after its establishment said Board of Foreign Missions began its work in subcontinent and bought a property known as Knox Home in Montgomery (now Sahiwal) and used this property as its local headquarters and also purchased many other immovable properties in Pakistan including four properties disputed in said four cases.

It is further documented that The General Synod and The Board of Foreign Missions of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA in 1917 developed a Presbytery, known as the Montgomery Presbytery, which was later dissolved and absorbed into a larger structure of a local general Synod. After a detailed discussion and perusal of the record it is unanimously resolved that The General Synod of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA does not recognize any so called Montgomery Presbytery or its alleged representatives and The General Synod of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA no longer governs what has developed as the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, but recognizes it as an independent body. World Witness, the Board of Foreign Missions of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA is the real owner of said properties in Sahiwal and no other organization or person has any authority over or right concerning these properties, as World Witness is the only and real representative of The General Synod of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, USA for overseas work. Moderator Shelnutt obtained the documentation to meet the necessary standards for the communication and proceeded with distribution to the Pakistani courts and individuals.

#### Referrals

World Focus will follow the 2018 General Synod and a request of the World Focus with regard to funding was brought to the Board. A motion carried to refer the requests to the Board of Stewardship to determine if funding is available.

Information

Roger Wiles, Executive Director of Central Services, made an oral report and noted the Collaborate 2018 meeting to follow the Executive Board meeting. Mr. Wiles called the attention of the board to the necessity for accurate information, and noted that incorporation and compliance issues are being addressed.

Mr. Brent Turner spoke with regard to child protection training offered By Christian Education and presented further news of the work of the Board.

Susan Tanner was introduced and made a special report on her new work as Communications Director for the Center.

Tim Phillips presented a review of the matters of trademarks and a suggested code of conduct which will be presented to the General Synod.

Billy Barron reviewed matters referring to the General Synod meeting with RPCNA in 2019.

Actions

Moderator -Elect Malphrus made an oral report and announced his emphasis for 2018-2019. The emphases were adopted for presentation to the General Synod.

The budgets for 2018 revised and 2019 were adopted for presentation to General Synod.

Prayer.

Leland Beaudrot was recognized and a prayer of thanksgiving was offered for his service to the church.

Prayer was offered for the work of World Witness and especially Pakistan.

As each report was presented at the Spring meeting, special prayers were offered for each presbytery and each board of the General Synod.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposed budgets for the ARP Center Facility, Central Services, the ARP Magazine and the Executive Board be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. That the Moderator's proposed Theme and Monthly Emphases be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That the schedule for the Annual Meeting of Synod 2018 be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**

4. That the actions of the Executive Board reported herein be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Shelnutt, Moderator  
Ron Beard, Principal Clerk

CENTRAL SERVICES

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Revenues</b>		
<b>Current Funds</b>	3.8%	-4.4%
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 325,626	\$ 320,075
Miscellaneous Gifts	4,200	2,000
Total Current Funds	\$ 329,826	\$ 322,075
<b>Agency Support</b>		
Board of Benefits	\$ 177,837	\$ 184,400
ARP Foundation	5,000	5,000
W. H. Dunlap Fund	4,500	4,500
Total Agency Support	\$ 187,337	\$ 193,900
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$ 517,163	\$ 515,975
<b>Expenses</b>		
Total Salary and Benefits	\$ 490,414	\$ 475,536
<b>Staff &amp; Program</b>		
Worker's Compensation	\$ 1,931	\$ 1,495
Director Travel & Expenses	3,000	2,500
Staff Travel & Expenses	1,200	1,200
Training	1,000	1,000
Contract Employees	4,800	4,800
Dues/Subscriptions	1,000	1,000
Total Staff & Program	\$ 12,931	\$ 11,995

## Central Services — cont.

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Equipment</b>		
Equipment Purchase	1,200	1,200
Equipment IT Maintenance	1,000	1,000
Telephone Maintenance	-	-
Total Equipment	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
<b>Agency Support</b>		
Agency Support Revenue	\$ (10,100)	\$ (22,000)
Copier Lease	6,651	6,151
Postage Meter/Scales	1,205	1,993
Postage	1,000	11,500
Paper Purchases	500	500
<b>Net Agency Support Expense</b>	\$ (744)	\$ (1,856)
<b>General Office</b>		
Software Maintenance	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,200
Internet Services	200	200
Bank Fees-Net	4,000	5,000
Bank Fees Allocated	(4,000)	(5,200)
Communication	4,800	4,900
ARP Synod Web Page design & maint	3,000	2,000
Office Supplies	9,000	14,000
Total General Office	\$ 24,000	\$ 28,100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 528,801	\$ 515,975
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$ (11,638)	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 11,638	\$ -
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	\$ -	\$ -

## CENTER FACILITY

	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 22,402	\$ 23,074
Rent - ARP Entities	70,193	72,186
Rent - External Entities	90,937	38,166
Other Income	-	-
Transfer from Building Fund	-	-
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 183,532</b>	<b>\$ 133,426</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Facility Repairs	24,600	21,375
Facility Maintenance	59,420	47,565
Utilities	43,815	33,206
Sinking Fund/Major Replacements	41,600	31,000
Contingency	13,700	-
Other Expenses	-	-
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 183,135</b>	<b>\$ 133,146</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 397</b>	<b>\$ 280</b>
Beginning Facility Fund Balance	\$5,439	\$ 5,774
<b>Ending Facility Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,836</b>	<b>\$ 6,054</b>
	-	-
<b>Plant Sinking Fund (a)</b>		
Beginning Balance	\$ 28,350	\$ 60,950
Contributions	41,600	31,000
Expenses	(15,000)	(19,500)
<b>Ending Plant Sinking Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 54,950</b>	<b>\$ 72,450</b>

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>	0.3%	6.8%
General Synod Allocation	\$ 172,290	\$ 183,991
Minutes of Synod Sales Income	50	-
Plan Book Sales	50	-
Standards Book Sales	50	-
General Synod Registration	25,880	23,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 198,320</b>	<b>\$ 206,991</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
<b><u>General Synod Officers</u></b>		
Moderator	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,000
Vice-Moderator	500	500
Moderator-Elect	1,000	1,000
Vice-Moderator Elect	500	500
Principal Clerk	5,000	5,000
Treasurer	3,675	3,675
<b>Total General Synod Officers</b>	<b>\$ 14,675</b>	<b>\$ 16,675</b>
<b><u>General Synod Meeting</u></b>		
Program & Preparation	9,500	9,000
Honorariums	2,000	2,200
Staff Expenses	550	3,000
Synod Planning	50	250
Synod Room & Board	5,000	10,000
Synod Service Fee	14,630	0
<b>Total General Synod Meeting</b>	<b>\$ 31,730</b>	<b>\$ 24,450</b>
<b><u>Executive Board Meeting &amp; Office</u></b>		
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000
General Office & Miscellaneous	400	400
Executive Board-Legal	1,000	1,000
Committee to Oversee Campus Ministry	500	500
<b>Total Executive Board</b>	<b>\$ 6,400</b>	<b>\$ 5,900</b>
<b><u>General Synod Contingency</u></b>		
Unallocated	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Special Committee-Book of Discipline	1,500	-
<b>Total General Synod Contingency</b>	<b>\$ 26,500</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b><u>Promotion &amp; Services</u></b>		
Total Insurance	\$ 1,615	\$ 12,886
Orientation Program	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000
Total Historical Concerns	\$ 3,900	\$ 2,650
<b>New Mission Subscriptions-THE ARP</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>
<b>Total Promotion &amp; Services</b>	<b>\$ 13,015</b>	<b>\$ 24,036</b>
Total Minutes of Synod	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Total Plan Book	\$ 250	\$ 250
<b>Transfer to ECM from DM Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 96,750</b>	<b>\$ 101,680</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 198,320</b>	<b>\$ 206,991</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

