

PROCEEDINGS**BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

The 201st Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held at the Bonclarken denominational conference grounds in Flat Rock N.C.

The Pre-Synod Conference on Culture and the Church**Monday, June 6, 2005**

Following the Organ Prelude at 6:30 PM, William B. Evans welcomed the attendees and introduced the conference topic.

At 7:30 PM: The Keynote Address, “The Cultural Captivity of the Church,” was presented by Ken Myers.

At 8:30 PM: Robert P. Glick presented the evening lecture on “Culture and Worship.”

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

At 8:30 AM: Ken Myers presented the lecture on “The Cultural Liberation of the Church.”

At 9:30 AM: David Brisben presented the lecture on “Culture and Evangelism.”

At 10:30 AM: The lecture, “Culture and Missions,” was led by Frank van Dalen and Ali Mitchell.

At 11:30 AM: A panel discussion was followed by the Closing Prayer and Blessing.

Special Synod Week Activities

The Orientation for New Delegates was held Tuesday at 5:00 PM.

Erskine Theological Seminary hosted a luncheon on Wednesday at Noon for alumni, prospective students and friends of the seminary.

The Woman’s Synodical Union invited all women in attendance at the meeting of the General Synod to an informal drop-in on Wednesday from 2:30 until 4 PM at Synodical Hall. A Minister’s Wives Fellowship was held Wednesday at 10:00 AM.

Tuesday, June 7, 2005**7:00 PM**

Opening with an informal Psalm singing, the 201st annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church began at 7:00 PM.

OPENING WORSHIP
7:00 PM

Informal Psalm Sing.....
Earl Linderman
Accompanist
Mrs. Harriet Linderman
Prelude..... *Crown Him With Many Crowns*
arr.Cathy Mocklebust
All Night All Day arr. Susan Geschke
Chancel Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Lake Wales, FL
*Call to Worship Frank M. Hunt, II, Moderator
Bible Song 209
O l d H u n d r e d
* The Constitution of Synod and Lord's
Prayer Frank M. Hunt, II
Anthem
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God r r . C a t h y M o c k l e b u s t
Chancel Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Lake Wales, FL
Memorial Service
Gilbert Rowell
The Listing of Deceased Teaching Elders (Since last Synod)
The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders (Calendar Year 2004)
The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition
*Bible Song 188
Under His Wings
Scripture Reading
James D. McLurkin, Vice-Moderator
Sermon
James D. McLurkin, Vice-Moderator
Anthem *A Prayer for Humanity*.....
Linda Lamb
*The Apostles' Creed
The Hymnbook p. 12
Call to the Table
James D. McLurkin and David M. Rockness
*Bible Songs 242 *I*
Love The Lord
*The Benediction
James D. McLurkin, Vice-Moderator

Response: Bible Song 155
The Church's Doxology
 *The Postlude.....*Now Thank We All Our God*
 Sigfrid Karg-Elert
 Gabriel Statom
 Organist
 *Congregation stands

**Wednesday, June 8, 2005
7:00 AM**

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

At 8:30 AM Raymond W. Cameron, Jr. led the opening worship service.

Retiring Moderator Frank M. Hunt, II called the first session of the 201st Synod meeting to order.

The Director of Bonclarken, J. T. Brice, welcomed the delegates to the conference grounds.

Principal Clerk C. R. Beard constituted the roll of Synod and announced the results of the voting in the Presbyteries on amendments sent to the Presbyteries in overture by the 2004 General Synod. The amendments were approved by a majority of those voting in the Presbyteries. (See **Appendix** for the Official Roll of Synod).

Frank M. Hunt, II presented his Retiring Moderator's Address.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Fathers and Brethren,

We have reached the midpoint of the first decade of the new millennium. Are we achieving "new life in the new millennium," as the theme for this decade adopted by the General Synod states?

This past year I have attended many meetings of the various boards and committees of the General Synod, as well as Presbytery meetings. In addition, I brought fraternal greetings to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at the meeting of their General Assembly held in Virginia last June; brought the message at the worship service commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Midlane Park A.R.P. Church in Louisville, KY; addressed the Greenwood, SC, Westminster Presbyterian Church, USA, on Reformation Sunday; as Moderator of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, participated in the worship service recognizing the 90th anniversary of the chartering of the Lake Wales, FL, Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and brought greetings and gave the principle address at the worship service in Tampico, Mexico, celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Mexico. In addition, I was the convocation speaker at Erskine College for the opening of its spring semester in February. From all these

experiences and activities, I have been impressed with the time given and the diligence of the various members of the boards and committees in carrying out their responsibilities. "We are blessed with a great many of conscientious people."

In response to the work of the Special Committee on Organization established by the General Synod, all the boards and agencies of the Synod have conducted self-examinations, which are both positive, constructive, and ongoing...the executive leadership of all the agencies of the General Synod will have changed in the next few years, therefore, these studies are very timely. There is renewed enthusiasm for the various works being carried out. Bonclarken has had record attendance at its youth conferences. Erskine College enrollment is at its highest number in many years and Erskine Seminary enrollment is the highest ever. Outreach North America in support of the Presbyteries, now has mission work from the east coast to the west coast and there is renewed interest in church planting and evangelism. World Witness has growing fields of work, particularly in the Muslim world, and also in Germany, Russia, and Wales, as well as our traditional areas of Pakistan and Mexico. Covenant Discipleship is completing leadership training materials for elders and deacons, a communicants class packet is being developed, as well as a teaching handbook to help teachers in planning and developing lessons for all ages. The Board of Stewardship, as reconstituted, is taking a renewed look at achieving Biblical Stewardship throughout the denomination. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian magazine and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Adult Quarterly both have new editors, with new ideas.

As the Special Committee on Worship, appointed by Moderator Wayne Frazier, completes its work, in the next year, in developing a new directory of worship, our entire denomination, with all our churches, will be the beneficiaries as we focus on what worship should be from a Reformed perspective. The new directory of worship can be of invaluable assistance, along with the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, in truly being Reformed Presbyterians.

I could go on and on, but suffice it to say, yes, we are achieving "new life in the new millennium." However, this is an ongoing process, not one completed at a point in time. In doing our self-examinations, it is important that we don't turn in on ourselves and become destructive rather than constructive. Revitalization will always be a work in progress; there will always be areas to improve.

The prayers of and notes from many people in support during my term as Moderator, have been overwhelming. Your encouragement has been meaningful. Ed Hogan, Beth Willis, and all the other folks at the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center have been most helpful. Our denomination is truly blessed to have such dedicated people in our Greenville office. Our Vice-Moderator, the Rev. James McLurkin, has been willing to help

wherever needed, for which I am thankful. Finally my wife, Margaret, and our family have been most supportive and understanding.

The purpose statement, “who we are in Christ, facing the 21st Century,” approved at the 2001 meeting of the General Synod, as it is carried out will keep us on track and moving forward. To quote: “We, the members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, in order to carry out God’s mission and move forward together into the next century, profess our life together in Christ and our desire to set forth a united strategy for the work of His church. We express our desire to continue to be a Presbyterian and Reformed church committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to the Bible as the Word of God.

“Rooted in and shaped by a living tradition, we are part of the new creation in Christ which God is bringing into existence. Therefore, we are committed to:

- The worship of the Triune God.
- The Holy Scriptures as the basis for our faith and activity.
- Unity with other believers in Christ.
- Total stewardship of life, including tithing of time, talent and money.
- Excellence in educating and equipping leaders for tomorrow.
- Loving and caring for one another and for other people.
- Spreading the Gospel to all parts of the world.
- Evaluating and changing church structure and priorities in order to meet the challenges of the future while preserving the best of the past.

“To this end and in humble reliance upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, we covenant together to pray steadfastly that God will open doors of opportunity so that we may declare the riches of Christ.” “Let us not grow weary of well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9) Amen and Amen

It has been a privilege to serve Christ and His Church as your Moderator.

Frank M. Hunt, II presented a Memorial Bible from the Synod of Mexico to the General Synod. Ron Beard, Principal Clerk, accepted the Bible on behalf of the General Synod and led in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Retiring Moderator Hunt presented Moderator-Elect William B. Evans to the Synod. Vice-Moderator James D. McLurkin escorted Mr. Evans to the podium. Mr. Hunt placed the Moderator’s Shield around Mr. Evans’ neck and made brief remarks as he presented the special Scottish ram’s head staff to Moderator Evans. Mr. Evans presented the Retiring Moderator’s Bible to Mr. Hunt and expressed

the thanks of the General Synod to Mr. Hunt. The General Synod rose in a round of applause.

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

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

I must begin with thanks to the members of this court for presenting me with this wonderful opportunity for service. While the jury is still out on the wisdom of that decision, I trust that we will have a calm and productive meeting of the General Synod. I also want to thank all of you for your presence at this General Synod meeting and for your labor in the church. Some of you have come great distances, and we need to recognize the sacrifices that many of you have made to be here for this important week.

I must also thank my family for their support and encouragement. The folks at the ARP Center have been extraordinarily helpful, as has the staff here at Bonclarken. Thank you so very much.

Some of you were born into the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. I am an ARP by choice. I was baptized in the Presbyterian Church, USA, and spent time in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPCES), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), and the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). I suppose that makes me a peripatetic Presbyterian. Finally I found my way to the ARP and immediately felt at home. My family and I will be forever grateful for the welcome we have received and the opportunities for service we have found. I'd also like to thank the leadership and congregation of the Due West ARP Church for the fellowship we have enjoyed there since 1993.

Our retiring moderator has rightly noted reasons for optimism that we have as a church. We have come a long way since the decade of the 1960's. God has been good, and we have much for which to be thankful. Fifty-nine years ago this June my grandfather moderated the 1946 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA. As a seminary classmate of J. Gresham Machen, Clarence Macartney, and O. T. Allis at Princeton Seminary, he had studied under luminaries such as B. B. Warfield, William Henry Green, Robert Dick Wilson, and Geerhardus Vos. I know from my conversations with him that he served as moderator with a measure of sadness. To his dying day he thought of himself as a "Westminster Confession man," and he sensed that all was not well with his beloved church. In many ways, however, I share our retiring moderator's optimism, and I come to this moment with joy. We can rejoice in the way God has enabled the ARP Church to recover its biblical and confessional foundations over the past decades. God has indeed been gracious to us. His work is marvelous in our eyes.

But the work of the church is never done. We can never rest on our

laurels. Times and circumstances change. Generational changes occur. People retire, and eventually we make that glorious transition from the church militant to the church triumphant. Issues long thought to have been settled can reemerge in new guise. During our Pre-Synod Conference we wrestled with the task of being the church in the midst of an increasingly post-Christian, post-modern culture. We sense that the challenges are great. But the resources at our disposal are greater still, and the power of God is indeed sufficient for every need.

This moment is listed in the program as the “Moderator’s Challenge,” and so I ask you to reflect with me for a few moments here this morning about the challenges that we face as we look to the future. My aims in this are modest. I doubt that I will say much of anything that most of you have not pondered in recent years. But I would like to speak briefly to some issues that I believe will be crucial for our life together over the next two decades.

First of all, let’s take stock in a somewhat unscientific way of where we stand as a body. Last week I grabbed the 1970 *Minutes of Synod* and the 2004 *Minutes of Synod* off a shelf in my office at Erskine College. A statistical comparison is telling in a number of ways. While this is certainly not the only way, or necessarily the best way, to gauge the health of a church, the figures are at least interesting. In 1969 we had seven presbyteries with a total of 146 churches. We listed 28,273 total enrolled members with 22,173 of those listed as active. Our churches reported 125 adult baptisms and 297 infant baptisms for a baptismal total of 422. That works out to 1.49 baptisms per 100 members.

Turning to last year’s *Minutes of Synod*, we find a total of nine presbyteries (now ten with the addition of our Canadian Presbytery), with a total of 262 churches. Total membership is listed as 35,418, which represents a loss of 138 or .39% from the previous year. Our churches also reported 678 baptisms, up from 617 the previous year. That works out to 1.91 baptisms per 100 members—a rise that suggests greater spiritual and evangelistic vitality, especially since our physical birthrate does not seem to be going up. At the same time, there is room for improvement, as we are lagging a bit behind some of our sister churches.

What can we discern from this? Well, there is good news and bad news. Over the last thirty-five or so years we have grown in terms of number of presbyteries, number of churches, total number of members, geographical reach, and ethnic and cultural diversity. All that is good news for which we should praise God. But, numerically we are not at this time experiencing decisive growth. In recent years we have consistently registered either slight gains or slight losses in membership. Our churches are on average smaller, and the average age of our parishioners is older than they were thirty five years ago. Given the demographics and if these trends continue,

the ARP Church will look somewhat different in 2025 than it does today. We will be smaller, and some of our churches will have closed. The ripple effect of that decline will be felt throughout the General Synod as we will likely not be able to support the current level of ministries. But, I would submit, it need not be so!

Obviously there are challenges facing us as congregations, and presbyteries, and as a General Synod. I'd like to speak to three areas—the challenge of organizational structure, the challenge of leadership, and the challenge of theological identity. Each of these will profoundly affect our life together as believers. I believe that the verdict of history will rest to a great degree on how we meet these challenges.

First there is the challenge of organizational structure. This is real and must not be underestimated. In 1970 we were a church of seven presbyteries centered in the southeastern United States. We all knew each other and the glue holding the church together was often more informal and personal than overtly structural. Now we are an international church of ten presbyteries with congregations from the Canadian Maritimes to California, and from New York to Texas. Rather clearly, our organizational structure has not kept up with these new complexities, and the pressing question is: "What do we do about it?" Of course, we are diligently at work on this. Former moderator Neely Gaston is to be commended for highlighting this issue and for setting in motion the Special Committee on Organization. That Committee, headed by Principal Clerk Ron Beard and with broad participation from many constituencies of the church, has carefully examined the organizational structure of the General Synod and has begun to present concrete proposals. I'd like particularly to thank Principal Clerk Ron Beard and Synod Coordinator Wilfred Bellamy for their tireless efforts. I should also say that each Synod Board and Committee has seized this opportunity to examine their own way of doing things, and the dialogue has been very useful indeed. We will be considering more of the Special Committee's proposals at this Synod, and I trust that you will keep this important process in your prayers.

Regarding the challenge of leadership, the ARP Church has a long history of producing able leaders. The accomplishments of this relatively small denomination in areas such as education and missions are indeed remarkable. We have much for which to be thankful. However, we are in the midst of a generational change. All of our agency heads either have retired or will be retiring within the space of a few years. Many of those who were instrumental in guiding us through the rough waters of the sixties, seventies, and eighties have retired or are no longer with us. Inevitably, such generational changes involve shifts in focus and emphasis, and these are often needed. At the same time, lessons learned in the past must not be forgotten, and the core convictions of our church must

be maintained.

All in all, I'm encouraged by developments thus far. Over the past twelve or so years our approach to domestic missions has been dramatically revitalized under Jim Corbitt's leadership, and I firmly believe that Alan Avera's quiet passion for church planting and evangelism are God's gift to us at this crucial time. Over the last decades the growth of World Witness ministries has been truly remarkable under the leadership of John Mariner. Now as Frank van Dalen takes over at World Witness, we continue to look forward to great things. I've known Frank for well over twenty years now, and I truly believe that God has been preparing him for this mighty task and challenge. And so Jim and John we offer our heartfelt thanks. Alan and Frank, our prayers are with you.

But the leadership challenge we face involves not only finding the right people for specific jobs. It also involves the cultivation and nurturing of leaders on the congregational, presbytery, and synod levels. Leadership development on the congregational level is where it all starts. We must be identifying potential leaders early on. Officer training is another key aspect of this process. Sometimes we throw men into leadership positions too quickly and without adequate training, or any training at all. When I was ordained back in 1988 as a ruling elder in another denomination, there was no real training involved. They probably figured that since I had seminary training, I knew the ropes. They were wrong—the learning curve is substantial. Some of our congregations are doing this extraordinarily well; some need to reexamine this issue.

We also need to be identifying young men who demonstrate the requisite qualities of spirituality, intellectual gifts, and leadership potential, and we need to be encouraging them to be open to God's call to pastoral ministry. Pastoral ministry is no longer a job people choose for reasons of status or remuneration. One can generally make more money doing something else. Done well, it involves hard work and long hours. We need young men, and older men, for that matter, who sense the call of God upon their lives so strongly that they will do nothing else but spend themselves in service to Jesus Christ.

We also must continue to encourage the development of leaders who have a purpose larger than themselves. Several weeks ago, Dr. John Carson eloquently challenged the 2005 graduates of Erskine College to devote themselves to a purpose greater than themselves. Without doubt, this is one of the greatest needs of our time. The world is full of "leaders" who are driven by personal ambition—in fact, that is the prevailing worldly model of leadership—but we have a different and higher calling. A good friend recently told me of a management seminar he attended recently. The speaker said something like this: "If it ain't broke, break it...and then fix it yourself—you have to justify your job." Needless to say, such attitudes wreak havoc in the church of Jesus Christ! A high standard of selflessness

has been set by the leadership that has guided us to this point. Now as the torch is being passed, the next generation must rise to the occasion. We must be driven by three things and three things only—the mission of the church, the mission of the church, and the mission of the church.

Finally, there is the challenge of theological identity. And yes, I have saved the most complicated for last. Two years ago at the Pre-Synod conference held at Erskine College, I made three observations in my lecture on the confessional and theological identity of the ARP Church that are particularly relevant here. First, I suggested that the ARP church is a “rather unique example of biblicistic and confessional, non-speculative, praxis-oriented and ecclesially minded experimental Calvinism.” That is to say, we have historically taken the Bible and our Reformed confessional documents very seriously; we haven’t had much time or patience for lengthy and abstruse theological squabbles; we love the church and we are concerned about things. And finally we have had a deep concern for vital evangelical Christian experience of the new birth. That is our heritage. And a wonderful heritage it is. We might say that our ARP heritage is both *Reformed* and *Evangelical* in the best sense of these terms.

Second, I suggested that during the troubled period from the 1960’s until the early 1980’s we as a church collectively decided that we didn’t want to be theological liberals. In particular we stood firm on the doctrine of Scripture against the Barthian Neo-orthodox view of the Bible as but a fallible witness to the one revelation of God in Christ. In 1979 the General Synod declared that “the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God without error in all that it teaches.” This strong commitment has been reiterated in various ways since then. Thus our position as a denomination with respect to Scripture has been quite clear. As we reach out to other constituencies and groups (as we must), we must also continue to be clear on what is essential to our life together.

Third, I suggested that this still has left some important questions unanswered. That is to say, while we decided with considerable vigor that the liberal and neo-orthodox options were not for us, we have not fully worked out what sort of healthy and winsome conservatism we as a church embrace today. As we noted earlier, our past as a church can be rightly characterized as both Reformed and evangelical, but today there is some uncertainty, perhaps considerable uncertainty, as to what this mix should look like. Many if not most of the polarities and tensions we sense in our life together have to do with this. Moreover, this uncertainty is coming at a delicate time, for both the broader evangelical world and the conservative Reformed world are much more fragmented and disunited than they were even twenty years ago. Today, when a person identifies himself or herself as an “evangelical,” it is difficult to predict exactly what they believe. Openness theist evangelicals deny the omniscience of God.

Themes such as the wrath and justice of God are increasingly absent from much evangelical preaching in this country. In 1993 Dr. David F. Wells of Gordon-Conwell Seminary painted a grim picture in his book *No Place for Truth, or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology*, and unfortunately the situation has not improved in the intervening decade.

When we turn to the conservative Reformed world, the situation is also sobering. Whereas thirty years ago there seemed to be a fairly stable consensus as to what conservative Reformed theology and church life should look like, today we find a myriad of camps—Old School Southern Presbyterians, Old School Northern Presbyterians, New Lifers, Theonomists, Post-Theonomists, Redemptive-Historicals, Federal Visioners, devotees of the New Perspective on Paul, neo-Puritans, the list goes on and on. Now I'm certainly not suggesting that all these groups are wrong. But the current situation is chaotic, and some of what is being taught stands in tension with our Confessional Standards and our heritage. We don't have the option of simply ignoring all this either—all of these groups and more are on the internet. Parishioners are reading these materials, and in some cases becoming more and more confused. If we simply import these influences into our Associate Reformed Presbyterian context without careful sifting and separating the wheat from the chaff we are asking for trouble. Truly, we must "test the spirits." This is a moment in history that calls for great wisdom and discernment.

At its best, our Reformed tradition affirms and embodies the great biblical themes of the glorious majesty the triune God, the authority of Scripture, the tragedy of human sin and sinfulness, the sovereign and saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, the importance of God-centered piety and worship, and the reality of the Church as the covenant people of God. Likewise, at its best Evangelicalism emphasizes the necessity of vital Christian experience and obedience to the Great Commission in missions and evangelism. The problem occurs when these two traditions are pried apart, when they are viewed as an "either/or" instead of a "both/and." Reformed identity, when it loses its evangelical heart, can become cold, hard, legalistic, and divisive with a tendency to major on minors. Some who lean far in this direction seem to expend much of their energy trying to recapitulate the halcyon days of the seventeenth century. Evangelicalism, when it loses its Reformed head, becomes shallow, experientially fixated, and rudderless. Neither option appeals by itself. Only by being both Reformed and Evangelical can we remain true to our heritage as Associate Reformed Presbyterians, and by God's grace we will.

At the end of the day, we will respond best to these challenges as we consistently allow God's Word to shape and mold our minds and lives, and as we use the gifts and resources that God has bestowed upon his church. The proposed year theme ("Nurturing and Equipping God's People") and

the primary theme verses speak to this. The ministry of the Word and sacrament, the ministry of worship and Christian education, the ministry of missions and evangelism as we make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit—all these are “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” This is our task, and there is much work to do. We must be resourceful. We must be thoughtful and diligent and wise. We must be faithful, and by God’s grace we shall be.

Synod recessed for a Coffee Break.

Synod reconvened with a special musical presentation.

Moderator Evans introduced the Vice-Moderator, J. Paul Bell, to the Synod.

Vice-Moderator Bell presented the program for the 2005 meeting. The program was adopted as amended.

Moderator Evans introduced Guests and attendees to the Synod:

Special Guests: Moderator Evans introduced members of his family to the Synod: Wife, Page; Son, Adrian David; and Daughter, Rebecca Ann. Jeannie Bell, wife of Vice Moderator Paul Bell was introduced.