## EXECUTIVE BOARD — continued

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Erskine Campus Ministry</b>		
<b>ECM Revenues</b>		
ECM Contributions	43,800	48,800
ECM Transfer from Exec. Board DM Alloc.	96,750	101,680
Total ECM Revenues	\$ 140,550	\$ 150,480
<b>ECM Expenses</b>		
<b>ECM Salary &amp; Benefits</b>	2.0%	3.0%
ECM Salary & Benefits	\$ 96,750	\$ 101,680
<b>ECM Other Expenses</b>		
ECM Intern Expenses (\$75/mo)	750	750
ECM Intern Expenses (\$75/mo)	850	850
ECM Travel	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,500
ECM-Large Group Expenses	20,000	20,000
ECM-Small Group Expenses	1,600	1,600
ECM-1 to 1 Expenses	1,800	1,800
ECM Staff Training	3,500	3,500
ECM-RUF Conferences	3,800	3,800
ECM Ministry Events	5,500	8,000
Office Supplies-ECM	1,800	1,800
ECM Bank Fees	200	200
Total ECM Other Expenses	43,800	48,800
<b>Total Erskine Campus Ministry Expenses</b>	\$ 140,550	\$ 150,480
<b>Net Income (Loss)-ECM</b>	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance-ECM	\$ 30,297	\$ 30,297
<b>Ending Fund Balance-ECM</b>	\$ 30,297	\$ 30,297
<b>Net Income (Loss) Summary</b>		
Executive Board Revenue	\$ 172,440	\$ 183,991
Executive Board Expenses	(166,590)	(182,541)
General Synod Meeting Net after Registration	(5,850)	(1,450)
<b>Executive Board Net income (Loss)</b>	\$ -	\$ -
<b>ARPWM Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Erskine Campus Ministry-Summary</b>		
ECM-Revenue	140,550	150,480
ECM-Director Salary & Benefits	(96,750)	(101,680)
ECM-Director Expenses	(43,800)	(48,800)
<b>Erskine Campus Ministry Net Income (Loss)</b>	-	-
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	-	-



## THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>REVENUES</b>	-0.5%	3.8%
Denominational Ministries Alloc	\$ 101,515	\$ 105,631
Miscellaneous Gifts	500	500
ARPWM Contributions	3,500	3,600
ARP Subscription Income	25,200	24,000
ARP Advertisement Income	5,000	5,300
Misc Income	120	120
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 135,835</b>	<b>\$ 139,151</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Total Salary & Staff Benefits	\$ 101,712	\$ 105,154
<b>STAFF &amp; BOARD EXPENSES</b>		
Editor Expenses	800	2,000
Staff Expenses	300	300
Dues & Membership Fees	200	200
Total Staff & Board Expenses	\$1,300	\$2,500
Total Publicity & Promotion	\$1,440	\$1,440
Total Equipment	\$500	\$720
Total Communications	\$1,650	\$1,650
<b>Office Expenses</b>		
Rent	3,473	3,577
Office Supplies & Misc	1,567	1,600
Bank Fees	0	50
Total Office Expenses	\$5,040	\$5,227
<b>PRODUCTION EXPENSES</b>	-12.0%	-1.4%
Preparation & Printing	13,182	12,429
Labels and Postage	5,422	4,441
P2P Subscription Software	1,889	1,840
Materials and Supplies	300	300
Photography Expenses	200	200
Design Services	3,200	3,250
Total Production Expenses	\$24,193	\$22,460
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$135,835</b>	<b>\$139,151</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$0
Ending Fund Balance	\$0	\$0

The **Moderator's Committee on Executive Board** recommended approval of all recommendations. All recommendations were **Synod approved**. In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

5. That the Executive Board be commended for their hard work and due diligence. **Synod APPROVED.**

A motion **carried**:

*That the President of the Erskine Alumni Association as an ex-officio member of Erskine College and Seminary's Board of Trustees be removed from Synod's Manual of Authorities and Duties (p.45).*

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 19, 2018, and received an encouraging report from the Director of Gift Planning as well as inspiring revenue related presentations from Susan Tanner, Director of Communications; Mike Jones, Executive Director of Outreach North America; and Roger Wiles, Executive Director of Central Services.

Susan Tanner has proactively taken on a significant project to produce an effective first-time-ever Annual Report for the ARP Denomi-

nation showing highlights and ministry impact that is being realized from Denominational Ministry Funding. Mike Jones expressed appreciation for the generous DMF funding and shared ONA's vision to plant 90+ churches by the year 2030. In combination with related ONA revenue needs, new revenues are needed to support World Witness' vision of adding 200 new missionaries by 2020, and CEM's \$1.4M endowment goals to fund the future of Camp Joy.

Steve Nichols, Director of Gift Planning showed that Planned Giving is an essential resource in combination with DMF to meet these ambitious goals for these agencies. Notably, we are grateful that denominational assets and funds under management have nearly doubled in the past five years to \$27MM that have resulted in increased distributions to ministries. Growth has come from a rise in gifts of appreciated assets (like stocks), bequests, and market gains that have broadly benefited churches and agencies participating in the ARP Investment Program. Of equal importance to note, local churches receive high priority as beneficiaries of new charitable gift intent through bequests.

The ARP Foundation and the Board of Stewardship:

**Commend participating churches for their generous support of our agencies through DMF**

**and**

**Encourage churches to consider investment options through the ARP Investment Program**

**and**

**Encourage churches to utilize gift planning services available through the ARP Foundation**

...all toward the mutual benefit of The Kingdom, our families, our churches and the growth of the ARPC Denomination.