Other Guests: Chaplain, 1LT Jacob A. Clement, recruiter for the Army National Guard; Calvin Tuininga, URCNA; and R. Kevin Carroll, Calvary Presbyterian Church, MS. Hae Sung Kim introduced new ministers of Pacific Presbytery and presented Korean War Medals to David Sides, James Curry (in absentia), and Robert Kwasinski (in absentia).

Pages: Mike Basie, Stuart Michael Moore and Steve Isbell.

Ministers who have been received or ordained since the last meeting of Synod (Those present introduced themselves): David L. Arthur, Catawba, Associate First Columbia; Michael A. Avato, Florida, Mission Developer Trade Winds Christian; Enoch Cho, Pacific, Pastor, Church of the Load, Aurora, CO; Walt DeHart, First, Mission Developer, Hemby Bridge; Ron Eastes, First, Military Chaplain; William Howard (Buzzy) Elder, Catawba, Pastor, Hopewell Church; Evan Barrett English, Catawba, Associate, Clover; Lee Sung Kil, Pacific, Associate, Blessing Mission; David Sungyul Hong, First, Pastor, Bethel Korean, Fayetteville; Eun Joo Kim, First, Mission Developer, Greensboro Korean Mission; Stephen Kim, Pacific, Pastor, Rock of Faith; Hwang Sun Min, Pacific, Associate, The Peace Maker; William Prince, First, Mission Developer, Christ Church, Graham, NC; Ro Sung Myung,

Pacific, Associate, Young Saeng; John Wilder Uhl, Catawba, Hope, Opelousas, LA; James Cannon White, First, Mission Developer, City Church of Greensboro; Lennon Craig Wilkes, Catawba, Associate, First Columbia; Robert Curtis Wilson, First, Mission Developer, Centerpoint

New Missions and/or congregations that have joined the ARP family since the last meeting of Synod: **Canadian Presbytery:** None; **Catawba Presbytery:** Hope Presbyterian, Opelousas, LA; **First Presbytery:** Bethel Korean, Fayetteville, NC; City Church of Greensboro, NC; First A.R.P., Monroe; Greensboro Korean Mission; Hillside Presbyterian, Burlington, NC; Rodam Korean; **Florida Presbytery:** Christ Our Hope, Folson, CA; TradeWinds Christian Church, St. Pete, FL; **Mississippi Valley Presbytery:** None; **Northeast Presbytery:** None; **Pacific Presbytery:** Rock of Faith Church, Cerritos, CA; Denver Church of the Load, Denver, CO; Fullness of Joy Church, La Crescenta, CA; Hopeside Mission Association, Los Angeles; **Second Presbytery:** None; **Tennessee-Alabama:** None; **Virginia:** None.

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

Vice-Moderator J. Paul Bell presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Reverend James T. Corbitt, Mrs. Judy Doudoukjian (in absentia), and Reverend Guy H. Smith.

Herschel D. Yancey introduced Chaplain Ed Brogan of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel who addressed the Synod concerning the state of the chaplaincy in today's war-torn world. Chaplain Brogan extended the thanks of the Presbyterian Council to the A.R.P. Church for its support.

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

The Synod voted to accept for consideration memorials from Catawba and Florida Presbyteries and the Report of the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns. The materials were distributed.

The memorials were read and referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Thomas C. Shoger presented the **Recommended 2006 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was adopted.

Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Income for Calendar Year 2006

In accordance with the procedures adopted by the 1997 General Synod, the recommended allocations for the next calendar year are based on the pledged and/or anticipated unrestricted receipts for the current calendar year. The recommended allocations for 2006 are based on the following estimates:

Anticipated Commitments from Churches in 2005	\$2,838,372
5% of Market Value of ARP Foundation Endowment	25,083
Betts Endowment	12,581
Estimated Interest for Allocation	<u>2,500</u>
Total Resources for Allocation	<u>\$2,878,536</u>

The overall increase in funds is @2.28%.

In the event that the actual pledges and/or anticipated receipts for calendar year 2006 exceed the anticipated amounts, the program agencies of the General Synod (Bonclarken, Covenant Discipleship, Erskine, Outreach North America, and World Witness) will be invited to present requests for additional funding. The Board of Stewardship will review the requests and submit its recommendations to the General Synod.

The recommended allocation of funds for calendar year 2006 is reflected in **column 6** of "Recommended Allocations for 2006." Other information presented:

Column 2 reflects the amounts approved by the General Synod for 2005.

Column 3 reflects the approved amount as a percentage of the total funds to be allocated for 2005.

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

Column 5 reflects the **lesser** of the amount requested or the amount based on the percentage approved for 2005.

Column 6 reflects the dollar recommendation of the Board of Stewardship.

Column 7 reflects the recommended amounts as a percentage of the total funds recommended for allocation.

The anticipated resources are not sufficient to meet the expressed needs of all agencies. In determining the recommended allocations, the

Board of Stewardship considered approved and existing commitments, reserves, and the resources each agency will have available from other sources.

The recommended allocations reflect an increase in funding for “non-program” or support agencies, from 19.51% to 20.28% of total allocations. For the past five years, the Administrative Services Operating Reserve supplemented the General Synod allocation. The reserve is expected to be exhausted in 2005. The increase for the Executive Board reflects the transfer of accounting from Committee on Historical Concerns and Board of Stewardship. Except for these and other minor adjustments, the primary approach was to provide the lesser of the requested amount or the same percentage of expected funds allocated for 2005. The recommended allocations for “program” agencies maintain the same percentage of funds allocated to those agencies. The allocation to Erskine takes into consideration funding for the Chaplain.

The following agencies are funded on an as-need basis: Administrative Services, the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, Committees, Executive Board of Synod, and Board of Publications. Reserve Funds will be used as needed to meet obligations.

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

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF SYNOD'S UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Approved For 2005	Approved %	Requested	Or Requested		Lesser of	Recommended	% of Total
				For 2006	Same %		For 2006	
Administrative Services	\$ 167,471	5.98%	\$ 196,422	\$ 196,422	\$ 172,196	\$ 196,422		6.82%
ARP Center Facility	15,000	0.53%	16,000	16,000	15,423	16,000		0.55%
Benefits	6,795	0.24%	6,795	6,795	6,795	6,795		0.24%
Executive Board	98,706	3.53%	119,793	119,793	101,491	119,793		4.16%
Publications	105,000	3.75%	99,321	99,321	99,321	99,321		3.45%
Stewardship & Cont.*	76,792	2.74%	76,792	76,792	76,792	76,792		2.67%
Commission & Committees								
Ecclesiastical Commission		0.00%	1,000	1,000	-	-		0.00%
Historical Concerns	7,500	0.27%	-	-	-	-		0.00%
Inter-Church Relations	16,147	0.58%	17,118	17,118	16,602	16,653		0.58%
Lay Ministry	17,602	0.63%	25,750	25,750	18,099	18,155		0.63%
Minister & His Work	9,594	0.34%	10,512	10,512	9,865	10,512		0.36%
Nominations	3,500	0.13%	5,000	5,000	3,599	3,610		0.13%

Theological & Social Con.	3,000	0.11%	1,500	
1,500	-	0.00%		
Worship	<u>19,201</u>	<u>0.69%</u>	<u>30,695</u>	
19,743	<u>19,803</u>	<u>0.69%</u>		
Sub-Total for Non-Prog.	<u>\$ 546,308</u>	<u>19.52%</u>	<u>\$ 606,698</u>	<u>\$</u>
541,426	<u>\$ 583,856</u>	<u>20.28%</u>		
Bonclarken	\$ 143,533	5.13%	\$ 147,582	\$
147,582	\$ 146,172	5.08%		
Covenant Discipleship	207,299	7.40%	217,664	
213,147	211,111	7.33%		
Dunlap		0.00%	-	
-	-	0.00%		
Erskine	570,239	20.37%	650,000	
586,326	580,733	20.17%		
Erskine Student Union	500	0.02%	500	
500	500	0.02%		
Outreach North America	665,839	23.78%	699,131	
684,623	678,082	23.56%		
World Witness	<u>665,839</u>	<u>23.78%</u>	<u>720,000</u>	
684,623	<u>678,082</u>	<u>23.56%</u>		
Sub-Total for Programs	<u>\$ 2,253,249</u>	<u>80.48%</u>	<u>\$ 2,434,877</u>	<u>\$</u>
2,316,801	<u>\$ 2,294,680</u>	<u>79.72%</u>		
TOTALS	<u>\$ 2,799,557</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$ 3,041,575</u>	<u>\$</u>
2,858,227	<u>\$ 2,878,536</u>	<u>100.00%</u>		

*Represents combination of 2005 Allocations for ARP Foundation and Board of Stewardship.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

There is some discussion concerning the continuation of the Lay Ministry Committee. Many in the Synod today were not present when the Lay Ministry Committee was formed. Perhaps a brief recap of the history of the Committee is warranted in this report. The Committee came into being at a time when our Synod was sharply divided on some key issues. The Synod approved the establishment of a Committee whose members supported one side of the debate. The other side organized as the Alliance of Loyal Laity and never received official status from the General Synod. The tension between the two groups was visible. Even after the issues themselves had been resolved, these two groups continued to stir up strong emotions among both laity and clergy throughout the Synod. In the mid-1990's a remarkable event took place. Those who were on the opposing side/organization from the membership of the Lay Ministry Committee were elected by the Synod to the Committee. During that initial year of both groups

being together and officially appointed by the Synod, a transformation began to take place. The hostilities, barriers, and disagreements of the past began to be put aside. Not only were the two groups coming together and cooperating with each other, but the influence of this harmony began to spread throughout the Synod. This cooperation also began to produce more lay involvement and actual ministry than had been experienced in the past. The Committee feels strongly that it has something to offer the laymen of this denomination that is not being offered through any other board or committee. The Committee feels that its cooperation with other groups and with other boards and committees is helpful in training and equipping the laymen for service in the church at large. Time has been expended in the past few months looking at ways to make these efforts more effective and more productive. At least in part, the ineffectiveness of the Committee and its work in the past has been the lack of funding to carry out any significant work beyond that of its conference ministry. We would like to see the Committee continued, and its work given adequate funding in order that its effectiveness can be enhanced.

July 8-9 are the dates for the Laity in Action Conference which will be held at Bonclarken. This family event includes a children's program and child-care. The Rev. Det Bowers, Senior Pastor at Christ Church, Irmo, South Carolina, is the main speaker. He will deliver four messages -- one on Friday afternoon, one on Friday evening, and two on Saturday morning on the theme of "Courage." Co-sponsors of the conference are the Committee on Lay Ministry and the Alliance of Loyal Laity. Two awards are presented each year at the Laity in Action Conference. One award, the Onesimus Award, is presented to individuals who show themselves slaves for Christ and the Gospel. In 2004, Mrs. Cathy Wilson, Mrs. Janet Evans, Mrs. Cathy Barron, Mrs. Patsy Ratchford, Mrs. Nicole McCoy, and Mrs. Ann Aheron (members of the WSU Task-Force) were recipients of this award. The second award, the Barnabas Award, is given to churches who prove to be an encourager to other churches. The 2004 recipient of the Barnabas Award was Outreach North America Committee of Virginia Presbytery.

The Family Bible Conference will be held July 25-28 at Bonclarken. The emphasis is "Hearts." This conference is jointly sponsored by the Woman's Synodical Union and the Committee on Lay Ministry. Conference personnel include: Director - Rev. Dean Turbeville; Assistant Director - Rev. Rob Patrick; Treasurer - Mr. John Barron; WSU Director - Mrs. Tracey Smith; WSU Assistant Director - Mrs. Harriett Moore; and WSU Treasurer - Mrs. Leila Grace Cooper. The Morning Bible Teacher is the Rev. Stephen Crotts, pastor of the Adams Farm Community ARP Church, Jamestown, NC. The Evening Worship Leader is the Rev. Nathan Trice, pastor of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Matthews, NC. The Woman's Synodical Union meets prior to the conference on July 24-25.

We continue our search for a Director of the Cornerstone Conference

for Young Adults. If you have suggestions of possible candidates, contact the Director of Lay Ministry.

We offer to assemble WorkTeams to assist congregations and agencies with special projects. Volunteers furnish their own transportation and bring their own tools. Meals, lodging, and supplies are provided by the church or agency needing the help. You may contact the Director of Lay Ministry for additional information if you have a need.

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

Elected as officers for the 2005-2006 term are:

Mr. Jeff Hathcock, Chairman

Miss Gail Griffin, Vice Chairman

Mr. Tim Burrell, Secretary

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

Recommendations

1. That the Rev. Rob Patrick be appointed as Director and the Rev. Morrie Lawing as Assistant Director of the 2006 Family Bible Conference.
2. That sessions and pastors promote attendance at the Laity in Action Conference, the Family Bible Conference, and the Cornerstone Conference.
3. That sessions call on their people to pray daily for the work and ministry of the local congregation, the presbyteries, and the General Synod and challenge the laymen to have a systematic study of the Scripture and also to set aside a time for daily devotions.
4. That laymen be challenged to familiarize themselves with our doctrinal standards as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith.
5. That opportunities to prepare and equip lay people for effective Christian service and opportunities to involve laymen in ministries be provided through the local congregations and also through the work teams provided through this committee and that encouragement to participate in community-based ministries be given through the local congregation.
6. That the retreat and conference ministries be given proper promotion within each congregation.
7. That sessions be encouraged to designate one Sunday in the month of October as a day to celebrate and emphasize the role of laymen in the church.

8. That the Budget for 2006 be approved as follows:

Laity in Action Conference	\$	3,000
Family Bible Conference	\$	8,000
Area Laity Workshops	\$	500
Cornerstone Conference	\$	1,750
Director of Lay Ministry	\$	3,500
Cooperative Work with A.L.L.	\$	3,000
Committee Expenses	\$	<u>6,000</u>
Total	\$	25,750

Respectfully submitted,
 Nicole McCoy, Chairman
 Tom Patterson, Director of Lay Ministry

The Report of the **Committee on the Minister and His Work** was presented. Recommendations 1-6 and 8-13 were adopted. Recommendation 7 was presented and debated.

The order of the day prevailed.

The morning session closed with prayer and the blessing for the meal by Henry G. Bartsch.

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

1:45 PM

S. Dean Turbeville led the afternoon worship service.

Debate continued on recommendation 7 of the **Report of the Committee on the Minister and His Work**. Recommendation 7 was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The membership of the Committee on Minister and His Work encompasses the Chairman of each presbytery's Committee or Commission on Minister and His Work, the Director of Outreach North America, and the Vice-President of Erskine Theological Seminary (ETS). The Moderator and Moderator-Elect of Synod, Coordinator of Synod, and the Director of Administrative Services serve as advisory members.

The Committee met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod to share information and, working cooperatively, to develop resources and procedures to enhance the ministry of the Church. The Committee also serves as the coordinating agency for its cooperative efforts with the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel. Members also serve as Advisory Members (Chairman serves as Ex-officio member) to the Board of Benefits. As this report is considered, the Court is reminded that the concerns expressed and the actions recommended and/or suggested reflect the experiences of those dealing with these matters.

Assistance to Ministers and Churches

Chapter X.E.1 of the *Form of Government* clearly prescribes the authority of presbytery in effecting calls for its ministers. The *Form of Government* does not, however, prescribe the manner in which this requirement will be carried out. It is, therefore, incumbent on every presbyter and denominational official to ensure that our individual efforts do not violate either the letter or the intent of this provision in the *Form of Government*. Our individual efforts must always complement this presbytery responsibility.

The General Synod, through the Committee on the Minister and His Work, has sought to develop programs to assist the minister and/or candidate, the search committee, and the presbytery. Forms for the minister/candidate and for the church have been developed and the Committee on Minister and His Work has oversight of the program to secure and maintain these forms. The Office of Administrative Services, ARP Center, maintains and administers the forms in accordance with procedures approved by the Committee:

- a. Access to data forms is restricted and forms are released in accordance with the instructions indicated thereon.
- b. Specific data forms are released only to the chairperson or secretary of a search committee or to the chairman of a Presbytery Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work.
- c. At the request of a search committee, and in those circumstances where the church has completed a “church profile,” matching data forms will be released.
- d. When a data form is released to a church the presbytery chairman is notified.
- e. If a minister has requested or indicated a desire to have his data form circulated in the absence of a specific request or data match, the data form is submitted to the chairman of each presbytery Committee on Minister and His Work. These data forms will be submitted to churches at the discretion of the presbytery chairman.

All ministers are encouraged to have a data form on file, and to update the form on a periodic basis. Churches are reminded of the opportunity to complete and utilize the “Church Profile” when they are seeking a pastor. The Committee has begun the process for updating these forms.

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

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Data Forms Requested by Churches	194	202	356	112
Data Forms Provided to Pulpit Committees	160	242	317	165
Data Forms Requested (no forms available)	11	12	14	6
Data Forms Requested (not mailed at request of individual)	4	10	25	22
Requested (not sent due to fact just relocated)	0	0	2	2

Data Forms Sent at the Request of Individual	12	30	45	112
Requests for Updated Forms	16	28	25	16
Requests by Non-ARP's to Secure				
Forms to Complete	21	26	10	6
Seminary Students' Data Forms Distributed	23	28	94	30
Church Profiles Distributed to Vacant				
Churches	10	5	20	28
Church Profiles Completed by Vacant				
Churches	1	1	5	4
Data Forms of Ministers sent to Non-				
APR Churches*	0	1	1	0
Request to be Removed from Eligibility	-	-	-	5
Non-ARP's Who Met with Presbytery for				
Recommendation	-	-	-	2

*At request of Minister

The Committee asked Administrative Services to include on the General Synod web-site a list of those congregations seeking a pastor. Churches are listed for a particular presbytery by the Presbytery Chairman. For a current listing view <http://www.arpsynod.org/minops.html>.

Annual Reviews

Calls to Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers must provide for an annual review of the terms of the call. In the opinion of the Committee, this review of the terms of the call should be done in the context of a ministry evaluation – for both the minister and the congregation. Some presbyteries have begun to develop procedures and guidelines for conducting ministry evaluations. Presbytery representatives to the Committee have been asked to share their work with each other.

The annual review should also address the monetary needs of the Pastor. We ask that the presbyteries encourage the churches to consider, as a minimum, an annual cost of living increase in compensation. Information on the Consumer Price Index is available on the WEB at <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.toc.htm>.

Orientation Program for New Ministers

The orientation program is designed to build inter-personal relationships among new ministers and to build relationships between ministers and those who are engaged in the ministries of the denomination. We continue to urge ministers to make every effort to attend an orientation program in the first two years of ministry. We encourage presbyteries to insist on this. Orientation programs are scheduled for the last Tuesday in April and the last Tuesday in September. Details may be found in the *Plan Book*. The General Synod will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for those participating in the orientation program.

Preventative Maintenance

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

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

Catawba Presbytery is establishing a new committee to meet these and similar needs. The Committee has asked Catawba Presbytery to share with other presbyteries information as they go forward in this process.

Uniform Written Exams

Uniform Written Exams are prepared and updated periodically under the auspices of the Committee. Copies of the exam may be secured from the Office of Administrative Services. The Presbytery Chairmen will review the current exam during the coming year for the purpose of possible updating at its next meeting. Presbytery Chairmen will be sharing with each other exams that are currently being used.

Consideration of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers and Students

For many years this Committee has recommended, and the General Synod has approved, a recommendation to the churches that preference be given to Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers when considering a call. At least one presbytery requires its churches to exhaust consideration of ARP ministers prior to considering others.

There are ministers without a call who have demonstrated their qualifications for ministry by virtue of their ordination and continuing membership in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (it is recognized and understood that not every minister is suited for every pastoral position). The Committee feels that their commitment to this, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, is deserving of consideration when a church is seeking a pastor.

In like manner, the General Synod has encouraged those churches with the financial resources to consider employing ARP Seminary students in the summer. The opportunity for meaningful, practical experience is an investment in the future.

Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel

Your Committee has the responsibility to keep the General Synod informed of the work of our military and institutional chaplains. The Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel is our endorsing agency for military chaplains and it provides pastoral care and guidance for those chaplains. A report on the work of the Council during the past year is on file at the ARP Center. Representatives on the Council are Ronald Beard (as Stated Clerk), Randall T. Ruble (2005), Don Yancey (2006), and Mr. Terry Wallace (2007). Mr. Ruble has served four consecutive three-year terms and has requested that he not be appointed to another term. The Committee is recommending R. J. Gore for the term ending June 30, 2008.

General Synod 2004 referred to the Committee the Memorial from Northeast Presbytery asking that the endorsing agency for Associate Reformed Presbyterian Chaplains be changed from the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel to the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission. The Committee's response to the Memorial is attached to this report and we recommend that the Memorial not be adopted.

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

Gale G. Cotton, Captain, USA
Ronald R. Eastes, 2nd LT, USA
Lawrence E. Hamrick, Captain, USA
Paul B. Joyner, Captain, USAF
Michael Keifman, Captain, USA
Michael A. Kelly, Captain, USA
Chris Reeder, USAF
David M. Schwabauer, Lt. Commander, USN
Barry K. Wells, Captain, USAF
Michael E. Yarman, Major, USA

We wish to acknowledge, with gratitude for their safe return, the service of two reserve chaplains completing active duty in Iraq – R. J. Gore and Jack Ryan.