#### **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 Mother Church.**

<u>Easter Offering</u>	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Stewardship/ Foundation	8,672	7,567	6,716	6,822	7,112	8,249
Bonclarken	13,411	10,693	9,906	7,744	8,465	11,400
CEM	9,966	8,179	8,112	7,681	7,661	8,906
Erskine College	12,926	11,399	10,227	7,672	8,316	10,300
World Witness	20,943	18,020	17,994	16,927	14,986	18,711
Subtotal	65,918	55,858	52,956	46,846	46,540	57,566

Thanksgiving

Erskine Sem.	4,959	6,187	6,648	5,358	6,300	5,411
Amer. Bible Soc.	2,896	3,742	3,306	3,016	3,010	2,741
ONA	6,086	7,458	6,396	6,516	6,636	5,714
Christmas Ben.	37,214	50,995	51,108	46,681	43,760	33,557
Subtotal	51,155	68,382	67,458	61,571	59,706	47,443

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 has engaged the independent auditing firm Scott & Company, Columbia, SC, for the December 31, 2017 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 audit is available online at [www.arpchurch.org](http://www.arpchurch.org).

## Administrative Information

Officers for July 1, 2018– June 30, 2019

Mike Thomason, Chairman

Nathan Beard, Vice 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 and asking that all current and future ministry needs be met. **Synod APPROVED.**

2. That the proposed 2019 budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. That the Thanksgiving and Easter offerings be continued for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. **Synod APPROVED.**
4. That in case a quorum is not met at the 2019 meeting of Synod in Pennsylvania, the 2019 budget will continue with the Board of Stewardship authorized to make adjustments to reflect updated revenue forecasts or other minor adjustments as deemed appropriate. **Synod APPROVED.**
5. That Synod especially thank all of the people who work hard to serve Synod. **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Thomason, Chairman

Denominational Ministry Fund Statistics  
April 2018

Category	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Churches meeting goal of 20%	4	5	5	2	2	1
Churches giving 10% - 19%	25	31	31	28	30	37
Giving percentage not determined	111	70	72	57	77	0
Remaining at same percentage	99	132	130	113	113	184
Increased percentage level	50	55	64	79	73	74
Increased by at least 1%	30	42	43	57	50	48
Decreased percentage level	33	37	34	104	124	101
Decreased giving but at 10% or above	8	7	8	39	17	19
Submitted a report but did not pledge support	26	56	51	56	41	
Churches who have not submitted reports as of April 24, 2018	107	53	168	57	77	33

The figures reported in the column "2018" are based on information recorded in Statistical Reports for calendar year 2017 from individual congregations.  
Total churches = 267

## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Revenue</b>		
General Synod Allocation-Stewardship	\$ 19,675	\$ 20,870
General Synod Allocation-Foundation	79,465	79,952
ARP Foundation		
Special Offering	6,800	8,120
Transfers for Ministry	43,836	46,340
Endowment Transfers for Dir of GP	43,836	46,340
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 193,611</b>	<b>\$ 201,622</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Director of Gift Planning (GP)</b>		
<b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 103,966</b>	<b>\$ 106,872</b>
Dir of GP Travel/Meals	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Dir of GP Dues/memberships	1,200	1,200
Cell Phone	766	526
Rent	2,868	2,954
GP Office Supplies/Promotional	2,500	2,740
<b>Total GP Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 19,334</b>	<b>\$ 19,420</b>
<b>Total Director of Gift Planning Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 123,300</b>	<b>\$ 126,292</b>
Board Travel & Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Administrative Support	5,000	5,000
Promotional	2,400	2,400
General Synod Audit & Legal	11,000	11,000
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	43,836	46,340
General Office	2,075	2,590
Bank Fees		\$ 2,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 193,611</b>	<b>\$ 201,622</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Beginning Fund Reserve</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The **Moderator's Committee on the Board of Stewardship** recommended adoption of all the recommendations in the report. **Synod APPROVED.**

In addition the Moderator's Committee recommended:

5. That General Synod thank the members of the Board of Stewardship for their hard work. **Synod APPROVED**

Prayer for issues of Stewardship in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was offered.

**A motion carried:**

*That the Moderator appoint a special committee to study the matter of ARP churches who have decreased or not contributed to the Denominational Ministry Fund for a year or more. That the committee develop a "best practices" document outlining how these churches may be edified and encouraged to contribute to the financial needs of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The committee may report to the Board of Stewardship it's findings, conclusions and motions.*

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

### **BOARD OF BENEFITS**

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

#### Benevolence

The ARPC has 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, income from 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 2017 was as follows:

Need-Based Assistance	\$16,802.00
Christmas Gifts	\$46,728.00
Total Distribution	\$63,530.00

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. Thank you notes from the recipients are on the Board of Benefits display table.

#### Insurance

##### Medical Plan

The ARPC medical insurance plan is self-funded. Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina served as Third Party Administrator of the plan in 2017. While the cost of coverage is high, the benefits are comparable to “platinum” plans available through the federal insurance exchanges.

As a self-funded church plan under the Affordable Care Act, we are required to give all eligible employees the opportunity to enroll in the insurance program and to file forms 1094C and 1095C with the federal government to verify compliance. The Office of Central Services provides compliance support for this federal mandate.

The Board and Central Services works closely with NFP Corporate Benefits (NFP) to monitor compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Board has authorized NFP to review and recommend design changes in the plan. In addition, NFP evaluates 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. BCBS served as the Third-Party Administrator for claims in 2017.



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 waives 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 policies.

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 Claims Reserve Balance

	2015	2016	2017
Total Ins. Premiums Collected	\$ 4,271,584	\$ 4,370,509	\$ 4,839,155
Fees Paid to Third Party			
Administrators	\$ (810,554)	\$ (858,349)	\$ (886,360)
Paid Ins. Benefit Claims	\$(3,714,326)	\$(3,766,394)	\$(3,488,375)
Administrative Costs -	\$ (83,191)	\$ (83,191)	\$ (89,992)
Claims Reserve			
Investment Activity -	\$ (11,158)	\$ 126,109	\$ 194,378
Balance of Claims Reserve -	\$ 2,069,990	\$ 1,858,674	\$ 2,427,480

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) of Greensboro, North Carolina serve as actuary to the Board.

The Investment Committee of Synod 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 serves as an advisory member of the Investment Committee.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Actuarial Value				
of Assets—	\$49,808,000	\$52,291,000	\$52,503,000	\$53,958,000
Actual Liability—\$54,632,000		\$57,393,000	\$60,214,000	\$62,078,000
Unfunded				
Actuarial				
Liability -	(\$4,824,000)	(\$5,102,000)	(\$7,711,000)	(\$8,120,000)
Percentage				
Funded -	91.2%	91.1%	87.2%	86.9%

The *Form of Government* requires a Call to have provisions for the church to make contributions at the current 12% of a participant's earnings to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan. Contributions to the Plan are not voluntary.