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

R. J. Gore, LTC
L. Paul Burns, MAJ
James A. Ryan, COL

We note also, the following retired military chaplains:

Thomas E. Braithwaite
Meredith L. Cavin
William Nale Falls
Douglas O. Jones
William A. Macaulay
C. Stephen Rimmer

Robert Washington, Jr.
Hershel D. Yancey

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

Miscellaneous Items

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

b. **Policy Statement on Sexual Harassment.** The Committee continues to recommend that each presbytery adopt a statement on sexual harassment. Adopted statements should be reviewed on a periodic basis to insure compliance with existing laws and policies. Several presbyteries have begun the process for adopting a policy statement.

c. **Relationship with Board of Benefits.** The Chairman of each presbytery Committee or Commission on Minister and His Work has been added as an advisory member of the Board of Benefits, with the Chairman of General Synod's Committee on Minister and His Work serving as an Ex-officio member. The Committee meets in conjunction with the Board of Benefits to address Committee matters.

d. **Officers for 2005 - 2006** are as follows:

Chairman: Charles Edgar

Vice-Chairman: Robert Gordon

Secretary: Ed Hogan

e. **Meeting dates for 2005 - 2006:** The Committee will meet in conjunction with the Board of Benefits, meeting at 10:00 AM on the following dates: November 3, 2005, April 20, 2006, and November 2, 2006.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries encourage
 - a. ministers and seminary students to keep updated data forms on file at the ARP Center;
 - b. congregations to complete a "church profile" before seeking a pastor;
 - c. Pulpit Committees to give preference to ARP ministers and students;
 - d. (require) ministers to attend the General Synod orientation program within the first two years of ministry; and
 - e. congregations to employ ARP seminary students for the summer months.
2. That presbyteries that have not yet done so seek to develop a program

to encourage its congregations to incorporate the annual review of the minister's call into an annual ministry review.

3. That appreciation be expressed to the Presbyterian Council for the work it does on behalf of chaplains and military personnel.
4. That the General Synod rise to acknowledge and express appreciation to Randall T. Ruble for his ministry through the Presbyterian Council.
5. That the Synod pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our chaplains.
6. That R. J. Gore be elected to the Presbyterian Council for the term that expires in 2008.
7. That there not be a change in the endorsing agency for Military Chaplains.
8. That presbyteries be encouraged to require (from congregations seeking affiliation with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) a written affirmation that the church accepts the doctrines and theology set forth in the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.
9. That presbyteries be requested to review the guidelines approved by the 2000 General Synod pertaining to the reception of churches and ministers and provide guidance for the use of the guidelines to its Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work.
10. That presbyteries be encouraged to adopt a policy statement on sexual harassment.
11. That the General Synod approved form for a call be amended to include the effective date of the call.
12. That the 2005 revised budget and the budget for 2006 be adopted as follows:

	<u>2005</u>		<u>2006</u>
Committee Travel & Meeting Exp. \$	1,523	\$	2,000
General Office	250		300
Presbyterian Council	<u>7,821</u>		<u>8,212</u>
	<u>\$ 9,594</u>		<u>\$ 10,512</u>

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

Respectfully Submitted,
William R. Roberts, Chairman

Response to Northeast Presbyterian Memorial

Fathers & Brethren,

Synod's Minister and His Work Committee was given the task of studying and replying to the Memorial of Northeast Presbytery regarding the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church changing chaplain endorsing agencies from the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PCCMP) to the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission (PRJC).

The MHW Committee met on November 4, 2004 at Bonclarken and devoted the entire morning to the investigation, study and discussion of this issue. Northeast Presbytery was invited to send a representative to the meeting. However, it was expressed to the Committee that the distance/time commitment was too great to send someone to the meeting and no additional written information of support for the memorial was received for discussion.

Presentations were made to the Committee by representatives of the Presbyterian Council, including Rev. Dr. Randy Ruble, Rev. Dr. H. Don Yancey, Mr. Terry Wallace and Rev. Ed Brogan. Rev. Brogan is the current Director of the Presbyterian Council (PCCMP). Following the presentations, the MHWC further questioned the representatives of the Council about policies, practices, attitudes and relationships between the Presbyterian Council and our A.R.P.C. chaplains.

During the presentations and discussion, the following pertinent points were made:

1. The Presbyterian Council is apolitical on denominational matters and the four (4) denominations rotate the chairmanship of the council.
2. The Presbyterian Council is held in high esteem as an endorsing agency.
3. Theological qualification for military chaplains is done at the Presbytery level of each denomination. The Presbyterian Council does not require chaplains to go against the theological tenets of their respective denominations.
4. The A.R.P.C. has the highest number per capita of chaplains in the Presbyterian Council.
5. There is no sense in which any one denomination tries to control the Presbyterian Council.
6. In a subsequent survey to the one conducted by someone in Northeast Presbytery, of the 16 chaplains that would be affected by a change of endorsing agencies, one of the presenters said their finding resulted in 12 chaplains who were satisfied to stay under the Presbyterian Council, 2 that were dissatisfied and who wanted to change endorsing agencies, and 2 who did not respond.

Following the presentations, the representatives of the Presbyterian Council (with the exception of Terry Wallace who is a member of General Synod's Committee on Minister and His Work) left the meeting and the Committee continued discussion. The following items are highlights of the discussion:

1. The Committee recognizes that theologically and practically there are both positives and negatives of either staying with the current endorsing agency or changing endorsing agencies.

2. The MHWC wanted to be careful not to blend general opinions about the PCUSA as a denomination with the work of the Presbyterian Council that is comprised of four separate denominations.
3. The Committee believes that the severing or maintaining of ties to other denominations should not be at the level of Synod Committees, but rather by action of Synod itself. Therefore, the committee was careful to discuss the work and merits of the Presbyterian Council and not the theological or social positions of any one of the member denominations.

Because of the above concerns the Committee decided to operate on the basis of the actual wording of the Memorial from Northeast Presbytery, which is that a change in endorsing agencies should be made to protect “the careers and ministries of our chaplains.” Also taken into direct consideration were the points of concern in the Memorial for the specific items of, 1) Improved social interaction of our chaplains, 2) Greater cooperation of our chaplains, 3) Better pastoral care of our chaplains, and 4) Increased protection from superiors for our chaplains (when issues of conscience or ecumenisms might be involved).

Based on these specific items, the MHWC does not believe there is a need to change endorsing agencies at this time. The Committee based this decision on the following:

1. The Presbyterian Council is involved with our chaplains and addresses concerns as they arise.
2. Social interaction among chaplains occurs mainly at the installation level in the military where there are always chaplains of various denominational backgrounds serving. Changing endorsing agencies would not affect this concern one way or another.
3. Cooperation of chaplains also occurs mainly at the installation level and hence the conclusion in the above point is also valid in this matter.
4. The MHWC was impressed with the current level of pastoral concern that was expressed to us by the representatives of the Presbyterian Council, and we are grateful for their ministry to our chaplains and their families.
5. Recognizing that the military is an eclectic environment in which to serve the Lord, we believe our chaplains are aware of the need to balance denominational standards and matters of conscience with etiquette and propriety in denominationally blended services. However, we have been assured by the Presbyterian Council that it has in the past and will continue in the future to intercede where it is able with superiors on behalf of our chaplains.

Report – Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel

22 APRIL 2005

TO: General Synod, ARPC

FROM: Rev, Dr Edward T. Brogan, Director, Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel (PCCMP)

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church participation in the ministry of the PCCMP has been dedicated. Serving on our Council over the past year have been Dr. Randall Ruble, Col Terry Wallace, and Dr. Herschel "Don" Yancey. They've all held elected offices on our council with Dr. Ruble having been our prior chairman. The PCCMP functions much like a missionary sending agency for our four denominations, supplying chaplain ministries to the DoD and Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The PCCMP has been extraordinarily active in its support of chaplains. Ever since 9-11, reserves have been mobilized in large numbers. That continues today with 28 reserve and National Guard chaplains having been mobilized for at least a part of 2004; two of them were ARPs, (LTC) RJ Gore and (COL) Jack Ryan. We have been in near constant contact with most of them, from assisting in their entry in the active military to speaking with their families, churches, and presbyteries, to helping explain pension and USERRA rights, to providing support when they returned from the military. With many forces deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, and Kosovo, the tempo of reserve utilization may remain high for several years. We've enjoyed assisting individuals, churches, presbyteries, and GA offices in supporting deployed military members and chaplains. The Pinecrest ARP Church of Flat Rock, NC, took a special offering which resulted in Celtic crosses being offered through our chaplains to Presbyterians in uniform; the crosses are worn on the dog tag chain. We've also been gratified to see prayers offered, care packages mailed, and chaplains "adopted" by congregations.

Approximately 25 of our active duty chaplains were deployed into Southwest Asia for actions regarding Iraq and Afghanistan. Many are still deployed. We made personal visits to most of those active duty chaplains shortly before they deployed for combat in Iraq. We spend about 1/3 of our time on the road making pastoral calls on chaplains and families. We held a retreat for chaplains and families attended by 80+ chaplains and family members at Bonclarken last July; nearly 100 are signed up for this summer. We represented the church at retirement ceremonies for 6 chaplains.

The PCCMP has two core functions:

The ecclesiastical duty of endorsement of clergy for service in the military and VA chaplaincies

The pastoral function of supporting those same clergy during their time of service

Over the past year, we approved 8 for military chaplain candidate (seminarian) programs. We endorsed 16 for the Army, Navy, and Air Force;

some are in the reserves while others went immediately to active duty chaplaincy. We also endorsed 7 for the VA chaplaincy and 6 for the Civil Air Patrol (Air Force Auxiliary). Each approval or endorsement requires a collection of application, transcripts, presbytery approval, and letters of reference. After the documents are gathered, we interview the candidates. A seminarian seeking approval for a military chaplain candidate program receives a one-on-one.

Our current data on chaplains by denomination is below. We provide endorsement and support to 48 seminarians and 345 clergy. Most of our presbyteries have participants in one or more of the chaplain programs.

	Chaplain Candidate	Reserve Guard*	Active Military	Full Time VA	Part Time VA	Civil Air Patrol
Associate Reformed	3	2	11	1	-	2
Cumberland	1	2	8	-	2	4
Cumberland in Am.		1	1	-	-	-
PCUSA	<u>45</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>29</u>
TOTALS	49	133	121	18	48	35

*Of these Reserve/Guard, 28 are mobilized.

We attended General Assemblies or General Synod for all four of our denominations. The chaplain ministry is well received and supported by each denomination. We report to the Minister and His Work Committee of the ARP which appoints the ARP members of our Council. We also participate in the GAC of the PCUSA without vote; we do most of that work within the National Ministries Division. We will host our annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia, from 28-30 October.

The ongoing pastoral care for chaplains is an extension of what presbyteries do through a Minister and His Work committee. We expect our chaplains to maintain a sound relationship with the PCCMP and their presbytery. We require a quarterly written report from each active duty chaplain to our office and to the presbytery. We augment that contact with email and telephone. We also make personal contact with each chaplain at least every other year with a visit to their duty station or a meeting at a gathering of chaplains. We also respond very quickly when chaplains and families are in crisis. The summer is a very active time for the PCCMP. We work hard to serve chaplains who are changing commands, moving from the USA overseas or the reverse. Quite a few stop by the office in the District of Columbia while in a move or when in Washington for military duty. The PCCMP also hosts an annual retreat for chaplains and families; this facilitates networking and mutual support for our Presbyterian clergy who are often isolated from other Presbyterian contact.

The PCCMP works to interpret its mission and needs to the church. We had good support from *The ARP*, *The Cumberland*, and *Presbyterians Today* to explain what chaplains do. We've also been published in several

seminary publications, the *Outlook*, and the *Layman*. We made visits to seven of our seminaries this year and to many presbyteries to interpret the chaplain story and the PCCMP mission.

The PCCMP also maintains sound working relations with the Chiefs of Chaplains offices for each branch of the military and the VA. It also offers leadership in the Military Chaplain Association, the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Council for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). NCMAF is the advisory body to the Secretary of Defense on religion. Chaplain Brogan and Chaplain Chadwick are elected officers of the Military Chaplains Association.

Keeping the ministry vital with adequate funding has been difficult. We have redoubled our development efforts and are grateful for gifts received from many churches and presbyteries. Approximately 25% of our budget is met by gifts of that sort; the balance comes from denominational support. We have also found a new fund source in the Combined Federal Campaign.

Synod stood for a round of applause for the service of Randal T. Ruble.

R.J. Gore led in a special prayer for the chaplains now in harm's way and their families.

Charles W. Reynolds Jr. closed the session with prayer.

At 3:00 PM Synod recessed for the meetings of Moderator's Committees.

Wednesday, June 8, 2005 6:30 PM

The evening worship began with the organ prelude. Thomas G. Shoger led the worship service.

The Woman's Synodical Union President, Mrs. Patsy Ratchford, was escorted to the podium by Vice-Moderator Bell. President Ratchford presented her address. A motion carried to print the address in the *Minutes of the General Synod*.

WSU PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to speak before you this evening and most especially, to represent the Woman's Synodical Union.

On July 26, 2004, at our Annual Meeting, delegates approved the restructure of the Woman's Synodical Union. This included changing the name to ARP Women's Ministries, Vision and Purposes along with a new organizational structure. This was overtured to the seven Presbyterials and the vote favored the new plan and structure. During the July 2005 Woman's Synodical Union Annual Meeting, the vote will be certified.

After the Presbyterials' vote, I appointed a Transition Team to develop

a timeline and process for implementation. They have worked tirelessly to meet the goals they set and to ensure a smooth transition to the new structure.

Effective September 1, 2005, ARP Women's Ministries will officially begin under the new name, along with the Vision and Purposes, and with the new organizational structure. Our Vision reads:

“ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages and equips the community of A.R.P. women to minister together for God's glory and purpose.”

Purpose #1—Encourage every woman to cultivate a personal relationship with Christ.

Purpose #2—Affirm the Biblical roles of women.

Purpose #3—Foster unity within the body of Christ.

Purpose #4—Promote community and Christian sisterhood among our women.

Purpose #5—Encourage women to use their gifts for Christian Service.

Purpose #6—Motivate and equip women to reach people for Christ at home and through global missions.

Purpose #7—Oversee collection and distribution of designated gifts.

Purpose #8—Honor our heritage and maintain historical records.

Purpose #9—Communicate.

Purpose #10—Educate women on ARP Women's Ministries

Purpose #11—Implement plans of ARP Women's Ministries in an effective and efficient manner.

For the year September 2005 through August 2006 it is the intent of the ARP Women's Ministries Board to work diligently to fulfill Purposes #10 to educate and #11 to implement. Toward this end, the Transition Team will make several presentations during the Family Bible Conference.

Susan Hunt, an internationally-known author of adult and children's books and former director of Women in the PCA Church, will be the keynote speaker at the WSU Annual Meeting and will speak again on Tuesday afternoon at the Family Bible Conference. Her topic will be “*Women's Ministry in the Local Church*” and its relationship to other ministries—a very timely subject.

We believe that through this new direction women will be helped to be the very best they can be for God's glory in the immediate family, the covenant family, and in the community. It will free the women from “working to meet all the requirements and filling out reports” to doing ministry. Our new structure encourages women in the local church to seek ways to cooperate with the Session to fulfill the local Church's Vision statement, to minister to other women, and to support the Ministries of the A.R.P. Denomination through the local Church.

This requires some shift in our thinking, and will take some time to

accomplish, but we do believe as women grow in their understanding of how we can minister to other women and support the local church and our denomination, all will benefit.

The structure of the ARP Women's Ministries will include representatives from each of the ten Presbyteries, even though only seven have organized women's groups. It is hoped this will build community within the entire group of women in our Denomination. The structure includes an Administrator who will report to and serve at the direction of the ARP Women's Ministries Board. We believe this new position will be a great asset in helping to fulfill the purposes of education and communication in the short term, and the long term as well as provide continuity as a resource person.

A Search Committee was appointed to interview candidates for the Administrator position. We have been blessed to receive some wonderful resumes in response to recent ads in *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, through flyers to local churches and word of mouth. However, the Search Committee needs more time to prayerfully study these resumes and conduct interviews before an administrator is selected. Therefore, as we begin our transition to the ARP Women's Ministries Board, I will appoint an Interim Administrator. This provision will give the Search Committee time to interview and select a candidate to be trained and ready to begin work by September 1, 2005.

Realizing that the role of women in relationship to the General Synod has never been defined, we asked the Special Committee on Organization to assist us in defining this role. They have been most helpful and are recommending to the General Synod for approval that Chapter XIII of the *Form of Government*, be amended to add Section D to read:

D. THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages and equips the community of Associate Reformed Presbyterian women to minister together for God's glory and purpose, functioning under the ecclesiastical leadership of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

ARP Women's Ministries accomplishes its purposes through its Board and presbytery and local church organizations.

ARP Women's Ministries shall report to the General Synod on an annual basis.

Our budget for 2004-2005 is \$250,000. Giving is down this year; however, the women continue to support missionaries, Pam Brunson and Judi Hodges, through Jubilee Birthday offerings. A note from Judi Hodges reads, "...without the support of the women, I know that I would be leaving the mission field as so many of my friends are having to do." This year, we have also supported Outreach North America, Bonclarken, Erskine Col-

lege and Seminary, Covenant Discipleship, World Witness, Camp Joy and other denominational agencies, including the A.R.P. magazine.

Through prayer, Bible study and fellowship ARP women are walking closely with the Lord and are committed in their witness to others. Through the study of Dr. Sinclair Ferguson's book, *Let's Study Philippians*, they are experiencing Christ's joy in everyday life as we grasp the spiritual principles in Philippians. This Fall, we will begin the study of Jeremiah and at the Annual Meeting, the ladies will vote on the study for 2006-2007, which will be Luke.

God is using women mightily in His work throughout our churches, communities and the world. An invitation to speak at the Pakistani ARP Women's Conference in Sahiwal in March provided an opportunity to witness first hand women's ministries in Pakistan. Accompanying me on this trip were WSU World Mission Chairman, Judy Buis; John Hopkins with World Witness; and Dr. Jane Jennings, Medical Missionary. John Mariner and Margie Marsh, Cooperative Missionary, joined us in Sahiwal. Though they are very poor, these dear Pakistani Christian women have the love of Christ hidden in their hearts and their light shines brightly in a very dark land. It was very encouraging to see fruit from the vision of the A.R.P. denomination as missionaries were sent to this area of the world almost 100 years ago. On this same trip, we visited Moscow, Russia and toured the facilities of OPORA, a Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation training center, and Keys to Life, which is a program centered on the development of a family model of prevention, as well as a visit to one of the orphanages. The WSU supports both of these programs. What an awesome experience!

Many wonderful ministries have been highlighted through articles written by Presbyterian Presidents about the work going on within their Presbyteries. To highlight but a few in which our ladies are reaching out to their communities...one WOC sponsored a summer reading club where children read books, memorized Bible verses, and wrote to missionary children...another adopted needy families for Christmas...another designated the proceeds from their Mother-Daughter Brunch to their Relay for Life Team. The relay is an annual broad-based community effort that recognizes the participation of cancer survivors and raises money for the American Cancer Society. As one Presbyterian President so aptly stated, "I am challenged when I hear of such a wide variety of activities. It prompts me to consider what I will do to honor the Savior in my community."

In closing, I just want to thank each of you for your encouragement and support of the women's ministries and ask that you continue to pray as we inaugurate ARP Women's Ministries. And pray for all who will serve Christ through this new structure. To God be all praise for the good that

will come from these changes.

John H. Dawson presided on behalf of the Inter-Church Relations Committee. Greetings from Fraternal Delegates were received as follows: The Rev. Dr. Donald Fortson of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church; The Rev. Dr. L. Roy Taylor of the Presbyterian Church in America; and The Rev. Ian Wise of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

Mr. Dawson presented a letter from the United Reformed Churches concerning the interchurch relations and present status of that body. Mr. Dawson then concluded this portion of the meeting with prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

The Committee met on January 25, 2005 at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC with some members present by telephone. Ron Brunson reported and advised on the ARP Synods of Mexico and Pakistan.

Sister Synods

On behalf of World Witness, Ron Brunson reported on our sister synods in Pakistan and Mexico. Matters relating to funding and personnel with these synods fall under World Witness, so much of our relationship with these synods is maintained by World Witness. Sadly, communication between the Mexican synod and World Witness is at an impasse. The ICR Committee will write to invite the Mexican synod to have direct dialogue.

Ecumenical Organizations

The ARP continues as a member of two ecumenical organizations: (1) The International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) and (2) the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC). We are also investigating the World Reformed Fellowship.

The International Conference of Reformed Churches. The ICRC will meet in Pretoria, South Africa on October 12-19, 2005. Our delegates will be Frank Van Dalen and Jack Whytock. The travel costs to the Conference will require a \$4000 increase in our budget request.

North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council. NAPARC consists of seven member churches: The Korean-American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS), the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America (RPCNA), Eglise reformee du Quebec (ERQ), and the ARP.

NAPARC met in November 2004 in Kansas City, MO, hosted by the RCUS. Our delegation consisted of Moderator-Elect Bill Evans, Marty

Taylor and John Dawson (who again served as Chairman of the Council). There was much discussion at the Council on the subject of *Justification by Faith*, with several member denominations stating ways that they have reaffirmed the doctrine against attempts (e.g., *the New Perspectives on Paul*) to weaken it. The Council desires to do something special for the 500th birthday of John Calvin (2009) and will inquire of the churches about the possibility of having concurrent assemblies for the purpose of holding special joint seminars and meetings. The Council unanimously voted to receive the United Reformed Church of North America. Representatives of this synod have addressed our synod. Most of their churches have come out of the CRC. They hold to the Three Forms of Unity, which we declared to be “faithful and useful summaries of Biblical and reformed doctrine” in our 192nd synod. The URCNA will be members of the Council once 2/3 of the member synods/assemblies approve. Once the URCNA is part of NAPARC, the ICR Committee will move toward establishing official relations with them. William B. Evans presented actual copies of Spanish translation G. I. Williamson’s *The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes* to the members of the Council. This project was a joint venture of NAPARC. The ARP will host the next meeting of NAPARC at Bonclarken on November 1-2, 2005. The hosting of NAPARC will require an increase of \$1000 of the committee’s budget.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

North American churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARP are the KAPC, OPC, PCA, RPCNA, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and Christian Reformed Church. In 2004 at the various assemblies/synods, the ARP was represented by the following: Bob Cara, PCA; Moderator Frank Hunt, EPC.

RPCNA. Representatives from the RPCNA Interchurch Relations Committee met with our delegation after the meeting of NAPARC to discuss how our relations may become closer. This process has two handicaps: 1) we exist mainly in distinct geographic regions; and 2) we differ in worship, namely the RPCNA still use psalms exclusively in worship and we no longer do. However, because of our common faith and history, we have many striking similarities, and much opportunity to mutually benefit one another in the Lord. The committees of both denominations desire to meet again around the time of NAPARC in order to talk more specifically how we increase our mutual relations in the Lord. In order to aid this process we will be exchanging synod representatives on an annual basis.

Churches in Fraternal Correspondence

Churches in fraternal correspondence with the ARP are the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA), and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA). We

are in the process of dialoguing with the CPC to determine the functioning status of our relationship.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Sent in 2005

ARP delegates/representatives are scheduled to be sent to: NAPARC (Charles Clendinen, John Dawson, Bill Evans, and the Moderator-Elect), EPC (Marty Taylor), PCA, OPC, KAPC, RPCNA and The North American Synod of the Free Church of Scotland (Jack Whytock)

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Invited in 2005

The following will be invited: EPC, PCA, URC and RPCNA.

Special Committee on Organization

At the request of the Special Committee on Organization, the committee considered and approved to request that the Principal Clerk be added as an advisory member of the ICRC committee. The committee is continuing to review its stated Responsibilities and Duties with a view to suggest other improving changes.

Officers for 2005-2006

Chairman: John Dawson

Vice-Chairman: Jack Whytock

Secretary: Charles Clendinen

Proposed Budget for 2006

The Committee approved the following 2006 budget:

	2005	2006
General Office Expense	\$ 150	\$ 150
Committee Travel	5,000	9,000
ARP Fraternal Delegates/ Representatives	10,000	10,000
Hosting Fraternal Delegates		1,000
2,000		
NAPARC Dues	500	500
ICRC Dues	<u>3,580</u>	<u>3,580</u>
Total	\$ 20,230	\$ 25,230

Recommendations

1. That the proposed Committee 2006 budget be approved.
2. That the membership of the URCNA in NAPARC be approved.
3. That the Principal Clerk be added to the ICRC Committee as an advisory member.
4. All other actions of the Committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
John Howard Dawson, Chairman

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

Recommendation #1 was recommitted to the committee for further study.

At this point, as an order of the day, the **Report of the Board of Erskine College** was presented. The **Moderator's Committee on Erskine** recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-6. Two additional recommendations were presented:

1. That the Synod rise in a universal demonstration of appreciation for the faithful and extraordinary service of John and Sarah Ellen Carson to the Erskine Community and the entire A.R.P. Synod, and that Mr. Carson come forward and receive a token of heartfelt gratitude.
2. That Synod encourage our presbyteries to pray for the Search Committee as they seek a new President for Erskine and that Synod offer prayer for the Search Committee and the Administration during the transition period.

Recommendations 1-6 of the Board report were adopted. The additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

Fathers and Brethren,

Seven years ago Doug Jones approached me on behalf of the Search Committee for Erskine's 13th President and asked me to submit my name. I was then pastoring my home church in Gastonia—doing what I loved with people I loved.

However, I was involved in a small group at First A.R.P. studying *Experiencing God*. That very week the lesson had said, "If you can do something in your own strength, it is probably not God calling you to do it."

Some people had told me for several years that I would be President of Erskine. I told them, "That is my worst nightmare. I hate administration." Obviously, they were right and I was wrong — at least about the part about me being President of Erskine.

What does all this have to do with the last seven years? Simply one thing. Whatever good has been accomplished during my time as President is solely due to the grace of God. I came to the job with numerous inadequacies and pouting like Jonah over the loss of his little vine. But God had great things in mind that He would do in spite of a poor, reluctant servant. To God be the glory.

Cabinet Leadership: Dr. John L. Carson, President; Dr. Donald V. Weatherman, Executive Vice President and Dean of the College; The Rev. H. Neely Gaston, Executive Vice President for Advancement and Executive Vice President of the Seminary; Dr. R.J. Gore, Dean of the Seminary;

Mr. Gregory W. Haselden, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Mr. Lee W. Logan, Vice President for Development; Dr. John T. West IV, Vice President for Institutional Relations; Mr. R. Monty Wooley, Vice President for Student Services and Athletics; and Dr. Stephen B. Sniteman, Chief Marketing Officer.

Commencement and Baccalaureate Services, May 14-15, 2005:

President John L. Carson gave the College commencement address and The Rev. Dr. J. Allen Derrick preached the baccalaureate sermon on Saturday. Dr. Thomas W. Gillespie, former President and Professor of New Testament Emeritus, Princeton Theological Seminary, gave the Seminary Commencement address on Sunday afternoon. Honorary degrees were awarded to Charles H. Carlisle, Due West, SC; C. Jan Westmoreland, Waynesville, NC; and Luder G. Whitlock, Jr., Orlando, FL.

Board of Trustee Leadership, 2005-06: John T. Moore, Chairman; E. Kate Stewart, Vice Chairman; and Dwight L. Pearson, Secretary.

ACADEMIC/ENROLLMENT

Academic Office

- The College remains aloft at the third tier of national liberal arts colleges according to the 2004 *U.S. News and World Report* survey.
- The following faculty were hired for the 2004-05 academic year: Dr. Artur J. Gorka, assistant professor of mathematics; and Mr. Serge U. Lipovetsky, instructor of physical education (half time).
- Dr. John Warren, Associate Professor of Music and Director of The Choraleers, is one of 72 to be selected and invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. In addition to his singing, he is one of only four conductors selected to conduct the choir and instrumental ensemble.
- Dr. Alf Walle, Associate Professor of Business Administration, has written and published a new book entitled *The Path of Handsome Lake: A Model of Recovery for Native Americans*, Information Age Publishing.
- Erskine students, Miss Renee Bozard, Mr. Todd Lyda, and Miss Susan Turner, and their faculty mentors, Drs. Rachel Smith, Stefanie Baker, and Maggie Emery, respectively, completed undergraduate research projects sponsored by the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. Each student gave a presentation on results of their research at a meeting hosted by BMW Manufacturing.
- We have advertised two tenure-track faculty positions to be filled for the 2005-06 academic year. These positions are in the Department of Education and the Department of Health, Physical Education, Sports Management, and Athletic Training. Both positions remain to be filled. We have also advertised a three-year faculty position in the Department of Mathematics. This position is being generously funded by Mr. Joe Moss. It also remains to be filled.

- Our winter term offerings included two travel courses. Dr. Carlos Mentley had 10 students travel with him in his course Camino de Santiago and Dr. Mary Lang Edwards and Dr. David Ritland took 27 students to Costa Rica to study Tropical Biology.
- Two anonymous donors have provided the funds needed to renovate the old ARP Print Shop so it can be used as a studio space for our art department.

Bowie Arts Center

- Ms. Jan Walker was hired as the Director of Bowie Arts Center. Ms. Walker was an adjunct art instructor last year and continues to serve the college in that capacity.
- On September 9, a celebration of Bowie Arts Center's tenth anniversary kicked off the 2004-05 fine arts schedule and highlighted the center's permanent collection.
- The director began sending a weekly series of "Art E-preciation" campus-wide e-mails highlighting individual works from the permanent collection.
- The first annual art faculty exhibit took place in late November.
- Dr. Alex Patrick continues to make substantial donations of artwork to the permanent collection.

Chaplain's Office

Rev. Paul G. Patrick continues to serve as Chaplain and Campus Minister at Erskine College. The effort to build a Program of Ministry rather than a "ministry of programs" continues as his focus. Highlights from the year in campus ministry include:

- More than 240 of Erskine's nearly 600 students have participated in the large group Bible study called "Student Fellowship at the Barn." In the Fall, a weekly average of nearly 120 students gathered for fellowship, singing and teaching in a 10 week series on the book of James titled "*REALigion: The Message of James.*" The Spring semester saw a weekly average of more than 50 students in an eight week study titled "*Hosea: The Gospel of Enduring Love.*"
- 13 Small Group studies in the Fall as well as 8 in the Spring led by a combination of the chaplain, faculty, and upperclassmen continue to deepen the context of community fellowship and discipleship on campus.
- To aid these student leaders, the Chaplain attempts to provide a *Small Group Leaders Training* seminar once per semester.
- *Growth Groups* and *PASS Partners* were introduced this year to encourage intentional growth, discipleship and stewardship in the physical, academic, social and spiritual categories of student life.
- A Men's Fellowship and a Women's Fellowship weekend were provided this year, allowing for a context to deal with gender specific

ministry issues. Steve Maye of All Saints ARP church spoke to the men of our campus on Biblical Manhood while Rev. Stuart Latimer of Devenger Road ARP spoke to the women of our campus on the difference between Love and Infatuation.

- ARP ministers are frequently being utilized to preach and teach in the weekly Chapel service.
- Erskine students continue to benefit from our fraternal relationship with Reformed University Ministries (PCA) as Erskine sent a total of 108 attendees to 3 conferences this year.
- Spring Break Missions/Service opportunities now provide global, regional and local opportunities for students to minister. This year a dozen college and seminary students continued the outreach to Wales coordinated by Dr. Jennifer Fairbairn, another dozen students traveled with Baptist Collegiate Ministries to Pittsburgh, PA, while another dozen students remained in the Due West area with the Chaplain to minister to the physical and relational needs of widows.
- The Chaplain continues to chair the Convocation Committee at the college which intentionally pursues the integration of faith and learning, implementing the educational philosophy and mission of Erskine College. The work of this committee provides approximately 50 programs for the campus community each year through Convocations and Chapels.
- The Chaplain continues to advise student ministry groups and anticipates more direct supervision and involvement with various student groups through the provision of *Ministry Leadership Training* sessions for all interested students and groups, including but not limited to: Student Christian Association, Student Life Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Onward and Upward, and the ARP Student Union.
- ARPSU has been revived and has been encouraged to provide small group leaders for Bonclarken retreats and to provide scholarships for Erskine students to attend college events at Bonclarken.

Enrollment Management

- We began the academic year with 609 full-time equivalent students. The fall enrollment numbers meet our strategic plan goal of 600 students by 2006. With the 43 full-time equivalent faculty, the student/faculty ratio is 14 to 1.
- Our freshman class numbered 179, the second largest freshman class in over a decade, and we had 14 transfer students.
- We had a very strong fall to spring retention rate. Even with nine students graduating in mid-year, we maintained a 97% rate.
- We are having an outstanding recruiting year at this point. Not only

have we seen a significant increase in the numbers but we have also seen an increase in the academic quality of our interested students. We are currently over 10% ahead in the number of applications and accepted students compared to this time last year. In addition, despite the completion of the Early Action Program (laptops), we are 5% ahead in deposits. The academic profile of our accepted students is also higher than last year's group. The average grade point average in college preparatory classes is a 91 versus a 90 last year and our average SAT score is an 1152 compared to 1137. The next three months will be a pivotal time for us as we begin awarding scholarships and financial aid to our admitted student population.

- The E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Competition came to a successful conclusion in January with the selection of Miss Rockel Cole of Rockingham, NC, and Miss Megan Ferguson of Gastonia, NC.
- Miss Jordan Cook from Charlotte, North Carolina, was the first runner-up in the EBK competition and was awarded the Solomon Scholarship.
- The Financial Aid Office is in the second year of the new tuition scholarship program. By simplifying and clarifying the awarding process, the enrollment management team has been given the flexibility to recruit prospective students in a manner that is both enticing and easily understood. The feedback from parents and students has been positive and reassuring.
- The Financial Aid Office (FAO) is in the process of working with prospective freshmen for the 2005-06 academic year. Approximately 550 to 600 award letters (a record high) will be sent to prospective freshman students by June 1, 2005.
- Overall, it appears that our efforts to strengthen the institution's market position are having a positive effect on student recruitment.
- Miss Kimberly Fober was hired by the admissions office for the 2004-05 academic year as Admissions Coordinator for Campus Events. The financial aid office hired Ms. Amanda Richey as Office Manager/Work Study Coordinator.

Information Technology

- Dr. Bill Junkin, Dean of Learning and Technology, is on leave of absence during the fall and spring terms of this academic year to teach as a sabbatical replacement at Eckerd College in Florida.
- Miss Jamie Coleman, a 2000 graduate of Erskine, was hired to work during the 2004-05 academic year in the information technology department.

McCain Library

- Through participation in *Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries* (PASCAL), McCain Library now provides access to

12 electronic databases, making 12,000 electronic journals available to Erskine students and faculty.

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Produced Annual Fund Plus brochure and distributed to alumni and friends of the college incorporating a CD.
- Redesigned Seminary Web site and NetNews page, which won an award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.
- In process of redesigning college's main Web site, which should be completed by June of this year.
- Produced a series of brochures for admissions, alumni, and other college departments.
- Produced a myriad of news releases and photos highlighting college events and activities on the campus. During the past three months (December 2004, January and February 2005), the releases and photos have occupied more than 3,300 inches of space – the equivalent of more than \$123,000 in free advertising.
- New light boxes were constructed in the Watkins Student Center and Belk Hall to showcase student activities and achievements.
- During the 2004-05 academic year, focused on internal marketing and current student satisfaction by expanding numerous photo galleries on the web, assisting students in various productions, creating light boxes, and assisting the Editor and staff of the Mirror. Also focused on assisting the development staff on a variety of projects.

FINANCE/FACILITIES

Finance

- Erskine welcomes Gregory W. Haselden, CPA as Vice President for Finance and Operations and James D. Barnes, CPA as Controller. Mr. Haselden was with St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville for six years as the Director of Finance and Business Operations, and prior to that position, he served as a senior accountant with Deloitte & Touche LLP. Mr. Barnes comes to Erskine from McKinley, Cooper, and Company, LLP, a local accounting firm in Greenville, and prior to that position, he served as a senior accountant at Deloitte & Touche LLP.
- The College Endowment funds were valued at \$42,695,256 as of June 30, 2004.
- College tuition, fees, room, and board will increase by 5.5% in FY 2005-06, raising the average total cost to \$25,368.
- Seminary fees will increase in FY 2005-06 to \$275 per hour for the Master's programs and \$290 for the Doctor of Ministry program.
- The Business Office has begun a two-year budgeting process whereby the Erskine administration and Board will be able to evaluate pro-

jected future performance on a two-year basis.

- With the assistance of other departments (academics, admissions, financial aid), the Business Office has begun creating metrics for review for budget creation and financial results analysis.
- The Business Office is overseeing a comprehensive overhaul of Erskine's Employee Handbook.

Facilities

- Major projects completed in FY 2004-05 include the renovation of McQuiston Hall for seminary housing and the installation of an elevator, faculty offices, and a classroom in the basement of Bowie Divinity Hall. Additionally, the Due West ARP Print Shop was renovated to serve as an art studio.
- Projects in progress include the renovation of the Chesnut Room in Belk Hall, the Camp-Younts Plaza, the construction of a softball press box, and the Streetscape Project to beautify downtown Due West.
- The College has purchased the shell of a new Facilities building and is actively soliciting funds to construct the building.
- With the assistance of the Facilities staff, the College has compiled a comprehensive list of campus repairs and maintenance needs by building. This list will assist the College administration in prioritizing and addressing routine maintenance requests and needs.

DEVELOPMENT

- The Gold Campaign (our capital campaign) has continued to receive excellent support with contributions in excess of \$27,400,000 toward our goal of \$36,800,000. We have increased our goal by \$1,500,000 from last year due to an increase in the scope of the Memorial Hall project. Of the pledges made to date, over \$15,400,000 has been paid leaving an unpaid balance of just under \$12,000,000. The Campaign Steering Committee, led by Joe and Kathy Black, continues to do an outstanding job of guiding this campaign effort to what will, no doubt, be a successful conclusion provided we continue to work hard and benefit from the outstanding support we have received for Erskine College and Seminary. Since March 2004 over \$9,670,000 has been donated to the institution, including gifts to the Annual Fund, Endowment Fund, Memorial Hall project and other key aspects of the Gold Campaign.
- We are emphasizing the need to complete the Memorial Hall project and are setting as our goal to have groundbreaking prior to the end of the campaign on December 31, 2006. To date over \$5,250,000 has been pledged toward the \$8,460,000 goal.
- The Alumni Association, under the leadership of Eleanor Richardson, and the Board of Counselors, with Bob Robinson as Chair, continue to

do an outstanding job of implementing their long-range plans which outline a progressive and energetic involvement in the respective work of their groups. The implementation of the expansion of the Alumni Board has been completed and it is functioning well under its new organization. The Board of Counselors is much more proactive in its advisory role and is focusing its energy on specific task force assignments.

- The Alumni Association Annual Fund Campaign ended last year with a successful all-time record of \$1,563,930. Gifts to the Annual Fund during the life of the Gold Campaign have already exceeded the five-year goal and congratulations are due to that part of our fund-raising effort.
- The next Board of Counselors banquet will highlight the induction of the following individuals into the Academic Hall of Fame: James Hearst Pressly, Maude Mills Bigham, William H. F. Kuykendall and John I. Bonner.
- The Town of Due West, with the encouragement of the institution, has signed a contract and will implement a downtown renovation project funded largely from state and federal grants, along with the support of just under \$40,000 in contributions from families associated with Due West.
- The Alumni Office, under the direction of Mr. Ralph Patterson, and the Planned Giving Office, with Mr. Bobby McDonald as Director of Major Gift Planning, continue to do outstanding work expanding the donor base of the institution and securing larger contributions from our traditional support base.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

- The Drummond Center and the Kettering Foundation sponsored the semi-annual deliberative forum for the January 2005 legislative orientation. Chair Paula Harper Bethea, Rep. Jim Harrison, Gov. David Beasley, and Dr. Virginia York, of the Kettering Foundation, led a discussion on the need for statesmanship and deliberation to solve problems.
- The Drummond Center hosted two National Issues Forums during the Spring of 2005. Attendance included professors, community leaders, and students from Erskine and other institutions.
- The Drummond Center is in the process of closing on the Memorandum of Understanding for the conference center to be located at Lake Russell. The MOU will be between the Drummond Center, Erskine, and US Land Investments.
- The Drummond Award Banquet was held on March 29 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, SC. Mayor Joe Riley of Charleston received the 2005 Drummond Center for Statesmanship award.

- The winners of the Middle School and High School Essay Project were announced at the Drummond Award Banquet. Students in middle and high schools throughout South Carolina wrote essays on the topic of statesmanship for a cash prize. The teacher of the winning students received a grant of \$500 to further community deliberation in their area.
- The Drummond Center is finalizing the details of an endowed chair in political economy.
- Sponsorships and contributions for the Drummond Award Banquet are on target for 2005.
- Erskine signed a contract with Solutience Incorporated to market on a global basis the *BQ software* and the new *Participate* software, developed by Dr. Bill Junkin. The institution will receive 50% of the selling price for *BQ* and 70% of the selling price for *Participate*.
- The Office of Institutional Relations is working on a Federal Appropriations Bill for Memorial Hall. The request for the project will amount to \$4 million. Approval from the SC delegation is in place as are letters of support from various government agencies, school districts, and non-profit organizations. A strategy is in place to secure the bill and the appropriations.
- The Lakelands Center for Entrepreneurs is complete with three new businesses seeking to locate in the small business incubator. The Director of the Small Business Incubator is Dr. Tracy Kramer.

STUDENT SERVICES AND ATHLETICS

Programs

- An extensive orientation program (including CPR/First Aid certification, leadership training, risk behavior identification, etc.) was conducted for Student Life Assistants and Resident Directors from August 16 through August 20. This time was highlighted by a 3-day retreat to Bonclarken.
- Freshman Orientation (including computer, library, and study skill instruction, alcohol/other drug education and service opportunities) was extended this year to include a full week of activities. Freshmen arrived on campus on Saturday, August 21.
- Residence Life programs continue to be conducted in residential halls (examples include programs on sexual assault and effective weight management).
- A leadership workshop was conducted in early Fall for organizational leaders and advisors of all student organizations on campus.
- More than 40 mini-sessions were offered to the campus and community during Winter Term. Students, staff and community members taught the sessions which included sessions such as car mechanics, skeet shooting, power point, managing money, famous works of art

for beginners, learning to drive a Model A, and knitting.

- Throughout the year, there has also been an active intramural program for all Erskine College and Seminary students, faculty and staff. The basketball program alone had over 170 students, faculty, and staff involved.

Housing

- Housing reservations for the 2005-06 academic year will take place the week of April 11.
- A returning student deposit of \$300 (part of which will be applied to the fall tuition and part for administrative costs) is required to reserve a room in our housing facilities or to pre-register for the Fall 2005 term.

Student Elections/Appointments

- Senior David Dangerfield, President of the Student Government Association for the 2004-05 academic year, announced that SGA elections will be held during March and April.
- Interviews for the selections of the 2005-06 Student Life Assistants will be held on April 4-5.

Spring Events

- Spring Fling, sponsored by the Erskine Entertainment Board, was held April 1-2 and included outdoor musical performances, cookouts and games on the circle.
- Relay for Life, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, was held April 29.

Athletics

- The following coaches continue in their coaching positions: Mark Peeler, Men's Basketball (Mark serves as Athletic Director in addition to his duties as Head Men's Basketball coach); Maggie Peeler, Women's Basketball; Kevin Nichols, Baseball; Vardon Cox, Men's Tennis; Calhoun Parr, Women's Tennis; Aileen Hawkins, Softball.
- The newest additions to the coaching staff are Serge Lipovetsky, Women's Soccer and Instructor of Physical Education; Ben Freakley, Men's Soccer Coach; and Jeff Schrage, Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach.

Career Services

- In February, 33 seniors were awarded interviews during the SCICU Interview Day.
- The annual Erskine/Lander Education Fair was held on March 10. Twenty-five Erskine education majors were interviewed by 91 recruiters from 51 school districts and private schools.
- The Parent Association Council held their fourth meeting of the year on March 5. They filled 800 "goodie bags" for students, faculty, staff.

Public Safety

- The automatic locking systems and video surveillance now present on all entrance and exits of all the undergraduate housing facilities have increased security of these facilities.
- All Public Safety officers maintain accreditation with Criminal Justice Academy.
- An approved system of reporting crime to SLED (South Carolina Law Enforcement Department) has been installed and approved.
- The process for gaining State Accreditation of our Public Safety office continues. Completion of this project will depend on funds available.
- Two long-range plans still needed: Emergency Preparedness and Victim's Assistant Program.