#### 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

Scott & Company of Columbia, South Carolina, an independent certified public accounting firm, conducts a formal audit of the Plan annually. 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 2018-2019

Chairman: Ed Lamb

Vice-Chairman: Earl Linderman

Secretary: Guy Smith

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 congregations 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 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 plan or plans to all eligible employees in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. **Synod APPROVED.**
7. That the proposed budget for 2019 be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**
8. That all other actions of the Board of Benefits as reported herein be affirmed. **Synod APPROVED.**

Ed Lamb, Chairman

## BOARD OF BENEFITS

	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
<b>Revenues</b>		
<b><u>Unrestricted for Operations</u></b>		
General Synod Allocation	6,500	6,500
<b><u>Designated Estimates for Benevolence</u></b>		
Benevolent Fund Special Offering	51,100	44,104
Christmas Benevolence	2,600	1,987
J. C. Lott Trust	5,300	5,199
Total Benevolent	59,000	51,290
<b><u>Group Insurance Resources</u></b>		
Group Insurance Premiums	5,071,119	4,998,375
Group Insurance Interest	100	25
Inter Fund Transfers		
Interest on Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	33,200	27,300
Gain/(Loss) A&R Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	-	-
Total Group Insurance	5,104,419	5,025,700
<b><u>Retirement Plan Resources</u></b>		
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement	3,800	3,800
ARP Retirement Plan	1,805,100	1,890,000
Transfer from B of B-DM Allocation		
Total Retirement Plan	1,808,900	1,893,800
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,978,819</b>	<b>\$ 6,977,290</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b><u>Board and General</u></b>		
Board Travel & Meeting	5,000	5,000
Transfer to Retirement Fund		
Office and Miscellaneous	1,500	1,500
Total Board and General	6,500	6,500
<b><u>Benevolence</u></b>		
Benevolence	59,000	51,290
<b><u>Group Insurance</u></b>		
Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve	5,007,000	4,925,000
Group Insurance Administrative Support	88,919	92,200
Fees-A&R Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	8,500	8,500
Inter Fund Transfers		
Total Group Insurance	5,104,419	5,025,700
<b><u>ARP Retirement Plan</u></b>		
Audit	8,000	4,000
Actuarial Fees	10,000	50,000
Legal	5,000	5,000
Administrative Support	88,919	92,200
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,300	2,500
Transfer to Trustee	1,695,682	1,740,100
Total ARP Retirement Plan	1,808,900	1,893,800
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,978,819</b>	<b>\$ 6,977,290</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

The **Moderator's Committee on Benefits** recommended the approval of all recommendations. **Synod APPROVED.**

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

9. That the Board of Benefits, along with the Executive Director and Staff of Central Services, be thanked for their diligent efforts in maintaining our excellent benefits program.  
**Synod APPROVED.**
10. That General Synod be diligent in securing the names of qualified and motivated individuals to serve on the Board of Benefits. **Synod APPROVED.**

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

#### BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Gentlemen:

Bonclarken continues to appreciate and value our role in furthering His kingdom through our work in conference center ministry.

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.

During 2017, our Board spent considerable time with the initial steps implementing our 2016 Strategic Plan. These steps included our *Today and Tomorrow – The Campaign for Bonclarken* and beginning a comprehensive marketing effort. These two actions are intended to help fund long-term plans to maintain the quality of our facilities and thereby sustain the mission of Bonclarken of serving as a “Christian environment for inspiration and renewal.”

Our *Today and Tomorrow – The Campaign for Bonclarken* was a \$1.5 million effort to raise additional funds for our Endowment and to fund four special projects (new youth gathering facility, front entrance renovation, improved lighting in our Chapel, and redesigned main parking area to provide pedestrian and wheelchair safety). The Campaign began in November 2016 and was officially closed by the Board at our January 2018 meeting as \$1,608,480 had been received in gifts and pledges.

Our marketing efforts include strategies to attract new groups, but also to encourage groups to bring more guests and use more of our

services. Renovations to Founders Hall, a new website, new reservation software system, new on-line videos, and many other items are part of this marketing plan.

Also at our January 2018 Board meeting was the announcement that the debt on the Lodge had been retired on January 16, nearly nine years ahead of schedule. The Board paused to thank God for His abundant blessing that allowed repayment of this debt so quickly and for the success of the Campaign.

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 ministry 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 2017, Bonclarken hosted numerous ARP events, including General Synod, 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 2017.

**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 2017-18: Elise Horton, Chairman; David Brunt, Vice Chairman; Paul Bell, Secretary; Mike Cruce, Treasurer. Committee Chairs: Anne Ross, Administration Committee; Max Smith, Buildings and Grounds Committee; Calvin Draffin, 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 2017 through March 2018:

Actions taken at and after the May 2017 Board meeting:

- Authorized the Administration to investigate the concept, specifications, and costs for a major renovation to Founders Hall and bring this report to the Buildings and Grounds Committee's attention as soon as possible.
- Approved plans for renovation/addition to the Maintenance Director's Home (owned by Bonclarken) at 44 Sycamore.

Actions taken at the October 2017 Board meeting:

- Approved Phase 1 of the proposed renovations/repairs to Founders and Memorial.
- Approved the transfer of all endowment/gift annuity funds currently managed by Dividend Assets Capital to the oversight of the ARP Investment Program.
- Appointed Paul Bell and Jim Bradford to work with the Administration to send a letter to Synod's Board of Benefits expressing the financial burden on Bonclarken by recent health insurance premium increases and encouraging the Board of Benefits to make lower cost options available.
- Approved Carl Shaw, CPA, to perform the review of the 2017 financials.

Actions taken at the January 2018 Board meeting:

- Authorized the conclusion of the *Today and Tomorrow – The Campaign for Bonclarken* due to the current total of \$1,608,480 received in gifts and pledges, exceeding the goal of \$1,500,000.
- Authorized the Administration to move forward with the construction of the new Youth Gathering Facility.
- Approved Phase 2 of the proposed renovations/repairs to Founders and Memorial.
- Held a "mortgage burning ceremony" to celebrate the retiring of the debt on the Lodge.
- Approved the proposed 2018 Operating budget.
- Approved the proposed 2018 Endowment Income budget.

**Duty #5:**

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

**Recommendations:**

1. That the meeting of General Synod for 2020 be held at Bonclarken beginning Tuesday, June 9, 2020. (*The meeting of General Synod for 2019 was approved by the 2017 Synod to be held at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA, beginning on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.*) **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,

Elise B. McLurkin Horton,  
Chairman

## BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>		
<b>Operating Revenue:</b>		
Rooms	\$ 1,133,000	\$ 1,140,000
Meeting Room	13,000	15,000
Food Service	617,000	625,000
Service Fee	79,000	79,000
Programs	39,000	40,000
Camps	62,000	64,000
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	40,000	40,000
Property Owners	40,000	40,000
Miscellaneous	22,000	22,000
<b>Total Op. Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,045,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,065,000</b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenue:</b>		
Synod's DMF	\$ 113,000	\$ 113,500
ARPWM	5,000	5,000
Mountain Club/Churches	245,000	247,000
Easter Offering	10,000	10,000
Other	59,608	30,270
<b>Total Non-Op. Rev.</b>	<b>\$ 432,608</b>	<b>\$ 405,770</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,477,608</b>	<b>\$ 2,470,770</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
<b>Cost of Sales:</b>		
Food - Revenue Meals	\$ 235,000	\$ 237,000
Food - Nonrevenue Meals	42,000	42,000
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	14,000	13,000
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$ 291,000</b>	<b>\$ 292,000</b>
<b>Total Pysl/Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 1,432,366</b>	<b>\$ 1,439,528</b>
<b>Other Expenses:</b>		
Administration	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Camps	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000
Financial fees	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
Food Service	25,000	25,000
Guest Services	75,000	75,000
Maintenance	132,000	132,000
Marketing	70,000	55,000
Prop and Liab Insurance	70,000	70,000
Recreation	23,000	23,000
Utilities	160,242	160,242
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 754,242</b>	<b>\$ 739,242</b>
<b>Total Op. Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,477,608</b>	<b>\$ 2,470,770</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

The **Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken** recommended adoption of all recommendations in the Bonclarken report.  
**Synod APPROVED.**

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

4. That General Synod thank and commend Chip Sherer, the Board of Bonclarken and the staff for their hospitality this week, their prayerful vision, and their continuing ministry.  
**Synod APPROVED.**

A presentation concerning the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Pakistan was made. The lead speaker was the representative to Synod from Pakistan.

*Honorable Moderator, fellow ministers, beloved missionaries, dear elders, brothers and sisters! Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I bring greetings from the ARP Synod Pakistan. Indeed, it's an honor to serve and working for the expansion of God's Kingdom, whether here or in any part of the world like Pakistan. We have the same Savior and definitely working for the same cause. We greatly appreciate your love and consistent support for the ARP Synod, Pakistan. We have around 60 churches and same numbers of pastors mostly working in Punjab and Karachi areas. Right now, we have four presbyteries like, Sahiwal Presbytery, Ravi Presbytery, Neel-ibaar Presbytery and Frank Memorial Presbytery Karachi. But we are expecting to have more churches and more presbyteries in the coming years ahead, particularly in cities like Lahore and Karachi. Our church planting work is in rapid progress there in Lahore. Right now, we have three churches there but we are looking forward to further church planting but we need your prayers and encouragement in these efforts to reach Pakistan.*

*Our ARP Synod is greatly concerned about our own folks gradually migrating from Sahiwal to metropolitan cities like Lahore and Karachi and the Christians already living in these cities predominantly following the Prosperity Gospel. So, if we don't bother to do the church planting there it can lead them to the wrong direction. So, we as the Pakistani synod humbly request you to strengthen our hands to do more church planting mainly in Lahore. Rev. Frank Van Dalen has been a great blessing to us in church planting project for Karachi Presbytery and currently we have around fifteen churches and fifteen pastors there. We look forward if someone like him can come over Pakistan one day and join us to do this project as it was done in Karachi.*

*The ARP Church, Pakistan also appreciate the great work of the ARP mission that has been done over the years, especially for the denationalization of the ARP Mission schools and the Mission Hospital Sahiwal. Our old folks often cherish recalling the names of the great missionaries Ransons, Getty's, Hamltons, Presslies, Margret White, Youngs, Rev. Gary Lechworth, Dr. Ron Brunson and list goes on and on. Hope we shall keep lifting and encouraging each other and continue working in a cordial relationship and one day the Holy Spirit will lead many more people to come to the Christ especially from the Muslim community like Aster John.*

Zeeshan Sadiq,  
Synod Secretary  
ARP Church, Pakistan

A prayer for the work of the ARP Church in Pakistan and our speaker was offered.

The board presented details on Pakistan including an overview of the present situation and plans for the future.

Prayer for Andrew Brunson was offered.

Synod's afternoon session closed with the blessing and closing prayer by Chad Reynolds.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, EVENING SESSION**

The evening session was led by Clint Davis.

Billy Barron introduced the Fraternal Delegate from RPC-NA, Kent Butterfield, who brought greetings from the RPCNA and reported to the Synod on the status and work of the RPC-NA.

Prayer was offered for our RPCNA brethren.

#### **WORLD WITNESS REPORT NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE**

For more information,  
Contact 864-233-5226

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NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE**

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Prayer was offered for World Witness.

The report of Christian Education was presented.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

As we look to the future, it's important that we learn from our past, but focus on what is to come. In many ways, the car windshield is a perfectly designed example, a broad view of what is ahead while a small rearview mirror reminds us of where we have been. The windshield is an interesting reminder of where our focus should be, looking forward to what God has in store for us and His church. It's easy to look back, but there is so much in front of us.

As believers, we are called to be disciples making disciples. There is much to be done and we must be about the business of sharing the Gospel. There are people in all of our lives who have no idea that God has divine appointments awaiting them in the windshields of their future. At Christian Education Ministries, we are eager to work with the local church to provide the tools to help people grow in their faith to be passionate followers of Jesus.

There is so much potential in front of us and it is always such an encouragement when God-sized dreams come to fruition. For example, the folks of Virginia Presbytery have dreamed of hosting a Camp Joy in the mountains of Virginia so they could reach out to the special needs community. In 2019, thanks to God's blessings, a new Camp Joy location will be inaugurated in Virginia.

As a ministry, CEM examined what is in front of us and decided this year to leave our old committee structure behind and reorganize ourselves internally. The result is three new committees, one focused on the ministry of Camp Joy, another focused on resources and training, and a third focused on conferences. Even as we take a quick look back at where we've been, we are all the more energized by what God has in store in our future. So, we've reorganized to better support where we're going.

When you look through the windshield of potential in your future, what do you see? Let CEM come alongside you, as together we seek to be disciples making disciples.

**Organization:**

**Officers:** Chairman: Bob Whittet

Vice-Chairman: Ike Hughes

Secretary: Kelly Noonoo

**Committees:** Executive Committee

Conferences Committee

Resources and Training Committee

Camp Joy Committee

**Board Meetings:**

The Board of Christian Education Ministries has held two meetings since Synod 2017. These meetings were held September 18-20, 2017; and February 26-27, 2018.

**Authority:**

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

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

The format of this report is based on the duties and work as defined in the *"Manual of Authorities and Duties for Officers and Agencies"* 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 hired Christina Buchanan (part-time) as graphic/media coordinator.
  - CEM accepted the retirement of Judi Hodges. The board thanked Judi for her hard work and honored her at a lunch during the September board meeting.
  - CEM continues to contract with Pam Black on a part-time basis as the overall Camp Joy Nurse administrator.
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 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 opportunity and methods which will make training accessible to all those who request it.