Recommendations

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

1. Thank God for His sustaining mercy during the past year and pray continually that Erskine may "grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."
2. Grant the following requests for funds:
 - Operating Budget Request
The College/Seminary is requesting a total of **\$650,000** in operating funds for 2006. These funds will be used to underwrite a portion of our \$6.3 million scholarship budget (FY2005-06) and the expenses of our campus Chaplain.
 - Associate Reformed Presbyterian Student Union
The Board of Trustees is again requesting financial support of **\$500** to assist the important work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Student Union.
 - Facilities Building
The College/Seminary has purchased a building shell to replace approximately two-thirds of its existing Facilities building. The existing building, which is over 70 years old, is in significant disrepair which limits the functionality of the space and raises safety concerns. The institution is currently seeking \$130,000 in additional financial resources to construct the building. Erskine seeks consideration of **\$50,000** in funds from the Synod to assist with this critical capital project.
3. Designate special days when the work of Erskine College and Seminary may be presented before the congregations of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and receive—in conjunction with other Synod agencies—a special offering.
4. Encourage local churches to use their bulletins, newsletters, and other means to publicize events at Erskine College and Seminary.
5. Ask presbyteries and presbyterials to invite representatives from the

College and Seminary to participate in youth conferences, retreats, and/or special events.

6. Remind ministers and their staffs to make known to their high school students the E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Program, the Great Erskine Lock-In, and other spiritual and educational opportunities, and to encourage all who desire to be equipped for ministry to avail themselves of conferences, lectures, and other educational opportunities at the Seminary.

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

REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fathers and Brethren:

- Once again, we at Erskine Seminary give thanks to the Lord for his blessings over the past year. As the report below shows, God has given us the privilege of serving Him in many exciting ways. We are especially thankful to the A.R.P. churches for your financial support, your prayers, your students, and your kind words of encouragement. We are committed to continuing to serve the A.R.P. Church. We currently have 62 ARP students enrolled for the 2004/2005 academic year. Ten students are DMIN, twenty are MDIV, five MACE, three MAPM, eight MATS, two MCM, two MACM, one special student, and eleven CEU.
- Permanent teaching faculty for the year included Bible professors Adrian Smith, Doug Culver, Loyd Melton, and George Schwab; Theology and Church History professors Richard Burnett, Don Fairbairn, R.J. Gore, Dale Johnson, Merwyn Johnson, and Mark Ross; and Ministry professors Robby Bell, Michael Bush, Jerdone Davis, Robert Glick, Steve Lowe, and “Scoti” Old. Part-time faculty were Robert Alexander, Brad Christie, Steve Clyborne, Ira Houck, Mary-Ruth Marshall, Mark McClam, Bill Rogers, Randy Ruble, Robert Todd, Doug White, and Michael Wolfe.
- Dr. Robert W. Bell, Dr. Douglas J. Culver, and Dr. Dale W. Johnson were granted tenure. Dr. Merwyn S. Johnson will retire June 30, 2005. Two new professors in Biblical Studies will be hired for the 2005/2006 academic year.
- Dean R. J. Gore was deployed to serve as an Army Chaplain in Iraq, returning in January, 2005. In his yearlong absence, Dr. Robert Bell served as Interim Dean and Dr. Don Fairbairn served as Associate Dean.
- Dr. Gareth Scott was appointed as Director of United Methodist Studies. Dr. Scott served most recently as Superintendent of the Greenville District of the United Methodist Church and has served

pastorates throughout SC for over thirty years.

- Faculty members continue to teach and preach in ARP churches throughout the denomination as well as in churches in other denominations represented here. Faculty members regularly lead worship services, conduct seminars and training sessions, and lead Bible studies in churches across the country. Neely Gaston has preached in a number of ARP churches throughout the Synod.
- Renovations to McQuiston Hall have been completed. Fourteen rooms are now available for 28 students, including a handicapped accessible room with bath. A handicapped ramp extends from Bowie Hall to McQuiston Hall. Construction is complete in the basement of Bowie Divinity Hall with the addition of five new faculty offices, a large multi-purpose classroom, a handicapped accessible restroom, and a faculty lounge. The new elevator in Bowie is now operational.
- Erskine Theological Seminary bid for and was awarded a four-year Army contract to educate Army Chaplains in the D. Min. program. The first group of Army Chaplains arrived on campus in July 2004 for three weeks of intensive classes and returned for three weeks in January. There will be a new class of chaplains arriving in July 2005.
- The second annual Allison Open golf tournament was held on October 18, 2004, at Stoney Point Golf Club in Greenwood.
- A new off-campus site has been established in Columbia, SC, with Dr. Mark Ross as its first resident Associate Professor of Theology. He has served as Associate Pastor for Teaching, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC, for the past 20 years. The Columbia extension site is being provided by the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia and has been financially assisted by a generous initial gift in the form of a faculty chair. First Presbyterian Church of Augusta, GA, has also partnered with Erskine Seminary in providing facilities for the Augusta Extension Site. A new off-campus site was established in New York City. Three courses were offered in a pilot program during the fall semester under the direction of Dr. Douglas Culver, Professor of Old Testament and R. W. Carson Chair in Evangelism and Church Planting.
- Sixty-six students graduated in May 2005. Forty students received the Master of Divinity degree; five, the M.A. in Christian Education; four, the M.A. in Theological Studies; two, the M.A. in Pastoral Ministry; two, the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry; two, the Master of Church Music; and eleven the Doctor of Ministry degree. The Commencement speaker was Dr. Thomas William Gillespie, *President Emeritus* of Princeton Theological Seminary.
- There were 176 new students enrolled this fall and 67 enrolled in the

spring. There were 480 students enrolled for the 2004/2005 academic year. More than twenty different denominations are represented and we continue to have record numbers of ARP students. The challenge before the seminary continues to be that of providing a theological education to the increasing number of ARP students. Scholarships have not increased as quickly as our ARP student body.

- Erskine Seminary continues its D.Min. program at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, Ft. Jackson, SC, and operates extension sites in Augusta, GA; and Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston, SC.
- The Institute for Reformed Worship continues under the leadership of Dr. Hughes Oliphant (“Scoti”) Old, Dean. Dr. Michael Bush is the new Director of the Institute and is our newly appointed Assistant Professor of Worship and Homiletics.
- Erskine continues to operate its Erskine Distance Education Network (EDEN) courses and Dr. Steve Lowe serves as Associate Dean for Distributive Learning.
- The Rev. Dr. Gregory Tournoux, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Owosso, Michigan, was the Ford Lecturer. The Rev. Dr. James Grier, Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology at Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, was the preacher for the Whitesides Pastor Institute and Dr. Richard E. Averbeck, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill. was the Robinson Lecturer. In addition, this year’s Erskine lecturers included Jerry Thacker, (Christianity and Public Morality), Dr. R. J. Gore, Jr. (Christianity and Worship), Dr. Anis Shorrosh (Christianity and Islam) and Dr. David Sinclair (Sermon on the Resurrection).

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

Erskine College and Seminary Board Chairman John T. Moore was introduced to the Synod. Mr. Moore read a commendation statement to John and Sarah Ellen Carson. Mr. Moore then read to the Synod the Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Seminary action naming Mr. Carson President Emeritus of Erskine College and Seminary.

President-Emeritus Carson addressed the Synod concerning his thoughts on the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Erskine College and Seminary and the present culture around us.

THE FRICTION POINT

Forty years ago I undertook the task of teaching my girlfriend, who is now my wife, how to drive my Volkswagen in the city of Columbia. Prior to that time I thought of Columbia as a level place, kind of like Myrtle Beach. Not so. I found out it was a lot more like Bonclarken – full of hills.

As we were driving through the city and she was trying to learn how to drive a straight drive, we experienced two different problems. One of the problems was that she would fire up that engine, really have it roaring, then we would start smelling the clutch burning as we rolled backward down the hill. I'd reach for the emergency brake and pull it up to keep us from going backward.

The second problem was – and I never would have believed this could happen with a Volkswagen – she would pop the clutch too quickly and literally all four tires of the Volkswagen would leave the highway. Then the motor would stall. I am not making this up; this is a true story. She just could not find the friction point where she would let the engine engage the gears and get the Volkswagen moving ahead smoothly.

This story bares a striking resemblance to the history of the ARP Church in engaging the culture. We have been talking a lot about the culture at this Synod meeting. Over the years we have been tuning our theological engine at Synod meetings, and revving it up, and then fine tune it all over again the next year to get it running as powerfully as possible. Yet, we seem to have a hard time finding the friction point where we let our powerful engine engage the gears and really start ministering to the culture around us.

Our opposite problem with engaging the culture is that some of us tend to pop our clutches, rush out into the midst of the culture before we are ready, and end up stalling out and going nowhere. We have our churches jumping three feet off the ground but with no idea of how we can actually affect the culture. Oftentimes we are more engulfed by the culture than affecting the culture. The ARP Church and its institution of higher education, Erskine College and Seminary, need to give serious consideration to how we can effectively address the culture.

I am giving you a terrible analogy, and I admit this from the start. Analogies always break down and this one certainly is no exception. However analogies help us to remember; so just focus on its central point.

First, we have a great dynamo in God, the omnipotent God, our sovereign Lord. In His power and in the work of His Son on the cross, we have access to unlimited resources to change this culture. Second, the motor, the engine we have, is our reformed theology. From time to time we need to tweak it. We need to make sure the engine is running well so that we can harness the power of God in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Third, the friction point is where we do ministry, where we engage the gears – where the power of God through the engine of reformed theology moves the vehicle of the church of Jesus Christ so that it might affect the culture in which it exists. This friction point is the crucial point we have so much difficulty finding and hitting just right.

To make sure we can affect the culture around us positively, the way we do ministry – when we do ministry and how we do ministry and where we do ministry – is critical. I truly believe that the church of Jesus Christ, in our particular case the ARP Church, is the vehicle through which we need to affect that culture. So often I find us mired in the culture, up to our hubcaps in the culture, and not knowing how to find the friction point – not knowing how to engage the power of God through our theology to transform our culture. We seem to be either revving our engine, burning up our clutch, and rolling backward or popping our clutch, jumping three feet in the air, and stalling out.

Let me take you on a trip down memory lane. Thirty-five years ago I came under care of the First Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. What was the church like in that day and what were its educational institutions like in terms of engaging the culture? At that time we were anesthetized by the culture. As a church culture, we were pretty much like a conglomeration of all that was going on in the church of that time. We were broad – not in the best sense of the word, but perhaps in the worst sense of the word. Within our church – not just in ones and twos – were a wide variety of clusters. There were dispensationalists and amillennialists. We had charismatics and we had people who thought all spiritual gifts had ceased. We had people who were liberal, we had people who were conservative. We had people who were advocates of the social gospel, and we had people who were segregationists. We had a tremendous variety of groups within the ARP Church who did not represent what was best about the church of Jesus Christ.

In the mid 1970's and early 1980's the ARP Church went through some religious wars. Strange configurations of the groups I have mentioned formed in different ways on different issues. I do not think wars are a great thing, but there was a silver lining which came out of all this. The silver lining was a renewed sense of trying to be intentionally reformed in all the ways we address things. Not that we have achieved this in our day, but we have certainly become more Christ-centered and more consciously reformed. Today we have a variety of streams of the conservative reformed faith existent in the ARP Church. I think perhaps this is a healthy diversity as we debate our issues and discuss critical issues within the church. So, if good can come out of wars, that was the good that came out of these.

In those days, Erskine College and Erskine Seminary were pretty much

like their parent – anesthetized to some of the influences of the culture. They were not educational institutions inhabited by wicked, evil people who were plotting and scheming. But they were plainly unaware of issues that should have been foremost in their minds. The college and seminary suffered because of this. The default position of academia is liberal, by and large. When that is the default position and care is not taken as to how the enterprise of higher education is conducted then it is most likely that this will be the drift in which the institution will go.

35 years ago we were pretty well anesthetized. The culture had crept in around us and we were largely unaware of what our needs were. Through God's testing of us during that time, we have become aware of our needs.

One thing that was truly remarkable about those times is that there was no schism in the ARP Church. We had handfults leave from both sides but we had no real split. We talked about the reasons for this in 2003 during the Bicentennial Synod in Due West. I refer you to the Pre-Synod Conference material from that meeting if you are interested.

During the mid 80's to early 90's we had an uneasy truce within the ARP Church. The direction of the church had been decided and everybody was just happy that we were not fighting anymore. Still, however, there was a lot of suspicion in a number of different areas. One of the things I hold to be truly remarkable during that time was the work of Dr. Randy Ruble, the Dean of Erskine Theological Seminary. During that time he was not only able to grow Erskine Theological Seminary but he also was able to point it in a more Biblical direction – all in the midst of a climate of suspicion and skepticism. God truly honored us as a denomination by having a man of such abilities for such a time.

Beginning in the late 1980's and going through today, we have had – as has been mentioned before – blissfully boring meetings of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Just this afternoon I was in the lobby of Founder's Hall when Rusty DeBose from First Presbyterian in Columbia came through and said, "I can't believe the things that we talk about here in our Synod and that we have our fights about on the floor. How insignificant they are in light of some the catastrophic issues that are being faced by denominations and churches throughout our country." Even though every discussion we have is serious and there is nothing unimportant within the Word of God and the decisions of our church courts, we have been blessed over the last 15 years not to have to debate large divisive issues that are so evidently contrary to the Word of God.

During this time, the Synod has given Erskine College and Seminary time to get its act together and to become more faithful and more intentional about who it is. God has honored this as Erskine has become more

Christ-centered and more reformed in the way that it approaches education in general and theological education in particular. I credit God and to give praise to Him that this has been the case; and I thank the denomination for giving Erskine the time and the freedom to develop in those particular ways. Erskine has acted responsibly with the freedom the ARP Church has given it. We rejoice over the clear testimony of our Bible department in the college and we rejoice over the faculty that has been gathered in the seminary and we rejoice in others who have been gathered to teach in the college and we rejoice in the student body – a student body who has experienced an amazing transformation in recent years in being more serious about the things of Christ. We are indeed thankful and grateful for all of this and – I repeat – we are thankful to the denomination for its faith and trust in us. I do not infer that we are in any way perfect. I have a longer list than you do about the deficiencies of Erskine College and Seminary. But given where we have been and where we have come, surely this has been the work of a gracious God.

What I am concerned about now is, “Where is the ARP Church today?” We have just talked about the blissfully boring Synods of the last 15 years and we rejoice in that. I do not like to fight and I do not like to strive and I do not like to discuss contentious issues and I do not like to work hard to maintain the peace of the church. But we have a culture around us that is delivering body blows to the church of Jesus Christ.

I think about all the things that have been lost in my lifetime. Abortion, we have lost that one. Maybe we can reclaim it in future years, but we have taken that body shot. Euthanasia, I think we are on the verge of losing that one. We have talked about the Lord’s Day; we have lost that one. Think about the homosexual agenda, we have lost that one already. The church of Jesus Christ is taking so many body blows while we sit through blissfully boring Synod meetings.

It seems to me like its time for us to start finding out where that friction point is. That point where we take the dynamo of God – the energy of God, the dynamite of God – and we take the reformed faith we are so committed to and we begin to seek and find the friction point where we apply the power of God through the ministry of His church to the culture around us.

There are ways in which Erskine College and Seminary has begun to do that. They are only baby steps and maybe they are not that significant; but we are beginning to do a variety of things that may make a difference.

When I was teaching ethics at Erskine Seminary I learned that there are three methods by which the church can engage the world: the institutional, the operational, and the intentional. Taking these in reverse order, the intentional method withdraws from the culture and establishes entities that take the place of institutions currently operating within the culture – entities such as private schools or private rehabilitation centers. When

the culture has so adversely affected certain institutions within it, it may be valid and necessary to do this. The intentional can affect the culture when it provides an alternative entity that may become so successful that its corresponding entity within the culture adapts its methods and attempts to achieve its outcomes.

The operational method of engaging the culture is the way of the outsider. Those who perceive that they do not have access to power and influence attempt to force the hand of those who do. The operational way can be executed in legitimate ways such as sending mountains of direct mail to legislators or media executives or heads of corporations to influence their decisions. Or, it could influence decisions through marches in the street or, in extreme cases, through bombing abortion clinics. Outsiders who move to force the hand of the culture employ the operational method.

The institutional method works through the structures of existence to make changes in institutions – attempting to transform these institutions into entities that are more consistent with the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. The ARP Church and Erskine College and Seminary have the option of using the institutional method to make inroads into the culture around us because of our longevity and because of the trust that has been built over the years with institutions within our culture - especially with other churches. It is past time we started using this option.

Too much time is spent in our presbytery and synod meetings tuning our engines and gunning our motors. We never seem to get around to talking about the purpose of all this pent up power – how we can engage the church in ministering to the culture around us. 35 years ago when we had gone to sleep at the switch, we needed to do some major tuning and we needed to fix what was broken and we needed to find out who we were. Although this is a task that is never finished, the time has surely come for us to start searching for the friction point and see if we can actually move the church of Jesus Christ out of the mire of the culture which has ensnared us.

Two ways in which Erskine College is engaging the culture come as we backpedal from its onslaught. Erskine is a member of the Carolinas Virginia Athletic Conference. There are eleven schools in this conference. All of them were founded either by denominations or Christian groups. Of these eleven colleges, Erskine is the only one that does not play athletic events on Sunday. We have to be granted an exemption by our conference not to play athletic contests on Sunday. This is an indication of how far we have lost this battle with our culture. That is one small way Erskine stands up and gives a testimony for the sanctity of the Lord's Day. Thankfully our fellow conference members are congenial and grant us our exemption. Perhaps one day others will follow our example.

Do you realize that Erskine and other faith-based institutions have to be granted an exemption in order to be able to hire individuals who con-

form to their beliefs and practices? The law of the land is that employers have to hire people irrespective of their beliefs and practices – many of which deviate from biblical Christianity. Erskine has to make its desires known so that we can still hire evangelical Christians. This exemption is being challenged today and the vote in the United States Congress to retain this exemption is by a slim margin. These are the kinds of issues we are facing – huge issues – and I think in a small way Erskine is giving a testimony for godly practices.

Erskine Seminary has been given the opportunity to work within a number of churches that do not have a seminary they feel confident sending their students to. In past years we have been a refuge to a great number of such students. I look forward, optimistically, to the day when Erskine Seminary would not be merely a refuge or an escape for them but a beachhead from which they could go back and minister more effectively within their churches. Are there risks in ministering to such students? I think about that constantly. We have many seminary students who do not believe as the ARP Church does in a number of different areas. We have students who have bishops over their church. We have students who do not offer baptism to covenant children. We have students who have women as ministers within their denominations. We have students who are charismatics.

Do you realize that every time you move out into the culture you risk something? You risk the possibility of being infected. If you go out and begin to engage the culture, you risk the possibility of losing your center of gravity. But on the other hand, if we really believe that “He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world” what a wonderful opportunity we have to be of help, and to be of assistance. We have found that students from other churches at Erskine Seminary have genuinely appreciated the ministry that we have had with them. Even though they know our beliefs are a little different from theirs, they have been vocal in their praise of the education they have received. Isn’t it amazing? Erskine has been able to emphasize the authority of Scripture and present a reformed, Christ-centered theological education in such a way that students from these different churches praise us to their peers. This is nothing short of the grace of God! We have a tremendous opportunity and a tremendous privilege to engage these students.

I challenge you, I challenge the ARP Church to engage the culture. I hear Moderator Frank Hunt say constantly, “Perhaps the Lord has put the ARP Church here, ‘for such a time as this’.” We have a wonderful opportunity to minister to the churches around us and to the culture around us. Often it grieves me that we are sitting here blissfully bored with what is taking place within our own denomination. I would encourage you as you go back to your churches and to your presbyteries to begin to think

of ways in which you can make inroads into the culture. We have a great faith. The Lord has given us a time of peace, and a time of rest. I do not want us to squander that time. I want us to use it for the benefit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

People say, "I hear you're retiring." I am not retiring. "Retiring" at this point in my life is not in my vocabulary. I am resigning as President of Erskine; I am not retiring.

I do not know what I am going to be doing next. I do not know what the Lord has for me. I do know that I love to study; I love to teach; I love to preach. And I know that I have four or five possibilities floating through my mind. I need a little distance from this job, and I need some rest, and then I need to see which way the Lord is pointing me. But I sincerely hope that whatever He has for me, it will be to extend His kingdom and to engage the culture.

But let us all renew our commitment to the Lord and to this task. I am not pointing fingers at anyone. I am pointing fingers at myself if anybody. We need to be concerned about taking advantage of the possibilities that God has given us at this time in the life of the ARP Church.

A verse that has sustained me during these last seven years and reminds me of the way that our Lord and His followers have always found the friction point is from Philippians 3:10-11, "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His suffering, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

May God bless you to this end.

A motion carried to print Mr. Carson's remarks in the *Minutes*.

Synod adjourned at 9:30 PM with the prayer and Benediction by Benjamin W. Dowling.

Thursday, June 9, 2005

7:00 AM

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

At 8:30 AM, R. Eddie Spencer led the opening worship service.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** was presented. The following recommendations were adopted:

1. That the Memorial from Catawba Presbytery not be adopted and that the memorial be recommended for referral to Synod's Committee on the Minister & His Work for further study and report back to the 2006 Synod.
2. That the Memorial from Florida Presbytery not be adopted.

Memorial

Catawba Presbytery

[Not Adopted, Referred to Synod's Committee on Minister and

His Work]

Catawba Presbytery does hereby memorialize the General Synod to amend the *Form of Government* Chapter 10; Section E.; Paragraph 11, to read: "The call shall clearly state the amount of salary and other allowances, and shall include information as to manse, vacation, moving expense, and where the minister's customary employment is expected to be for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year, shall include provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan (for churches in the United States) or to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan, approved by the Presbytery (for churches located outside the United States), according to the guidelines approved by the General Synod, **shall include provision for the General Synod's Life, Health, and Dental Insurance Plan for the minister and his family** and provide for an annual review of the terms of the call. Without such a statement the call shall not be approved. The call shall meet all requirements of the Presbytery before approval. A call shall be presented to a pastor-elect by the Presbytery in which the congregation issuing the call is located."

[Note: the change to the *Form of Government* is shown in bold print.]

Adopted by Catawba Presbytery, June 7, 2005

Guy H. Smith, Stated Clerk/Administrator

Memorial

Florida Presbytery

[Not Adopted]

Florida Presbytery Memorializes the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to change the *Form of Government* concerning the quorum for congregational meetings.

Original:

Form of Government

III. G. 2. d. One-fourth of the active membership entitled to vote, as determined by the session, shall constitute a quorum. No business shall be considered without a quorum. If a church has more than one thousand members on the active roll, the quorum shall be one-tenth of such members, but not less than two hundred and fifty.

Comparison as submitted by Lake Wales Church:

Form of Government

III. G. 2. d. One-fourth of the active membership entitled to vote, as determined by the session, shall constitute a quorum. No business shall be considered without a quorum. If a church has more than four hundred members on the active roll, the quorum shall be one hundred members plus one-tenth of the members exceeding the initial four hundred.

Proposed:

Form of Government

III. G. 2. d. One-fourth of the active membership entitled to vote, as determined by the session, shall constitute a quorum. No business shall be considered without a quorum. If a church has more than four hundred members on the active roll, the quorum shall be one hundred members plus one-tenth of the members exceeding the initial four hundred.

The Memorial originated with the Session of the Lake Wales Church and was approved by Florida Presbytery on April 26, 2005.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2006. Mark E. Ross nominated Ruling Elder Tom Patterson. James A. Hunt seconded the nomination. A motion carried that the nominations be closed and Mr. Patterson be elected by acclamation. Mr. Patterson was escorted to the podium by Vice-Moderator Bell and addressed the Synod.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations met on Monday, February 14, 2005, at 9:30 AM at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Chairman G. J. Gerard called the meeting to order. Rob Roy McGregor gave a devotional message and then led in prayer. The Reverend Earl Linderman closed the meeting in prayer.

Committee members present were Joann Johnston (WSU Representative), Andrew Putnam (Catawba Presbytery Representative), Bill Harris (Virginia Presbytery Representative), Bob Johnson (Florida Presbytery Representative), Rob Roy McGregor (Second Presbytery Representative), David Griffin (Mississippi Valley Presbytery Representative), Fred Hartin (Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery Representative), Earl Linderman (First Presbytery Representative), and G. J. Gerard (Northeast & Canadian Presbyteries Representative). The representative of Pacific Presbytery was absent. Also present were Frank Hunt (Moderator) and Wilfred Bellamy (Synod Coordinator). Bill Evans (Moderator-Elect) was excused.

After remarks by the Chairman, the nomination process proceeded, working for the most part on a consensus basis to arrive at the slate of nominees for election by the General Synod. The one exception was the nominee for Covenant Discipleship, who was chosen by vote of the Committee.

Notes:

1. Concerning the boards of the ARP Foundation and Stewardship - Correspondence will be made with Ed Hogan, noting that nominations are being held in abeyance pending the need for any; and, asking for class

assignments, once these are determined by the new Board.

2. Permission will be requested from those who were recommended but not nominated to have their present recommendation forms included in next year's nominating process. This request would come in the letter in which these individuals are informed that they were not nominated.

3. Concerning the Committee on Lay Ministry - Correspondence will be made with the chairman, noting that nominations are being held in abeyance pending the need for any.

Other information:

Next year's annual meeting will be on February 13, 2006, at the ARP Center at 9:30 AM.

The Committee presents the following nominees for service on Boards, Committees, the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, and as officers or representatives of the General Synod. The terms of service will begin July 1, 2005, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

Benefits

2009 — W. T. (Tom) Clary (Union) (Replacing Tom Brown)

2011 — Edgar H. Long (Young Memorial), Gerry J. Kunz (Greenville)

Bonclarken

2011 — L. Calvin Draffin, Floy W. Jumper (Peachtree Corners), Renae E. Casterline (Centennial)

Covenant Discipleship

2011 — Greg Hamer

Erskine

2011 — R. Boyce Wilson, Clyde T. McCants, D. Scott Mitchell (Bethel, AL), Robert S. Galloway, III, (Non-ARP), Rudolph Gordon (Non-ARP)

Outreach North America

2009 — Jody Patrick (Greenwood) (Replacing Harold Morris)

2011 — Jan P. Sattlem

Publications

2007 — Anthony Cowley (Replacing Larry Keiffer)

2011 — Charles Y. Todd, John Rogers

Stewardship—Transitional Membership

(The Board of Stewardship has asked that the new membership as proposed in the recommended Policy Book be achieved through attrition. Presbytery affiliation is noted)

2006 — Timothy A. Erskine (S), R. S. Joe Ellis (S)

2007 — Monte Campbell (FL), Tim Miller (F)

2008 — Gordon Fuqua (F), Tony Berry (C)

2009 — Mike Foster (F)

2010 — Ben Johnston (S)

2011 — One member to be appointed next year

Ex-Officio Membership: Presbytery Chairmen of Finance/Steward-

ship; Treasurer of the General Synod; Treasurer of A.R.P. Women's Ministries

Advisory Membership: Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Coordinator, Administrative Officer

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

2010 — William M. Harris, Jr. (V*), _____ (P*)

2011 — Jane Williams (Oconee), James Sherrill (C*)

World Witness

2009 — Morrie Lawing (Replacing J. Michael Lineberger)

2011 — Robert P. Hunter (Christ Community), Jane Jennings (Non-ARP), Judy Buis (WSU)

Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs

2009 — James M. Bell, Sr, Tommy Samuels (Thomson)

Inter-Church Relations

2010 — Stephen Crotts

Investment Committee (New Committee effective July 1, 2005)

2006 — Will McMaster (Columbia First), W. J. "Joe" Summerville (Gastonia First), Cliff Dyhouse (Atonement)

2007 — Scott Bush (Statesville First)

2008 — Terry Wallace (Pinecrest)

2009 — Mike Cruce (Young Memorial)

2010 — Stewart Hurst (Lake Wales First)

Ex-Officio Member: Treasurer of General Synod .

Advisory Members: Representatives from each denominational agency or board with funds invested with the Investment Committee, plus the Moderator and Moderator-Elect, Chief Administrative Officer, and the Coordinator.

Lay Ministry

2009 — T. J. Brown (DaySpring), Mrs. Dot Tribble (Columbia First), Cliff Dyhouse (Atonement)

Theological and Social Concerns

2006 — _____, Erskine Seminary Representative

2009 — Joe McElwee (Young Memorial), Mike Garvey

Worship

2009 — Patrick Robinson (Rock Hill First), Philip M. Cheney (Young Memorial), David Vance

The following Presbytery appointees/representatives are reported as information:

Covenant Discipleship

2006 — John Tucker (M)

2007 — Robert Whittet (N)

2008 — Charles T. Lewis (FL), Timothy Dibble (V), Gerald R. Hallman

(F)

2009 — Charles Kocisek (T), J. Barry Dagenhart (C), Anthony R. Locke (S)

Unknown: _____(P)

Executive Board of Synod

2006 — Walter Heinsohn (C), Ray C. Cameron, Jr. (FL), _____(Minister-P)

2007 — C. Earl Linderman (F), William B. Patrick, Jr. (S)

2008 — Calvin Todd (T), David Hayslett (V)

2009 — Carl Geisik, (M), David Hawes (N)

Outreach North America, The Board of Church Extension

2006 — Roy Hulling (T)

2007 — Bryan Jurkowski (FL)

2008 — Fred Carr (N)

2009 — Robert E. Patrick, III (C), Tim Phillips (M)

Unknown: _____(P), _____(F), _____(V), William E. Slatery (S)

Board of Stewardship

2006 — Robert Hunter (F), Martha Dees (M), Tom Shoger (S), David Walkup (FL)

2007 — L. Paul Burns (V), Martin L. Taylor (C), Daniel Hazen (T)

2008 — Paul Matthews (N)

Unknown: _____(P)

Committee on Minister and His Work

2006 — Robert C. Gordon (V)

2007 — Conrad E. Cheatham (M), William R. Roberts (C), Steven Cavallo (FL), Terry P. Wallace (F)

2008 — John D. Cook (S), Charles Edgar (T), Herschel Carlson (N)

Unknown: _____(P), John Shearouse (A)

Committee on Nominations

2006 — Rob Roy McGregor (S), Robert B. Johnson (FL), Fred Hartin (T), G. J. Gerard (N)

2007 — William Harris (V)

2008 — David Griffin (M)

2009 — Andrew K. Putnam (C), C. Earl Linderman (F), Nancy Corbitt (WSU)

Unknown: _____(P)

Officers for the Committee Officers elected for July1, 2005—June 30, 2006: G. J. Gerard, Chairman; Rob Roy McGregor, Vice-Chairman; David Griffin, Secretary.

The Nominations packets for 2006 will be mailed in September 2005. The deadline for submission of nominees will be January 1, 2006. The Committee will meet February 13, 2006, 9:30 A.M., at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

Recommendations

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in

- the positions indicated.
2. That each person or group desiring to submit a nomination review carefully the “Guidelines For The Committee on Nominations” found in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, to be sure the nominee meets the standards established by Synod.
 3. That each Session, Pastor, Board and Committee make a greater effort to identify qualified persons who are willing to serve on the various Boards and Committees of Synod, and to submit the names of these individuals to the Committee on Nominations.
 4. That each Presbytery be reminded to consider appointing an alternate representative to Synod’s Committee on Nominations in the event that the chairman of a presbytery Committee on Nominations is not able to attend Synod’s Committee meeting.
 5. That Presbyteries consider making Recommendations for Service during their Fall meetings.
 6. That Sessions consider making Recommendations for Service during their November and December meetings.
 7. That those making Recommendations for Service to the Committee (by mail or on-line) remember the need to use the proper form, and to provide helpful information concerning the qualifications for each person recommended.
 8. That the General Synod authorize \$5,000 for Committee expenses in 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
G. J. Gerard, Chairman

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for a Coffee Break.

The General Synod reconvened at 10:30 A.M. with a men’s chorus presentation.

The Report of the **Special Committee on Organization** was presented by Chairman C. R. Beard. The recommendations were contained in the body of the report, and were handled by the Synod as follows:

Recommendations section #1, **Jurisdiction**. The recommendations were approved.

Recommendation 6,A,2,c is editorially changed so that following the words, “...*submitted to the General Synod for...*” add “...*approval and...*” and following the word “...*his...*” add “...*or her...*”

Recommendations section #2, **Principles for Organization of Boards**. The recommendations were approved.

Recommendations section #3, **Financial Matters**. The recommendations were approved.

Recommendations section #4, **Central Services**. The recom-

mendations were approved.

Recommendations section #5, **Committees and Commission:** Recommendation #4 was editorially changed to read: ***“A notice shall be published in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian inviting the general membership to make recommendations. Recommendations must be made on the form provided by the Committee on Nominations, and must include the satisfactory evidence of his or her belief and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a Manual of Authorities and Duties.”***

Recommendation 6,b, (1), was editorially amended:

Following “*...General Synod...*”, add the words, “*...or the Executive Board...*”

Following “*...and...*” add the word, “*...or*”. The recommendation was approved including the editorial amendments.

Recommendations section #6, **Boards.** The recommendations concerning the Board of Publications, (1), were not adopted.

Recommendation section #7, **The Ministry of Women.** The recommendation was approved.

Recommendations section #8, **Other.** The recommendations pertaining to Ministry in Multi-Ethnic Communities were adopted.

Other Recommendations, 1-4, were adopted.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

Fathers and Brethren:

Synod’s Special Committee on Organization (“Committee”) begins its report with a brief description of the past year’s activity.

Following the meeting of the General Synod, the various agencies of the Synod (boards, commission, committees) considered

- Recommendations of the Committee (*2004 Minutes of Synod*, p. 400)
- Recommendations for Consideration (*2004 Minutes of Synod*, p.p. 392-399)

Representatives of the Committee met with all agencies that requested further input. The Committee recognizes with appreciation the hard work and prayer with which the agencies studied the recommendations. Agency responses were sent to the Committee prior to January 2005.

The full Committee met in Mid-January for a first look at the responses. Following that meeting, the Committee divided into two and three member teams to consider both the original recommendations for consideration and the agency responses. At this juncture, the agencies were invited to meet with either the teams or the Committee in case of further need to

communicate concerns.

The teams reported to the Committee in February. The results of their deliberations were fully discussed.

A task force met at Bonclarken for a two-day intense session to consider the materials amassed during the entire process, and prepared a first draft of recommendations to be made to the General Synod of 2005. This draft was considered by the Committee at its March 31 meeting. As a result of that meeting you have before you the report of your Special Committee on Organization for 2005.

The conclusions and recommendations in this report come to you as a result of hours of deliberation and prayer both by the Committee and the agencies of the Synod. Even in cases where our conclusions and recommendations do not completely reflect the responses of the agencies to the recommendations for consideration adopted in 2004, we are convinced that the process has led us to recommend that which is best for the denomination's ministries.

We realize that such changes as we envision are more often than not accomplished by a continuing process of study and review and often will work themselves out in practice.

We have no desire to continue as some sort of permanent committee of the General Synod, nor are we desirous of having any more assignments given to us. However, we must report to you that we have not had time or opportunity to address every aspect of our assignments. It is our hope that the Committee will be extended for one more year to complete all the responsibilities given to it by the General Synod.

We would be amiss if we did not relate to the General Synod the spirit of sincere desire to consider the recommendations on the part of every agency. We were graciously received in every instance when Committee representatives met with the agencies, and are delighted with positive responses to Synod's recommendations from every agency.

Your Committee reaffirms its conviction that the work of organizational study and reformation will continue to be a work in progress and not a one-time accomplishment. It is by continuing that we constantly refine the ministries of the agencies of the General Synod in order that they may be most effective in their efforts for the Kingdom of God.

The report will address areas for consideration. Comments and conclusions related to the area of consideration will be followed by recommendations for action by the court.

I. PRIMARY JURISDICTION

The matter of primary jurisdiction surfaced in most considerations of the Committee. We have noted and experienced significant diversity in the application of the *Form of Government* in the operations of agencies appointed by the General Synod. We feel that the same diversity may be

applicable to other courts.

Additionally, your Committee has observed a lack of clarity in the relationship between agencies created by one court using resources and/or operating in the purview of another court.

Your Committee calls attention to *Form of Government*, Chapter X.H.1. A court or agency (board, commission, committee) desiring the services of an Associate Reformed Presbyterian minister is expected to prepare a call and present the call to the minister's presbytery for approval.

The Committee has seen the need for changes in governing documents to provide clearer lines of accountability between an appointing court and its agencies and to give guidance for accountability.

Recommendations Pertaining to Jurisdiction

That the following changes in the *Form of Government*, addressing matters of jurisdiction, be approved and overtured:

1. Chapter X, Section H.1, amend to read:
 1. The procedure for calls to ministers other than those involving pastoral relationship shall be essentially the same as for calls to the pastorate. The court or agency issuing the call shall present to the Presbytery of which he is a member, which shall retain primary jurisdiction, a call appropriate to the service involved.
2. Chapter XI, Section B.1, amend to read:
 1. The session shall have as its primary responsibility the initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable the congregation to carry on the mission of God in Christ's Church by word and deed in the community and also in the Presbytery, the General Synod and the whole world. In order to institute and supervise the general work of the congregation, the Session has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees (See Chapter XIV).
3. Chapter XII, Section B.1, amend to read:
 1. The Presbytery shall have as its primary responsibility 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 in the Presbytery and also in the local congregations, the General Synod and the whole world.
In order to institute and supervise the general work of the Presbytery, the Presbytery has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees (See Chapter XIV).
4. Chapter XIII, add introductory sentence following heading CONCERNING THE GENERAL SYNOD:
 In order to institute and supervise the general work of the Church, the General Synod has the power to appoint boards, commissions, and committees (See Chapter XIV).

5. Chapter XIII, Section B.2.b, amend to read:
 - b. To institute, **create operating rules for**, and supervise the agencies necessary in the general work of the Church.
6. Chapter XIV, Section A, amend to read:

A. BOARDS

1. Purpose.

A board is a body appointed and empowered by a court of the Church to take management of certain specified duties in advancing the mission of the church.

The specified duties shall be set forth and published in a manual of authorities and duties or other document of the appointing court.

2. Authority and responsibility.

- a. A board shall perform ~~special work~~ **the specified duties** entrusted to it without particular instructions from the appointing court but shall follow the general instructions of the court.

- b. A board ~~shall be~~ **is** empowered to study, initiate, **and** administer programs and funds **within its specific area of responsibility**, and hold title to properties within its specific area of responsibility.

- c. **A board is empowered to create and staff an administrative entity for the purpose of carrying out its specified duties. A position description of an administrative officer of a board of the General Synod shall be submitted to the General Synod for inclusion in a manual of authorities and duties. The administrative officer shall report to the board on the basis of his position description. [See Proceedings]**

- d. A board shall make an annual report to the appointing court, giving full statement of all business transacted, **and** actions taken during the year, **and newly initiated and/or planned programs. The report shall address the specified duties as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties or other document of the appointing court.**

- e. Any action of a board may be approved, amended, or set aside by the appointing court.

- f. A board shall keep full and accurate records of its proceedings in a permanent form which shall be available for review and inspection as required by the appointing court.

3. Composition and organization.

- a. Members of a board shall be appointed and their terms of membership shall be fixed by the appointing court.

- b. A board shall elect its own officers and, subject to the ap-

proval of the appointing court, shall adopt a constitution, **policy book**, and/or by-laws. **Changes to governing documents shall be reported to the appointing court.**

c. A board may incorporate; however, the provision of its charter and by-laws must always be in accordance with the *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.

4. Any newly-elected member of any board ~~or committee~~ or any newly-appointed administrative or teaching employee shall have given satisfactory evidence of his ~~or her~~ belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity **as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties.**
7. Chapter XIV, Section C, add "4."
4. **Any newly-elected member of any Committee shall have given satisfactory evidence of his or her belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties.**

II - PRINCIPLES FOR ORGANIZATION OF BOARDS

The 2004 report of the Special Committee presented "Principles for Organization of Boards." Comments were made on two areas of the Principles:

1. Presbytery Representation. A proliferation of presbyteries with regard to automatic representation could become an issue, not only in terms of cost but also in the demands on smaller presbyteries to provide personnel (especially with the tendency to rely more on teaching elders.) A related concern was that the frequent changes of presbytery chairmen make it difficult for continuity of direction. The Committee concludes that these matters can best be addressed at board level.
2. Role of Chairman. The General Synod does not have any guidelines for the conduct of chairmen. It is observed that the manner in which the board operates often changes from year to year, depending on the practices of the chairman. There is also no consistency in powers granted to the chairman and to executive committees.

Recommendations Pertaining to Principles for Organization of Boards

1. That the "Principles for Organization of Boards" as affirmed in the 2004 Report of the Special Committee on Organization be included in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.
2. That the boards of the General Synod study their composition and frequency of meetings as reflected in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* and present to the General Synod any recommendations for change in governing documents to be reflected in the *Manual of Au-*

thorities and Duties, addressing in particular

- a. Presbytery representation at all meetings.
 - b. Privilege of voice and vote for presbytery representatives attending the meetings.
3. That a section be added to the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* describing the responsibilities of the board chairman and role of the Executive Committee of a board. That the Board Chairmen, Coordinator of General Synod, and Chairman of the Special Committee on Organization constitute a task force to develop this section, reporting its recommendations to the 2006 General Synod.

(Note: The General Synod has approved a *Manual of Authorities and Duties* to reflect the particular authorities and duties of the agencies of the General Synod. It is intended to reflect the existing directives of the General Synod and is to be consistent with the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. The *Manual of Authorities and Duties* is updated on an annual basis.)

III -FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. New ARP Foundation/Board of Stewardship. General Synod 2004 granted permission to the Board of Stewardship and the ARP Foundation to unite their mission and ministry. It was reported to the Special Committee on Organization that this was accomplished in a joint meeting, September 23, 2004.

The following differences between the “Recommendations for Consideration” in the Special Committee Report and the new board are noted:

- a. The Special Committee Report included the possibility of the addition of the Dunlap Ministry. The new board does not include the Dunlap Ministry. The Dunlap Board reported to the Special Committee on Organization the following: “That the Board of Dunlap maintain its present structure as a board under the General Synod.” The Dunlap Board noted the importance of representation from each presbytery.
- b. The Special Committee Report called for the spin-off of an Investment Committee and the spin-off of a Finance Committee. A task force for the new board has reported concurrence with a spin-off of an Investment Committee, but desires to retain a Finance Committee responsible for the development of the annual allocation of Synod’s Denominational Ministry Fund.

The 2004 General Synod authorized the implementation of any provision of the Special Committee Report on Organization that was acceptable to a particular board or committee. Accordingly, the Investment Committee of the General Synod will be formed as a Standing Committee of the General Synod

effective July 1, 2005. The Treasurer of Synod was asked to submit recommendations for membership to the Committee on Nominations.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc. will continue to exist in its legal status to hold in trust those funds committed for long-term investment. The members of the Board of Stewardship will serve as directors of the Foundation. The Board of Stewardship will present revised by-laws for the Foundation and a policy book for the Board of Stewardship.

The Stewardship task force did not address the following duties:

- a. Serve as audit committee for the General Synod. It is logical that the Finance Committee of the Board of Stewardship should serve as the audit committee.
- b. Responsibility for the ARP Center or other administrative facilities. This duty should remain with the Committee on Administration of the Executive Board.
- c. The administration of special offerings. The accounting function should remain with the Financial Services department of Central Services. The administration of the Disaster Relief Policy can most effectively be left to the Committee on Administration of the Executive Board.

2. Board of Benefits. The Board of Benefits reported that it had added the Chairman of General Synod's Committee on Minister and His Work as an ex-officio member. The other presbytery chairmen will remain as advisory members. Additionally, the Board of Benefits voiced support for a separate Investment Committee and is likely to utilize the services of the Investment Committee.

Recommendations Pertaining to Financial Services

1. That the Investment Committee develop a Policy Book for its work to be presented to the 2006 General Synod.
2. That the Finance Committee, Board of Stewardship, serve as the Audit Committee for the General Synod. In this role the Audit Committee will receive audit reports for all entities audited. The Audit Committee will select the audit firm to recommend for use by all agencies.
3. That the General Synod concur with the other decisions reflected in this area.

IV - CENTRAL SERVICES

Central Services was presented to the 2004 General Synod as a concept to be "endorsed as a desired objective" - to be brought into being "to serve

the administrative and support services of all boards and their agencies” and directed that each board “prayerfully consider the recommendation on Central Services at its Fall meeting and submit comments, questions and recommendations to the Special Committee.”