Some highlights of this year have been:

- multiple opportunities to work with our presbyteries and churches to promote child safety and protection policies leading to a significant increase in preparedness by our churches;
- continued development of video recording of training and its posting on our websites for easier access by churches; (ex.: recording and broadcast of the Synod addresses, the ARPWM Annual Business meeting, series of financial training seminars; evangelism conferences and CE workshops.)
- over a dozen live webinars have been attended by church leaders who have not had easy access to training resources before;
- onsite training by CEM staff has taken place at churches in Virginia, Northeast, Florida, Tenn-Alabama, First, Catawba, Second and Mississippi Valley presbyteries;
- close cooperative work with the ARPWM and ONA to develop seminars and training that benefit their ministry objectives;

4. *To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry (i.e., Sunday School, catechism training, mid-week programming, Vacation Bible School, etc.). (MAD2009).*

- CEM continues to operate bookstores in the Greenville office, Bonclarken and online providing people an opportunity to obtain board approved resources. With the addition of Erskine Seminary classes at the ARP Center, CEM will be able to assist the Seminary with the purchase of books.
- CEM traveled with the bookstore to many churches, conferences, Synod and Family Bible Conference.
- CEM continues to expand the *The Quarterly*. The Teacher's online help material has been a great addition. *The Quarterly* continues to grow in subscriptions as the number of ARP and PCA churches use the material.
- Recognizing there have been issues with the timely receipt of *The Quarterly*, the CEM board approved moving to multiple authors moving

forward to help ensure churches are able to receive their materials on time.

- CEM is constantly expanding the list of resources to equip churches for Word-centered ministry, to promote daily Bible reading and to enable evangelism. We continue to work with ONA in getting resources out to churches for help in evangelism and church growth.
- CEM is working with the Women's Ministries leaders to promote and provide their selected resources for the Women's Ministries.

### **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. Edited by Dr. Mark Ross.

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 continues to research, review and use discernment in finding and acquiring new reformed sources for curriculum and teaching materials. CEM makes every effort to recommend and provide reformed curriculum based on the enquiring church's needs and interests, such as age, level of spiritual maturity, make-

up of the group, leadership style and budget. This includes working with the ARPWM in finding Bible study materials and materials for events such as the Family Bible Conference.

- 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.
- To make training resources and denominational events more easily accessible to everyone, CEM has recorded onsite events, seminars & conferences, as well as online webinars. These have been edited and posted at [www.arpcem.org](http://www.arpcem.org), our CEM website, at no charge for use in training and informing church leaders:
- Webinars on *Child Safety and protection Policies and Procedures, Vacation Bible School as Outreach, Having a Vibrant Children's Ministry, Recruiting, Training and Retaining Volunteers, Backyard Bible Clubs, Small Budget Ideas, Partnering with Parents, Ultra-Local Missions for Teens, A Primer in Polity.*
- Onsite training has been held at a number of churches at their request on topics such as *Parenting, Learning Styles, A Covenantal View of Children's Ministry, Managing Your Classroom, Becoming a Treasured Teacher, Preparing a Life-Changing Lesson, Helping Your Ministry Team Identify and Use Their Spiritual Gifts in Ministry, Stages of Faith Development in Children.*
- The CEM staff continues to respond to requests from churches for consultations on developing and strengthening their current CE programs and ministries.
- The CEM staff attended national conferences in order to further develop their understanding of the trends and challenges being faced by churches nationwide and become more familiar with some of the resources being developed.

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) attendance:

27 churches/276 students/71 leaders

Quest conference (Jr. High Conference) attendance:

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: 224 adults, 106 youth/children

CEM continues to plan for the expansion of Camp Joy (Special Needs Ministry). There is an ongoing effort to raise funds to support the future of this unique camp. This fund, has been renamed the Ann Brice fund as a way of honoring the vision and heart of one of the camp's founders. A Camp Joy will soon be held, for the first time, in Virginia, thanks to the vision and hard work of those in Virginia Presbytery in raising the necessary funds. A similar effort to is now underway to bring Camp Joy to Tennessee.

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) and with other denominations.
- CEM seeks to identify and recruit well-qualified reformed teachers and trainers to serve with us in providing the best possible regional training and resources.
- CEM offers participation in our events to all area churches as presented from a reformed world and life view.

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

- a. *providing and promoting opportunities for leadership training.*
- b. *developing and promoting 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.*

Examples of this cooperative effort are:

- Teacher training seminars were conducted in several ARP Churches.
- Elder and Deacon training workshops were held for several churches.
- CEM works closely with the Family Bible Conference Committee to provide a full program for the whole family.



- CEM conducted onsite Child safety seminars for several churches.
- CEM is supporting ARP Women's Ministries through the research and development of training resources for their leaders, as well as through speaking for area events.

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 web site.
- 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 and summary reports were made available where needed

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

**Recommendations:**

1. CEM recommends that the 2019 budget be approved. **Synod APPROVED.**
2. CEM asks that Synod continue to pray for the work of the camps and conferences of CEM. **Synod APPROVED.**
3. CEM asks Synod to pray specifically for the launch of the new work of Camp Joy within Virginia Presbytery. **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Whittet, Chairman

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

<b>Revenues</b>	2018 Synod Approved	2019 Proposed
Use of Reserve	\$ -	\$ 5,515
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$205,964	\$205,964
Easter Offering Allocation	\$8,200	\$8,200
Contributions for Ministry	13,100	15,100
Registration and Fees	249,910	198,920
Sales & Subscriptions	88,800	89,700
Special Endowment Fund Gift	18,020	19,151
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 583,994</b>	<b>\$ 542,550</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Total Salary & Benefits	220,096	217,674
Staff Expenses	10,150	18,150
Board/Committee Expenses	8,000	8,000
General Office		
Promotional Expenses	1,000	1,000
Equipment	500	500
Communications	3,700	4,300
Rent	13,650	13,271
Office Expenses	6,000	6,900
Total General Office	24,850	25,971
Facility Management	3,000	2,500
Publications		
Adult Quarterly	38,300	42,100
Adult Quarterly Editor	17,500	24,780
Book Store Purchases	27,550	19,300
Other Publications Expenses	1,000	800
Total Publications	84,350	86,980
Conferences and Training		
Room & Board Expenses	126,600	82,470
Honorariums & Fees	60,755	59,755
Travel	5,150	4,350
Planning	3,150	2,300
Supplies	28,850	31,700
Promotional	2,300	2,700
Total Conferences and Training	226,805	183,275
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 583,994</b>	<b>\$ 542,550</b>
<b>Change in Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 149,473</b>	<b>\$ 143,072</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 149,473</b>	<b>\$ 143,072</b>

The **Moderator's Committee on Christian Education Ministries** recommended the adoption of all recommendations in the report. **SYNOD APPROVED.**

Prayer was offered for Camp Joy.

The report on **Memorials** was presented.

## MEMORIALS

### **FIRST PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL #1 (Concerning the Authority of the Diaconate):**

#### Background Information:

(NB: This memorial originated from a congregation in First Presbytery; First Presbytery voted to refer it to the General Synod.)

Concerning the authority of the Diaconate, the ambiguity of the FOG to offer clarity on the diaconate's authority (or lack thereof) and the discrepancy in the FOG as it relates to the authority of the diaconate.