Support services has been part of the General Synod structure since 1965, with the establishment of the Office of Inter-Board Services, located in Atlanta, GA. In 1972, the Office of Inter-Board Services, Office of Christian Education, and Office of Church Extension were relocated to Greenville, SC. The Office of Inter-Board Services became Administrative Services and assumed responsibility for the administrative support of both Christian Education (Covenant Discipleship) and Church Extension (Outreach North America). In time, the offices for Foreign Missions (World Witness), Publications, and Treasurer of Synod became part of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center. In time, these departments (excluding the Treasurer’s office) developed their own support staff and continued, in varying degrees, to use Administrative Services for administrative support. The transition to separate support staff has resulted in duplication of administrative activities and equipment.

All boards except the Board of Trustees of Erskine submitted responses. Additionally, the Woman’s Synodical Union submitted a response. The responses gave evidence of diligent and prayerful consideration by both board members and administration. Your Special Committee on Organization acknowledges with grateful appreciation these responses.

The wording in the 2004 report of the Committee may have indicated to Erskine that their input was not necessary. It is noted that Central Services (Administrative Services) currently provides support services for Erskine in the areas of insurance and, to a lesser degree, information from the General Synod database. The opportunity for sharing resources in other areas has become evident and should be considered.

Conclusions and Recommendations

General Synod 2004, in addressing the report of the Special Committee on Organization affirmed an underlying assumption (of the Special Committee) “that while the different parts of the organization, or individuals and groups within the organization have significance in and of themselves, and can be addressed separately, *they belong to a connectional denomination.*”

Your Committee continues in its conviction that there is wisdom, for both efficiency and stewardship, in consolidating appropriate administrative and support services, freeing the boards and their agencies to concentrate on the assigned areas of ministry. We recognize that change will occur

incrementally.

In the area of Financial Services, Bonclarken and World Witness presented their rationale for maintaining separate accounting systems. Additionally, Bonclarken noted concerns pertaining to centralized purchasing. In the judgment of your Committee, the task force implementing Central Services should be cognizant of the rationale and concerns expressed by Bonclarken and World Witness, but without prejudice to developments that could occur in future years.

Following the positive responses from boards of the General Synod, the Special Committee on Organization appointed a task force to prepare implementation steps for Central Services. The task force has been asked to present its finding to the Executive Board of Synod in October 2005.

Therefore, we make the following recommendations:

1. That the General Synod express to current and future board members and administrators, its expectation that efforts are to continue and/or be implemented to explore and seek avenues to:
 - a. Share administrative and financial activities, equipment, and personnel.
 - b. Use the expertise of other boards/committees in the areas of investments, financial services (including development and investments), human resources/benefits, and publications/promotion.
2. That the task force to prepare implementation steps for Central Services be encouraged to complete its work and report to the October 2005 meeting of the Executive Board of Synod.

V – COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION

1. Committee on Historical Concerns. As authorized by the 2004 General Synod, the committee was dissolved and duties assigned to the Historian and to the Executive Board. The *Manual of Authorities and Duties* was changed to reflect this action. The Executive Board is to include necessary items in its budget, i.e., Honorariums, support of Historical Society, miscellaneous expenses for historian. The funds allocated for the Committee on Historical Concerns for 2005 and expense categories have been added to the Executive Board budget.
2. Committee on Inter-Church Relations. The Committee on Inter-Church Relations has reported that they will recommend the addition of the Principal Clerk as an advisory member.
3. Committee on Lay Ministry. The Committee on Lay Ministry reports it is conducting a self-review.
4. Committee on Nominations. Although the 2004 Report indicated “No Change,” the Special Committee offers the following change to item

#1.d of the “Guidelines for Committee on Nominations” as printed in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*:

d. provided with a form to be used in submitting recommendations, to include:

- (1) **Complete mailing address and telephone numbers(s)**
- (2) **Church membership and offices held**
- (3) **Position or vacancy for which recommendation is submitted**
- (4) **Background information and qualifications**

A notice shall be published in *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* inviting the general membership to make recommendations. Recommendations must include the preceding information. Self-nominations must be accompanied by at least one other recommendation. [See Proceedings]

5. Committee on Worship. The Committee on Worship reports that it has completed its study and will be submitting recommendations to the 2005 General Synod.
6. Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs. The 2004 Report indicated “No Change.” On further consideration and review, a change in the *Form of Government* and changes in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* are appropriate to reflect the practices of the General Synod.
 - a. Change in *Form of Government*. The “Purpose” of an Ecclesiastical Commission is very broad. However, the present “Authority and responsibilities” address “judicial cases” and ecclesiastical functions related to congregations. The following change provides authority for an Ecclesiastical Commission to act in other circumstances, to wit: Chapter XIV.B.2, change “b” to “c” and add “b”:
 - b. An ecclesiastical commission may be formed to interpret, construe, and apply the constitution and laws of the church to all matters involving constitutionality referred to it by the appointing court.**
- b. Changes in *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.
 - (1) Change the “Authority” in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* to read as follows:

Authority: The Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs is empowered to examine, consider, and conclude **certain business designated business referred by the General Synod and to examine, consider, and make recommendations on matters referred by the General Synod**. Further it is appointed by

the General Synod to take testimony in judicial cases and, with the consent of the parties, to render a judgment.” [See **Proceedings**]

- (2) Amend Duty #2 to read as follows:

“2. To interpret, construe, and apply the constitution and laws of the church to all matters involving constitutionality referred to it by the General Synod **and to report such judgment to the General Synod at its next meeting.** ~~and to determine whether such conform to or conflict with the constitution and laws of the Church and to make recommendations to Synod pertaining thereto.~~”

- (3) Amend Duty #5 to read as follows:

“5. **Upon referral by the General Synod or the Executive Board of Synod**, to review proposed changes in charters, constitutions, by-laws, and policy manuals in light of the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and report its findings to the appropriate agency, and if appropriate to the General Synod.”

7. Translations Committee: The Executive Board of Synod will present recommendations for the implementation of the Translations Committee.

Recommendations Pertaining to Committees and Commission

1. That the proposed change in “Guidelines for Committee on Nominations” be approved. [**Amended**]
2. That the proposed changes in the Form of Government pertaining to the Ecclesiastical Commission, Chapter XIV.B.2. be approved.
3. That the proposed changes in the Manual of Authorities and Duties pertaining to General Synod’s Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs be approved.

VI – BOARDS

1. Board of Publications. The Committee alerted the 2004 General Synod that there may be matters that might require a determination by the General Synod. There has been open dialogue between the Committee and representatives of the Board of Publications, but no consensus on future structure. Concerns expressed by the Board of Publications led to the following modifications to the recommendations presented last year.

The Committee believes that a five-member Editorial Advisory Committee should be appointed to assist the Editor and/or Publications & Promotions Director in editorial matters. Members of the

Editorial Advisory Committee would be a mixture of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Elders (Teaching or Ruling) and persons with experience and expertise in publishing.

Recommendations Pertaining to Board of Publications
[Not Adopted]

1. That the Board of Publications be dissolved.
 2. That an Editorial Advisory Committee be appointed by the Executive Board of Synod to assist the Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* and/or Publications & Promotions Director in editorial matters.
 3. That the Editor of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* and/or Publications & Promotions Director be employed by the Executive Board of Synod with the advice of the Editorial Advisory Committee.
 4. That implementation of the proposed changes be considered by the special task force referenced in Central Services.
2. Board of Covenant Discipleship. The Board has reported that all matters presented in the Report have been or are in the process of being addressed. The Board has an active transition team.
 3. Board of Outreach North America.
 - a. The ONA Board heartily affirms the **Guiding Principles** and **Goals** of the Special Committee, and is “wholeheartedly committed to the four recommendations for consideration about **Central Services**.”
 - b. ONA also embraces the **Assumptions** behind the goals but offered the following observation concerning Assumption #4c (dealing with “top-down leadership and/or administration.”) ONA notes that it works with 10 presbyteries, each with different ideas about church planting. To fulfill its duties, the Board seeks to develop standards to bring unity but is often perceived to have usurped the primacy of presbyteries. The Board has asked the question “How can we avoid the perception?”
Response: We believe that concerns arising out of the connectational nature of the church are adequately addressed structurally by the preponderance of presbytery representation on the Board and by the ongoing accountability of the Board to the General Synod. ONA should be encouraged to continue to demonstrate initiative and leadership as it seeks to meet the specific needs of the individual presbyteries and local churches by creating a culture of presbytery driven, grass-root church planting.
 - c. All “Recommendations for Consideration” are being addressed by the Board. Under new administrative leadership, ONA has

adopted 3-5 year goals addressing these areas.

4. Board of World Witness. Although continuing contact with the Board of World Witness is scheduled, there are items to report.
 - a. The Board of World Witness has expressed its desire to strengthen its relationship with the presbyteries, and we hope to continue conversations with the Board to discover further steps to help achieve the goal. The Committee has been requested by the Board to develop suggestions for presbyteries that might assist in the achieving of this goal.
 - b. The Board of World Witness strongly endorses the view that missionaries are to be encouraged to maintain a vital relationship with their sending congregations and their presbytery.
 - c. The Board of World Witness has stated that it has no desire to function as if it were an independent operation from the General Synod and is continuing to seek ways to help overcome this perception.
 - d. The Board of World Witness notes that it presently cooperates with the Board of Benefits with regard to retirement, and is open to exploring further possibilities in the management of the World Witness benefit program.
 - e. The Board of World Witness holds the view that its functions are of such a unique nature that they require its current structure and activities in the administrative area.
 - f. There are several other areas in which the Board has offered suggestions for improvement as it seeks to carry out its mission.
5. Board of Bonclarken. With regard to the Board of Bonclarken:
 - a. Based on the report of the chairman of the Board of Bonclarken, it seems evident that the clear distinction between the Bonclarken Homeowner's Association and the operations of Bonclarken recommended in General Synod's "Recommendations for Consideration" in 2004 has been accomplished in all aspects.
 - b. The Board of Bonclarken has now divided the responsibilities of the Director of Bonclarken into two areas loosely corresponding to the recommendations for consideration, namely management of Bonclarken facilities and management of Bonclarken services.
 - c. The Board of Bonclarken has considered the matter of Central Services and while there are aspects not considered applicable to Bonclarken's ministry, the Board has agreed to use as a resource services provided by Central Services as needed.
 - d. The Board of Bonclarken noted that boards should be given

the option and not mandated to invest their funds through the Investment Committee. They note that if the Investment Committee establishes a solid track record, the funds will come to it for investment.

VII – THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

The Ministry of Women. Pending restructuring of the Woman's Synodical Union was reported in 2004. The WSU approved restructuring in July 2004, creating "ARP Women's Ministries." The Committee was asked to assist ARP Women's Ministries in defining them in relation to the General Synod and to have it approved by the General Synod.

Chapter XIII of the *Form of Government*, Concerning the General Synod, presently sets forth Its Purpose (Section A), Its Authority and Responsibilities (Section B), and Its Composition and Organization (Section C). The addition of a Section D, "The Ministry of Women" would seem to be the best place to define ARP Women's Ministries' relationship to the General Synod.

Recommendation Pertaining to The Ministry of Women

That the *Form of Government*, Chapter XIII, be amended by adding Section D:

D. THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages and equips the community of Associate Reformed Presbyterian women to minister together for God's glory and purpose, functioning under the ecclesiastical leadership of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

ARP Women's Ministries accomplishes its purposes through its Board and presbytery and local church organizations.

ARP Women's Ministries shall report to the General Synod on an annual basis.

VIII – OTHER

1. Proposed revision of denominational ministry funding. This should be addressed by the new Board of Stewardship.
2. Missions/chapel nomenclature, adherence to the Standards, and changes in the Standards. These will be items for further consideration if the Committee continues in existence for another year. The Committee has called for a meeting of the Presbytery Clerks to consider matters in this area.
3. Multi-ethnic Ministry. Bullet # 7 of the Special Committee recommendations to ONA spoke of the need to "consider outreach to and involvement in multi-ethnic communities, and provide training

accordingly.” Such ministries are currently taking place, primarily, under the aegis of both ONA and World Witness and these agencies are commended for their joint efforts in ministry. A review by each board of its role in ministry in multi-ethnic communities within the United States and Canada should be reviewed without the constraints of prior directives or guidance of the General Synod.

Recommendation Pertaining to Ministry in Multi-Ethnic Communities

1. That the Boards of Outreach North America and World Witness review its role in ministry in multi-ethnic communities in the United States and Canada.
2. That following the review by each Board, the Boards form a joint task force to prepare a recommendation to the 2006 General Synod. In forming their recommendations, the task force is encouraged to consult with other entities of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church that are involved in ministry in multi-ethnic communities.
3. That prior constraints or perceived constraints imposed by the General Synod be suspended for purposes of study and recommendations.

IX – OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report of the Special Committee on Organization be printed in the *Minutes of Synod*.
2. That the Special Committee on Organization be continued for one more year.
3. That the approved revisions to the *Form of Government* be overtured with instruction to vote Section by Section (Note: The addition of the introductory sentence on Chapter XIII will be considered a Section.) (Note: A Summary of Proposed Changes to the *Form of Government* is attached for reference.)
4. That we acknowledge with prayerful thanksgiving, the working of the Holy Spirit through the members and staff of Synod’s agencies.

Respectfully,

C. Ronald Beard

Chairman, Special Committee on Organization

PROPOSED CHANGES TO *FORM OF GOVERNMENT*

SUMMARY

(As Amended by General Synod)

CHAPTER X

Section H.1., amend to read:

1. The procedure for calls to ministers other than those involving

pastoral relationship shall be essentially the same as for calls to the pastorate. The court or agency issuing the call shall present to the Presbytery of which he is a member, **which shall retain primary jurisdiction**, a call appropriate to the service involved.

CHAPTER XI

Section B.1., amend to read:

1. The session shall have as its primary responsibility the initiation, planning, organization and administration of programs designed to enable the congregation to carry on the mission of God in Christ's Church by word and deed in the community and also in the Presbytery, the General Synod and the whole world. **In order to institute and supervise the general work of the congregation, the Session has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees (See Chapter XIV).**

CHAPTER XII

Section B.1., amend to read:

1. The Presbytery shall have as its primary responsibility 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 in the Presbytery and also in the local congregations, the General Synod and the whole world. **In order to institute and supervise the general work of the Presbytery, the Presbytery has the power to appoint boards, commissions, or committees (See Chapter XIV).**

CHAPTER XIII

Add introductory sentence following the heading CONCERNING THE GENERAL SYNOD:

In order to institute and supervise the general work of the Church, the General Synod the power to appoint boards, commissions, and committees (See Chapter XIV).

Section 2.b., amend to read:

b. To institute, **create operating rules**, and supervise the agencies necessary in the general work of the Church.

Section D, add:

D. THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

ARP Women's Ministries is an organization which encourages and equips the community of Associate Reformed Presbyterian women to minister together for God's glory and purpose, functioning under the ecclesiastical leadership of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

ARP Women's Ministries accomplishes its purposes through its

Board and presbytery and local church organizations.

ARP Women's Ministries shall report to the General Synod on an annual basis.

CHAPTER XIV

Section A, amend to read:

A. BOARDS

1. Purpose.

A board is a body appointed and empowered by a court of the Church to take management of certain specified duties in advancing the mission of the church.

The specified duties shall be set forth and published in a manual of authorities and duties or other document of the appointing court.

2. Authority and responsibility.

a. A board shall perform ~~special work~~ **the specified duties** entrusted to it without particular instructions from the appointing court but shall follow the general instructions of the court.

b. A board ~~shall be~~ **is** empowered to study, initiate, **and** administer programs and funds **within its specific area of responsibility**, and hold title to properties within its specific area of responsibility.

c. A board is empowered to create and staff an administrative entity for the purpose of carrying out its specified duties. A position description of an administrative officer of a board of the General Synod shall be submitted to the General Synod for approval and inclusion in a manual of authorities and duties. The administrative officer shall report to the board on the basis of his or her position description.

d. A board shall make an annual report to the appointing court, giving full statement of all business transacted, ~~and~~ **actions taken during the year, and newly initiated and/or planned programs. The report shall address the specified duties as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties or other document of the appointing court.**

e. Any action of a board may be approved, amended, or set aside by the appointing court.

f. A board shall keep full and accurate records of its proceedings in a permanent form which shall be available for review and inspection as required by the appointing court.

3. Composition and organization.

a. Members of a board shall be appointed and their terms of membership shall be fixed by the appointing court.

b. A board shall elect its own officers and, subject to the approval of

the appointing court, shall adopt a constitution, **policy book**, and/or by-laws. **Changes to governing documents shall be reported to the appointing court.**

c. A board may incorporate; however, the provision of its charter and by-laws must always be in accordance with the *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.

4. Any newly-elected member of any board ~~or committee~~ or any newly-appointed administrative or teaching employee shall have given satisfactory evidence of his ~~or her~~ belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity **as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties.**

Section B, ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION, change “b” to “c” and insert “b”:

b. An ecclesiastical commission may be formed to interpret, construe, and apply the constitution and laws of the church to all matters involving constitutionality referred to it by the appointing court.

Section C, COMMITTEES add “4.”

4. Any newly-elected member of any Committee shall have given satisfactory evidence of his or her belief in and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity as adopted by the General Synod and as set forth in a manual of authorities and duties.

The morning session closed with prayer and the blessing by Gregory M. Hamer.

**Thursday, June 9, 2005
2:00 PM**

Douglas W. Peterson led the opening worship service.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2006. Moderator-Elect Tom Patterson nominated John E. Hill. Mr. Hill was elected by acclamation and spoke to the Synod.

The Report of the **Committee on Theological and Social Concerns** was reopened. Recommendations #2 and #3 were adopted.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Synod’s Committee on Theological and Social Concerns met on May

13, 2005, by telephone conference, in order to consider the references assigned to it by action of the General Synod. In addition to these items, other matters of business were assigned to the committee during the course of the year.

Non-communicant Roll of a Church

Reference: The Memorial from Northeast Presbytery relating to the status of non-Baptized children, which was referred back to this committee by the General Synod of 2004 [see Minutes, 2003, 67, 73-75; Minutes, 2004, p. 421]. The memorial asked if the infant children of communicant members could be included on the non-communicant role as soon as they are born or only after baptism.

The process of keeping non-communicant and communicant rolls is directly related to the two sacraments of the Church (thus the word communicant). The committee re-affirms that the *Form of Government* and the *Confession of Faith* are unambiguous in that only baptized children of communicant members should be entered onto the non-communicant roll of the church: (F.O.G. V.E.4: “The non-communicant roll shall consist only of the names of those who are baptized children of communicant members of the congregation but who have not yet made public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ.”) This is an appropriate process in that it emphasizes the importance of baptism as a means of grace.

We recognize however that even non-baptized children of communicant members are within the visible church, and as such are to be baptized: (WCF XXVIII.1: “Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible church; but also, to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life: which sacrament is, by Christ’s own appointment, to be continued in His church until the end of the world.” IV: “Not only those that do actually profess faith in and obedience unto Christ, but also the infants of one or both believing parents are to be baptized.” WLC Q.165: “What is Baptism?” A.165: “Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord’s.” WLC Q.166: “Unto whom is Baptism to be administered?” A.166: “Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, and so strangers from the covenant of promise, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him, but infants descending from

parents, either both, or but one of them, professing faith in Christ, and obedience to him, are in that respect within the covenant, and to be baptized.” **BOW VIII. 2:** “The Baptism of Children - The Baptism sets forth the grace of God in Jesus Christ and affirms that all who are children of believers are heirs of this covenant of grace, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself. In Sacrament of Baptism they are acknowledged to be members of the household and family of God. It is therefore appropriate that at an early age the children of believers are baptized. ...At the time of baptism the child shall be recorded as a baptized “non-communicant” member of the Church, and shall be numbered among those for whom the session has responsibility.”)

Though some believing parents who are communicant members may not yet have come to the Biblical conviction to have their children baptized, yet such children are still a part of the covenant community, and as such the session still has pastoral responsibility for these children. One of the responsibilities of the session is “to encourage parents who are communicant members to present their children for the sacrament of baptism.” (F.O.G. XI.B.2.c.). To help the session fulfill their responsibility to these non-baptized children of communicant members, it may be helpful to enter the names of these children into the records of the session until such time as they are baptized.

Recommendation Number One

The committee recommends that the Memorial from Northeast Presbytery not be adopted. [**Recommitted**]

The Role of Women in the Church

Reference: The Memorial from Second Presbytery concerning the Role of Women in the Church. No recommendation was brought to the Synod in 2004, with a request to allow the Committee to report on this in 2005 [see Minutes, 2003, pp. 67, 73, 179-198].

Recommendation Number Two

The committee recommends that the Memorial from Second Presbytery concerning the Role of Women in the Church be adopted.

Women in the Military

The Inter-Church Relations Committee referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns the following motion from NAPARC concerning the role of Women in the Military/ Combat. “NAPARC has developed a coalition committee to see if a joint statement could be made on this issue. This NAPARC motion follows:

“That those NAPARC churches who have not studied and adopted positions relative to Women in the Military, be encouraged to do so and to consider the work of the four NAPARC churches who have

already adopted positions opposing women in military combat.”

The issue was discussed, noting that of NAPARC denominations, only the OPC, PCA, and RCUS have written position papers on the issue. At this time the committee felt that no action was necessary.

Pronouncements on Morality

From the Minutes, 2003, pp.71-72, as referenced in the Minutes, 2004, pp.475-476, as referred now to the Theological & Social Concerns Committee instead of the Board of Christian Education as in 2003:

Memorial Number Three From First Presbytery

[Adopted by General Synod, 2003]

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted on June 9, 2003 G. H. Hallman, Stated Clerk
First Presbytery

Recommendation Number Three

We would recommend the adoption of the following response to the above memorial.

“In response to this memorial, we would encourage all members of our church to give consideration to the place of the law in the context of the new covenant of Jesus Christ as expressed in our Confessions. The Larger Catechism is particularly useful in that regard:

Q95: Of what use is the moral law to all men?