**Whereas**, our congregation possesses great respect for the faithfulness of the *Standards of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*;

**Whereas**, our congregation is in the process of revitalization, not only focusing on the priorities of growth in our membership (both spiritual and numerically) and our stewardship, but also focusing on aligning the church with the Word of God and Christ's mission (which is stated for us in the *Standards of the ARPC*);

**Whereas**, our revitalization effort includes training the officers of the church; making sure that the elders and the diaconate operate and function from a biblical position;

**Whereas**, our congregation has run into issues in understanding the role of the diaconate and has experienced difficulty in exercising that role in the church as it is defined in the FOG;

**Whereas**, the FOG implies that the office of deacon is one of "sympathy and service" (5.1), but does not clearly specify that it is in any way an office of authority;

**Whereas**, we find an apparent discrepancy between FOG 5.1 and the Formula for Ordination and Installation in FOG 8.18, where it seems to treat the office of the Diaconate as an office of authority, specifically when the congregation is asked to render "obedience" to the officers both elders and "(deacons)" (8.18).<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas** the FOG in 5.17 clearly states that in the “discharge of duties, the diaconate is a board of, and under the supervision and authority of the Session...and the [requisite of ] approval of the Session... [on matters presented to the congregation, especially financial]; And that the “Session may void or amend any action of the Diaconate, or return it for further consideration” seemingly positions the “office” of deacon outside the bounds of “rule” or authority;

**Whereas**, conversation with other ministers of First Presbytery has rendered diverse positions on the nature of the diaconate as possessing authority beyond that of “sympathy and service” as is called for in the FOG;

Memorial

**Therefore**, First Presbytery memorializes the General Synod to:

1. Request that the General Synod of the ARP Church study the nature of authority as it relates to the Diaconate (Is the office of the Diaconate an office of authority?); and to research the apparent discrepancy in the FOG concerning the authority of the Diaconate as mentioned in 5.1, 5.17, 5.18 and as it compares to the Formula For Ordination and Installation in 8.18 (Does the congregation need to submit to the Diaconate?) **Synod APPROVED.**

Submitted with gratitude and humility by your brothers in Christ.

<sup>1</sup> The question in 8.18 says: “Do you, the members of this congregation, acknowledge and receive these fellow members as elders (deacons), and do you promise to give them 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?”

**FIRST PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL #2 (Establishment of a new Eastern NC Presbytery):**

**Whereas**, the Presbytery is the essential court of the Presbyterian system, which has oversight of a group of congregations within a specific geographical area as determined by the General Synod. (FOG 10.1).

**Whereas** the primary responsibility of Presbytery is the “initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable it to carry on the mission of God in Christ’s Church by word and deed,” (FOG 10.2) and its role in doing so can be summa-

rized as oversight and care for ministers and candidates for ministry; oversight and care for congregations within its jurisdiction especially for those struggling or without pastors; establishment and organization of new congregations; and in general the extension of Christ's kingdom within its boundaries and beyond. (FOG 10.3)

**Whereas** First Presbytery has been used and blessed by God in carrying out this responsibility such that the number of churches has grown substantially and its boundaries extended across the entire state of North Carolina to such a degree that it is significantly larger than any other presbytery of the ARP.

**Whereas** the 2012 General Synod Committee on Efficiency recommended that "First Presbytery be divided into two presbyteries" along with supporting reasons (2012 Minutes of Synod, pgs. 566, 571-572), which recommendation was referred to First Presbytery.

**Whereas** First Presbytery, in response to the General Synod Committee on Efficiency's recommendations, did appoint the Committee on Realignment and further adopted its recommendation "to develop and pursue a unified vision and practical strategy for realignment and multiplying presbyteries that will strategically and effectively further the advancement of the gospel in and through our churches" (Minutes of First Presbytery, June 2013), and the Committee on Realignment presented three viable scenarios for such realignment (Minutes of First Presbytery, October 2013), all three of which included the formation of an Eastern NC Presbytery.

**Whereas** the work of the Committee on Realignment never progressed to a final recommendation, yet provided valuable assessment of and information on the need and strategy for multiplying presbyteries.

**Whereas** the Sessions of the proposed Eastern NC Presbytery congregations, with great appreciation for the faithful ministry and growth of First Presbytery, do now desire and are committed to working together as a new presbytery in the eastern regions of North Carolina, with a unified vision for effectively and efficiently carrying out the mission and message of Christ's church and the advancement of Christ's kingdom through the care and oversight of ministers, candidates and congregations; the establishment and organization of new churches; and proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed.

**Whereas** the number and size of congregations in this eastern region has grown such that it can be more effective and better steward the spiritual gifts and resources of its ministers, sessions and congregations by implementing and overseeing the work of our ARP church-

es in a more focused geographical area. We believe this will encourage more lay involvement of elders and members in the work of Presbytery, greater personal care for one another, and better gospel- partnership together in this region.

**Whereas** these churches are committed to work together as congregations to form a new presbytery that seeks the glory of Christ and the advancement of his Church in general, and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in particular, in eastern North Carolina. And whereas these churches are committed to have a fully functional plan in place by April 2018 and to work with First Presbytery for a smooth transition and implementation for this new presbytery.

**Therefore**, First Presbytery, on behalf of the Sessions of the proposed Presbytery, memorializes General Synod to approve the establishment of a new eastern NC Presbytery of the ARP Church beginning as soon after the 2018 meeting of Synod as feasible and:

1. That the new Presbytery be defined geographically as including the following North Carolina counties: Stokes, Forsyth, Davidson, Montgomery, Richmond and all other NC counties to the east;
2. That due to their location so close to the above boundary line and the express desire of the Maupin Avenue ARP Session to be included in the new Presbytery, that Synod be requested to grant Maupin Avenue inclusion in the new Presbytery.
3. That the transition timeline outlined in the above report be recommended to General Synod with the goal of the new Presbytery being organized on January 1, 2019.
4. That retired ministers, ministers without a call, and ministers laboring outside the bounds who are residing in the geographic boundaries of the new Presbytery have their membership in the new Presbytery unless they appeal to remain in First Presbytery prior to the organization of the new presbytery.

**Synod APPROVED.**

**TENNESSEE-ALABAMA MEMORIAL #1:**

**Whereas**, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian ("ARP") Synod is currently perfecting language for a statement of Principles for Christian Higher Education; and

**Whereas**, Erskine College and Erskine Seminary are educational institutions of the ARP Synod, founded upon the Christian principles of that Church, and governed according to the Scriptures, the system

of doctrine of which is summarily comprehended in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Larger Catechism, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism; and

**Whereas**, Erskine College and Erskine Seminary currently receive funds that have originated with the federal government of the United States of America; and

**Whereas**, other institutions of higher education with principles similar to Erskine College and Erskine Seminary, in order to maintain full liberty to operate and teach in accordance with those principles, have found it expedient to disentangle themselves from federal funding; and

**Whereas**, it is prudent to be prepared for a circumstance in which, in order to continue operating according to the Christian principles of this Church, it becomes expedient for Erskine College and Erskine Seminary similarly to disentangle from federal funding;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery memorialize the ARP Synod to study the current points of conflict between federal education policy and our Christian principles in general, and the various practices of other similar institutions in particular; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the results of this study be presented, with recommendations, to the following General Synod. **Synod DID NOT APPROVE.**

The **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended that Recommendations #1 (from First Presbytery) **NOT BE APPROVED**. Synod **ADOPTED** the First Presbytery Memorial.

The **Moderator's Committee** recommended that Memorial #2 be approved. Synod **ADOPTED** the First Presbytery Memorial #2.

The **Moderator's Committee** recommended that the Tennessee-Alabama memorial not be adopted. Synod **DID NOT APPROVE** the memorial from T/A.

A motion **carried**:

*That the matter "whether a license from a civil government is required for a marriage to be recognized as valid according to the Standards of the ARP Church" be*

*referred to Synod's Committee on Theological and Social Concerns and that the Presbytery's Theological and Social Committee Report and the Report of the Commission in Regard to the Cobaugh matter be included as supporting documents.*

Prayer was offered in thanks for the way in which the Synod handled the new NC Presbytery and for the two "new presbyteries" in NC.

The **Committee on Nominations** report was presented and **ADOPTED**.

#### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations (CON) met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC and again by teleconference on April 17, 2018. During these meetings several items of business were addressed.

The following officers were elected for the Committee on Nominations 2018-2019:

Paul Patrick, Chairman  
Ike Hughes, Vice Chairman  
Dean Turbeville, Secretary

The 2019 meeting of the Committee on Nominations is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 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 4, 2019.

The committee appointed Rev. Mark Bolhofner to serve on the 2018-2019 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, 2018, 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.

In view of the difficulty of filling the required number of committee members for Synod's Worship Committee, Synod's Committee on Nominations requests the Executive Board of Synod to examine the size of the Worship Committee and recommend change, if needed.

**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 Friday, October 12, 2018. **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 as well as Recommendation for Service forms 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, *Minutes of Synod* 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 per-

sons 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 2019. **Synod APPROVED.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul G. Patrick, Chairman

<i>Board/Committee/Commission</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
Benefits	2024	Jim Heppel
Benefits	2024	
Bonclarken	2024	Bill Cain
Bonclarken	2024	Elaine Reed
Bonclarken	2024	David Hooks
CEM	2022	David Munro
CEM	2022	Kelly Noonoo
CEM	2022	Tom Pence
CEM	PR (A )	
CEM	PR 2021 (M)	Alex Coblenz
CEM	PR (S)	Andrew Di Iulio
Dunlap	2024	Audrey Paladino
Dunlap	PR (A)	
Dunlap	PR (F) 2024	Ken McMullen
Dunlap	PR (T)	
Erskine	2023	Bobby McDonald
Erskine	2023	Steve Maye
Erskine	2023	Lee Shelnutt
Erskine	2019	Constance Walker
Executive Board	PR-2022	Dan Felker
Executive Board	PR-2022	Tim Watson
Executive Board	PR-2019	Charles Lewis
Outreach North America	2024	Mark Forbes
Outreach North America	2024	Duff James**
Outreach North America	PR (A)	Brian Murray
Outreach North America	PR (F)	Matt Lucas
Stewardship	2021	Christopher Neiswonger
Stewardship	2021	Buzzy Elder
Stewardship	2021	Meredith Cavin
Stewardship	PR (A)	Simon Oosterhof
Stewardship	PR (C-2020)	David Lauten
Stewardship	PR (F)	
Stewardship	PR (T)	

# MINUTES OF SYNOD

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<i>Board/Committee/Commission</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Nominee</i>
World Witness	2024	Kelly Dyksterhouse
World Witness	2024	Scott Michael Smith
World Witness	PR (A-2019)	Steve Richardson
World Witness	PR (L)	Scott Michael Smith
World Witness	PR (M)	-----
World Witness	PR (T)	
World Witness	PR (V)	-----
Ecclesiastical	2022	Robert Johnson
Ecclesiastical	2022	Fred Carr
Ecclesiastical	2022	Eric Ruschky
Ecclesiastical	2022	
Ecclesiastical	2022	
Ecclesiastical	Alternate	David Walkup
Ecclesiastical	Alternate	
Campus Ministry Oversight	2023	Morrie Lawing
Campus Ministry Oversight	2023	Zach Keuthan
Inter-Church	2024	Alan Avera
Inter-Church	2024	Jim Curtis
Investment	2023	Kenneth Richey
Investment	2022	Jim Stevens
Minister & His Work	PR (A)	Jeff Kingswood
Minister & His Work	PR (V)	
Nominations	PR (S)	Paul Patrick
Revision Committee	2020	
Revision Committee	2021	
Revision Committee	2022	
Revision Committee	2023	
Revision Committee	Alternate	
Revision Committee	Alternate	
Theological & Social	2022	Scott Cook
Theological & Social	2022	James Bills
Worship	2020	
Worship	2020	
Worship	2020	
Worship	2021	
Worship	2022	Phil Painter
Worship	2022	Jack Van Dyk
Worship	2022	
Synod Reading Clerk	2022	Mark Miller
Synod Assistant Clerk	2022	

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod 2019. Lee Shelnett nominated Leslie Holmes. Jamie Hunt seconded the nomination. Mr. Holmes was elected to the office of Moderator of the General Synod 2019 by acclamation.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod 2019. Moderator-Elect Holmes nominated Rob Roy McGregor, III. Mr. McGregor was elected by acclamation.

Charles Edgar was awarded a standing ovation on the occasion of his retirement as Reading Clerk of the General Synod. Mr. Edgar spoke to the Synod.

John Cook was also recognized for his long standing service as Assistant Clerk of the General Synod. Mr. Cook spoke to the Synod.

**A motion carried** that the Minutes be adopted without reading, and that the final roll call be waived.

The motion to adjourn prevailed.

The Synod joined in singing the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133.

Synod adjourned with a scriptural benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Malphrus, Sr.

Kyle Sims, Vice Moderator

C. Ron Beard, Principal Clerk

Charles F. Edgar, Reading Clerk

Leland R. Beaudrot, Bill Clerk

J.D. Cook, Assistant Clerk

Andrew Putnam, Parliamentarian

**World Focus 2018****Come | See | Engage****God at Work in the ARP Church**

Following the meeting of Synod, World Focus 2018 was held in the YAB on Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8. This two-day denominational conference was the largest nationwide ARP event on record with over 700 ARP pastors and families in attendance. Participants were encouraged by keynote speaker Scott Thomas with a private concert by Laura Story. In addition, ARP agencies filled the YAB with booths where everyone could learn about Erskine, Outreach North America, Christian Education Ministries, Camp Joy and many more. World Witness missionaries were there to share God's global work.