A95: The moral law is of use to all men, to inform them of the holy nature and will of God, and of their duty, binding them to walk accordingly; to convince them of their disability to keep it, and of the sinful pollution of their nature, hearts, and lives; to humble them in the sense of their sin and misery, and thereby help them to a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and of the perfection of his obedience.

Q96: What particular use is there of the moral law to unregenerate men?

A96: The moral law is of use to unregenerate men, to awaken their consciences to flee from wrath to come, and to drive them to Christ; or, upon their continuance in the estate and way of sin, to leave them inexcusable, and under the curse thereof.

Q97: What special use is there of the moral law to the regenerate?

A97: Although they that are regenerate, and believe in Christ, be delivered from the moral law as a covenant of works, so as thereby they are neither justified nor condemned; yet, besides the general uses thereof common to them with all men, it is of special use, to show them how much they are bound to Christ for his fulfilling it, and enduring the curse thereof in their stead, and for their good; and thereby to provoke them to more thankfulness, and to express the same in their greater care to conform themselves thereunto as the rule of their obedience.

The use of the moral law as it relates to the unregenerate is not so much to tell them how to live, but to show them their need of Christ. As such, the most appropriate response of the church to sin in our society is to evangelize the lost through the preached word, from the pulpit as well as in the world as believers reach out with the Gospel of Christ to unbelieving friends and acquaintances. Until such a time as these people become regenerate, we cannot expect that they will abide by the moral law.

The use of the law for believers is clear as well. It is a teacher to show us how to live holy lives before God and in the context of His Church (the process of sanctification). To the degree that the church effectively preaches the whole counsel of God to its members, believers will grow in holiness, and their lives will truly be as “salt and light” in our society, effecting positive change wherever we interact with unbelievers. It is crucial that the church itself be holy lest we offer a hypocritical witness to the world (cf. I Cor. 5:12-13).”

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

Rev. Kenneth J. McMullen, Chairman

Rev. Steven P. Cavallaro, Secretary

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The Committee on Worship continued deliberating over the scope of the work of this committee on the behalf of Synod. A task force that was created in 2003 to refine the focus of our work. This Task Force completed its work and made recommendations to the committee to adopt a revised purpose statement, and list of duties to accomplish its mission. These purposes were presented as information in 2004 to the General Synod and this year we recommend that these revised purposes and duties (APPENDIX B) be accepted, reflected in the Manual of Authorities and Duties and put into action.

Synod's Committee on Worship has spent much time discussing the role of the Music Conference in relation to our proposed duties. While we feel sponsoring the Bonclarken Music Conference for the benefit of our churches is very important, we wish to focus our attention on broader matters of worship. Therefore, we have formed a sub-committee that will report to the Committee on Worship and will be accountable to them for matters concerning the leadership of the conference and the content as it pertains to the worship of Christ's church. The Sub-Committee has reported the continued success of the Music Conference, the quality of clinicians and teachers, as well as the impact the conference is having on the local church.

Based on these stated proposals, we feel that the Nominations Committee should be aware of the proposed make-up of the committee. We recommend that this committee be equally made up of clergy/ministers, musicians, and lay-people. This is reflected in APPENDIX C as well as a revised proposal for the description of this committees work. We have also communicated with the Bonclarken Board and feel that either group needs to have a liasson member on either committee. We do recommend that a Bonclarken employee be an advisory member to the Music Conference Sub-Committee. We recommend that General Synod accept this revision of the membership for the Committee on Worship and that it be reflected in the Nominations Committee's Handbook that is sent out each fall.

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

The committee sponsored a lecture on worship as part of the 2004 Family Bible Conference

The committee participated in the planning and implementation of the 2004 Pre-Synod Conference on Worship

The committee published an article on the use of CCLI in our churches

and the general concerns of 'intellectual material'

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

The committee is in the process of preparing itself to carry on the work of the Moderator's Special Committee on worship upon its completed recommendation. The committee will be prepared to assist in the implementation of the new document, as well as educating elders, laypeople, and ministers on its direction for public worship.

The committee has expressed a desire to engage in a study of ways to encourage Christian service as an appropriate response to worship. This desire is expressed in the proposed Purpose, 7, and in the Duties, 1.b. and will be the main thrust of the committee for the next year.

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

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

The Committee on Worship makes the following recommendations:

1. That the 2006 budget for the Committee on Worship (APPENDIX A) be approved.
2. That the revised purposes and duties of the Committee on Worship (APPENDIX B) be accepted, reflected in the Manual of Authorities and Duties and put into action.
3. That General Synod accept the revision of the membership for the Committee on Worship (APPENDIX C) and that it be reflected in the Nominations Committee's Handbook that is sent out each fall.

Gabriel Statom, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

Proposed Budget for 2006

EXPENSES	2005 Budget	2006 Proposed
WORSHIP COMMITTEE		
Worship and Service Studies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Committee Travel/ Room & Board	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Telephone/Postage	\$ 275	\$ 275
Committee Meeting Expenses	\$ 200	\$ 200
Lord's Day Alliance	\$ 350	\$ 350
Worship Projects	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
TOTAL (Worship Committee)	\$ 5,325	\$ 5,325

BONCLARKEN MUSIC CONFERENCE

Clinicians 1 @\$2000, 5 @ \$1500	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,500
Accompanists 5 @ 500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Conference Directors 3 @ 500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Organist 1 @ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Recreation Leader 1 @ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Recreation Supplies	\$ 300	\$ 300
Craft Leaders 2 @ 200	\$ 400	\$ 400
Craft Supplies	\$ 600	\$ 600
Night Activities	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Night Activity Director	\$ 200	\$ 200
Worship Leaders 3 @ 300	\$ 900	\$ 900
Childrens Church/Nibble		
Nook Music	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Child Care	\$ 900	\$ 900
Staff Travel	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Staff Food/Lodging		
Counselor Honor. 30 @ 100	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Music for Conference	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Conference Recording	\$ 500	\$ 500
Printing/Mailing	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200
Telephone	\$ 500	\$ 500
Conference Fee (Bonclarken)	\$ 24,000	\$ 25,000
Nurses 2 @ 200	\$ 400	\$ 400
T-Shirts	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Piano Tuning	\$ 400	\$ 400
Organ Rental/Piano Rental	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Contingency/Equipment Fund	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500

TOTAL (Bonclarken

Music Conference)

\$ 84,450	\$ 86,370
-----------	-----------

GRAND TOTAL EXPEND.

\$ 89,775	\$ 91,695
-----------	-----------

INCOME

Gifts, Conference Registrations	\$ 60,000	\$ 61,000
Synod Supplement	\$ 29,775	\$ 30,695
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	\$ 89,775	\$ 91,695

APPENDIX B

PROPOSED MANDATE, PURPOSES, AND DUTIES**COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP**

Membership: Twelve voting members should include four clergy/theologians, four musicians, and four members-at-large, one of whom shall be nominated from the WSU. Advisory: Moderator of Synod, Moderator-elect, Coordinator of General Synod. Director(s) of Bonclarken Music Conference and a Bonclarken Staff member are advisory to the Music Conference Sub-Committee.

Terms of Service: Four years.
Advisory: as determined by the term of office which elected or appointed.

Stated meetings: Twice annually. The Music Conference Sub-Committee may elect to meet during the Bonclarken Music Conference

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

Mandate: Understanding that God is to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted, and served, with all the heart, soul, and might, General Synod's Committee on Worship is called to focus on worship and worship elements within the ARPC.

Understanding the preceding, the Committee on Worship ***purposes*** to:

1. Educate on issues encompassing Biblical worship and its implications for life and Godliness
2. Uphold the Word and Sacraments as central to corporate worship
3. To keep before the congregations and church courts the requirements of the Book of Worship
4. Encourage the highest standards of Christian worship
5. Promote personal and corporate prayer
6. Encourage family worship and personal devotions
7. Encourage Christian service as an appropriate response to worship
8. Promote the effective use of music within corporate worship
9. Provide resources that enhance worship

Duties:

1. a. Study trends, issues, and materials available on the topic(s) of worship (music, prayer, devotionals, structure, form, etc.) and discuss as appropriate to provide guidance, ideas, and dialogue with

- and between congregations, throughout the denomination. [All purposes]
- b. Explore and study ways in which congregations throughout the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church are demonstrating the love of Christ through service ministries in local communities (not associated with international evangelism/outreach). Study models and examples of service provided by various Christian congregations / denominations, and consider opportunities of partnership as a method of demonstrating ecumenical cooperation in the local community. [P 1,7,9]
2.
 - a. Provide guidance on Book of Worship topics and issues as appropriate. [P 2,3,4]
 - b. Educate clergy and congregations on various methods of worship planning / organization / structure and style, not only within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, but also in other reformed / evangelical denominations. [P 3,4]
 - c. Educate clergy and congregations on the elements, needs, vitality, purpose, and benefits of personal and corporate prayer and worship, especially targeted at increasing active prayer life (individual and corporate). [P 5,9]
 - d. Provide opportunities for music instruction to church pianists, organists, choirs, and directors, including, but not limited to, leadership and guidance to the Music Conference (including financial oversight, conference leadership, music direction, etc.). [P 4,8,9][This guidance and instruction can be accomplished through publication or distribution of articles and papers via the webpage, magazine, or a newsletter and through workshops at all levels of the denomination.]
 3. The Chairman of the Committee on Worship shall appoint a Music Conference Sub-Committee. This sub-committee is accountable to Synod's Committee on Worship for financial oversight, conference leadership, musical direction, and other issues pertaining to the worship of the church.
 4. Prepare, keep current, and make available information on Biblical and practical resources for clergy, congregations, and individuals, to include ...
 - a. Books, articles, and papers on matters of worship. [All]
 - b. Speakers and the topics they cover. [All]
 - c. Devotional guides and helps for family and personal worship. [P 5,6]
 - d. New and familiar music suitable for variety of events and occasions. [P8]
 - e. Approved hymnals for congregational use. [P8] [These can be kept

on file and made available on request and also through an occasional newsletter (perhaps via e-mail) to church worship committees.]

5. Prepare an annual report, including an annual operating budget, for submission to the General Synod.

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

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

Two years ago the 199th Meeting of the General Synod, by its adoption of a memorial from First Presbytery (*Minutes of the General Synod – 2003*, pp. 69f.), directed that the moderator “appoint a special committee of Synod with the following responsibilities:

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

The members who have been appointed to the committee are as follows: Max Bolin (VA), Ray Cameron (FL), Charles Carlisle (S), Herschel Carlson (NE), Charles Edgar (TA), Bill Everett (MV), R. J. Gore (S), Randy Imler (C), Doug Petersen (F), Mark Ross (C), David Sides (F), Gabe Statom (FL), and Jack Whytock (A). The committee has received much help from the *ex officio* members who have served on the committee: Moderators Wayne Frazier and Frank Hunt, Moderator-elect Dr. William Evans, and Dr. Wilf Bellamy, Coordinator of the General Synod. Dr. Gore was absent from the committee for one year due to his service in Iraq, though he remained active through e-mail exchanges. The committee is very pleased to have him safely back at home, and able to participate more fully.

In its report to the General Synod last year the committee outlined the work that had been accomplished on the three responsibilities given to it (*Minutes of the General Synod – 2004*, pp. 428-430). In that report we indicated that, in the committee’s judgment, the best way to fulfill our responsibilities is to revise our Book of Worship. We requested permission from the Synod to extend our work a year in order to complete that draft, and Synod approved our request.

We have continued our work over the past year. In addition to working on the draft for the new Book of Worship in several meetings, we had the opportunity to meet for several days with Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old (certainly a, and probably *the*, leading authority on Reformed worship and

its history) to discuss our work, and to learn more about the nature and history of Reformed worship. Dr. Old has given generously of his time to assist us, for which the committee is most grateful.

We very much hoped and expected that one year would be enough to complete our work, but that has not been possible. We believe that in order to complete a draft which is adequate for the needs of our Synod in the present time and for the foreseeable future, more time will be needed to produce a work that can serve us well.

Our report last year also outlined a procedure for circulating our proposed revision to the Book of Worship throughout our churches and for returning comments and responses to the Special Committee. By a subsequent motion (*Minutes of the General Synod—2004*, p. 538.), it was approved that each presbytery be requested to appoint a standing or an *ad hoc* committee to receive such comments and responses from the members of the churches of the presbytery, and that the presbytery committee then prepare a report on any recommendations for changes to the revised Book of Worship, before it is submitted to the General Synod for approval. The plan we had outlined, we now believe, will not allow adequate time for the presbytery committees to evaluate the comments they receive, to formulate a thoroughly considered report to presbytery, and then for presbytery to approve a report to the Special Committee. In our report next year, if General Synod is pleased to continue this committee, we will recommend a more generous time period for the presbytery committees to complete their work. The committees that have now been appointed will thus not need to meet during the next year.

We are asking the indulgence and patience of the General Synod, and request permission to continue our work another year. We pray and we trust that a further year's work will not only enable us to finish a revision to the Book of Worship, but will also enable us to present a much better draft than could have been accomplished within one year. If eventually the General Synod and the members of our presbyteries approve the new Book of Worship, it will be intended to serve our denomination for decades to come. Only a document thoroughly considered and carefully produced can serve us as a constitutional standard. It demands our best effort, and we believe that more time is needed to fulfill our responsibilities.

Recommendations

The committee therefore makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Special Committee on Worship be continued for another year.
2. That the Special Committee on Worship present its proposed revision to the Book of Worship to the 2006 meeting of the General Synod as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark E. Ross, Chairman
Ray Cameron, Secretary

The Report of the **Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs** was presented and considered item-by-item.

Recommendation #1 was ruled to have been adopted in the Committee on Organization report.

Recommendation #2 was ruled to have been adopted in the Committee on Organization report.

Recommendation #3 was adopted.

Recommendations #4 was not adopted.

REPORT OF ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION ON JUDICIARY AFFAIRS

The Ecclesiastical Commission for Judiciary Affairs met November 11, 2004 at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC to consider the issue submitted to it at the 199th General Synod which is “the relationship of Presbyteries and congregations with regard to the power of Presbytery and the responsibilities of congregations.” (2003 *Minutes of Synod*, page 161, Recommendation 3). Due to other pressing business, we were not able to complete this task in time for the 200th Meeting of General Synod.

Earlier this year, our Commission sought the input of Presbyteries regarding our task. The responses we received were greatly appreciated and very helpful to our deliberations. This report reflects in part the suggestions made by our Presbyteries.

In reaffirmation of our historic position of church courts, which endorses the

Presbytery as “the essential court of the Presbyterian system” (FOG, chapter XII, A), we divided our considerations and recommendations in the two areas of (1) the relationship of Presbytery to the General Synod and (2) the relationship of the Presbytery to the member congregations.

In the area of a Presbytery’s relationship to General Synod, we recommend the following:

1. That the Boards and Committees of General Synod that have representatives from the presbyteries grant those representatives full voting rights. **[See Proceedings]**
2. That all Boards and Committees of General Synod consider having representatives from the presbyteries. **[See Proceedings]**
3. That Presbyteries consider establishing equivalent Committees to the Boards and Committees of General Synod, and endeavor to have representatives of the Presbytery Committees develop a knowledge of and a commitment to the work of the Boards and Committees of General Synod. In the event that a Presbytery elects not to establish

a committee, that the Presbytery appoint a representative to each Board and Committee of General Synod (where such representation is provided for in the Manual of Procedure).

4. That in the event that a Presbytery declines its opportunity to appoint a representative to a Board or Committee, that the Presbytery concerned consider the possibility of sharing representation with another presbytery. **[Not Adopted]**

In the area of a Presbytery's relationship to its members congregations, we urge Presbyteries to exercise their authority and responsibility of oversight of congregations (Form of Government, XII.B.2). Such oversight should include:

1. Appointing a committee to ascertain whether churches are supporting the Presbytery and General Synod through regular attendance at Presbytery and Synod meetings and financial support to the Presbytery and General Synod.
2. Communicating with those churches failing in attendance upon church court meetings and financial giving to ascertain the reasons for the failure.
3. Counsel such churches in an effort to correct the failure.
4. If a church expresses no interest in proper support of the connectional system, that they be properly and lovingly admonished by the Presbytery.
5. When the attitude and responsibility of the church to abide by the covenant made as an ARP congregation continues in default, that the Presbytery consider a probationary period.
6. If no change becomes evident over a period of time, that the probation be followed by consideration of disassociation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jim Corbitt, D.D., Chairman

Ecclesiastical Commission for Judiciary Affairs

A motion carried that the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs study and report back to the 2006 Synod on the issue of Presbytery's authority according to the *Form of Government* to categorize ministers without a call into Presbytery inactive membership.

The recommendations of the report of the **Moderator's Committee on The Board of Benefits** were presented. The Moderator's Committee recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-11, and offered additional recommendations:

1. That churches which enroll full-time employees in the employee life, accidental death, and long term disability plan also budget and pay for the plan for each enrolled

- employee.
2. That Paul Bell and Ed Hogan be thanked for their help to the Moderator's Committee on Benefits.
 3. That the Board of Benefits be commended for their hard work and conscientious efforts, and the Synod be encouraged to pray for the Board of Benefits and their labors.

Board recommendations 1-11 were adopted and the three additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF BOARD OF BENEFITS

"This love gift is always a special joy and a great blessing to me and my family. It is also a happy reminder that a great host of people all over our Synod have my welfare in their hearts. I do appreciate each of them ." Widow of Retired Minister

"We give thanks always to God for His gracious providence, and we give thanks to God for the love He makes known to us through the goodwill and charity of thousands of Associate Reformed Presbyterians." Retired Minister and Spouse.

The Board of Benefits ("Board") is the conduit for the ministry of the churches in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement. The Board expresses its profound gratitude for the privilege of service and thanks **you** that we can receive on your behalf, the gratitude of those we serve. We covet your continued prayers and earnestly invite and encourage churches and individuals to supplement the Board's efforts in the ministry of caring.

The Board met on two occasions since the last meeting of the General Synod and we share with you our activities and plans.

Audit and Financial Statements

The independent certified public accounting firm of Ron Millard, CPA P.A. audits the financial activities of the Board. The auditor's report for the **Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan** is issued to each member of the Board and is submitted with the official report of the Board to the General Synod. It is also available for review at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. The other financial activities of the Board are included in the General Synod Audit.

Benevolence

Christmas Benevolent Ministry

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

- a. To continue the benefit to widows who had been receiving support from the Widow Benefit Fund. This fund was exhausted during 2000. Three widows continue to receive an average of approximately \$250 per month.
- b. To provide support and love gifts to individuals who
 - Qualify to receive a retirement benefit from the ARP Retirement Plan or are receiving a disability benefit payment under the General Synod's disability program; **and**
 - were actively employed in the denomination immediately prior to retirement or disability; **and**
 - have served a minimum of five years' active service in the denomination; **or**
 - are a surviving Spouse of a qualified participant, or, if receiving a survivor benefit, was the Spouse when the participant died.

Each Fall the Board contacts all eligible participants to see if they wish to apply on the basis of financial need. Those who feel that they qualify on a need basis are asked to submit financial information.

After funding the Widow Benefit Fund distributions, priority is given to the needs of those who demonstrate financial need and whose family assets are less than \$50,000 (\$70,000 if the individual or family does not own a residence). "Need" is defined as the difference between total family income and 200% of the Government Subsistence Level. The income of all family members residing in the household is included in total family income. There is a maximum monthly benefit of \$500.

A total of \$39,361 was available for distribution during the December 2004 - November 2005 period, as compared to \$52,502 approved in the preceding period. \$8,546 was allocated for the Widow Benefit Fund distributions. At the time the 2004 - 2005 distributions were approved

	<u>Last Report</u>	<u>This Report</u>
Eligible Family Units	105	106
Need Based Applications	4	5
Widow Benefit Fund Participants	3	3
Need Based Grants	2	3
Other Grants	90	86

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

encourage those who might have financial need to make application for assistance. A copy of the correspondence sent to eligible participants and a directory of eligible participants are mailed annually to each church.

Helen W. Carson Widow Assistance Fund

The income from the Helen W. Carson Fund is to be used to provide financial support for the widows of ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church who have dependent, unmarried children who are full-time students **and** are between the ages of 16 and 25.

Widows with eligible dependent children will be informed of this policy immediately following the death of a minister. If the funds are not needed for this purpose, a portion equal to the Consumer Price Index is added to the corpus of the fund, with the balance of the unused income allocated for the widows in the Widow Benefit Fund so long as funds are needed for that purpose.

Insurance

The goal of the Board in the area of insurance is to provide meaningful security at a cost that the churches and agencies of Synod can afford without causing undue hardship on the participating employees. It is becoming more difficult each year to control these costs and the Board makes an effort to balance cost and benefits.

Coverage and Eligibility

The group insurance program provides the following coverage opportunities:

<u>Employee Category</u>	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Life</u>	<u>Term Death</u>	<u>Accidental Long Term Disability</u>
ARP Minister Serving					
Under Call	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-Ordained Employees					
of Churches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employees of General					
Synod Agencies*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Employees of Due West					
Retirement Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retired Employees	Yes**	Yes**			
ARP Seminary Students	Yes***	Yes***			

* Employees of World Witness have a separate benefit program. Erskine Employees have a separate Long Term Disability Program.

** Retired employees (and dependents if the employee had dependent coverage at the time of retirement) may continue dental insurance for a maximum of 18 months or to the date they reach the Medicare eligibility age, whichever occurs first. Medical coverage for retired employees may be continued to Medicare eligibility age provided:

- The retiree has been a participant during the five-year period preceding retirement; and
- the retiree is at least age 55 and the years of continuous service and age are equal to or greater than 65; and
- the retiree is not eligible for other coverage as an employee.

If the retiree has dependent coverage at the time of retirement and the employee reaches Medicare eligibility age before a covered dependent, the dependent may continue coverage at the employee rate until the dependent reaches Medicare eligibility age.

If the retiree does not meet the eligibility above, coverage may be continued for a maximum of 18 months.

*** ARP Seminary Students will have a second eligibility period at the time they qualify as an employee.

Non-ordained employees of local churches, employees of General Synod Agencies, and employees of Erskine College must be scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week to be eligible.

Coverage for Erskine employees and all salaried employees begins on the date of employment. Coverage for non-Erskine hourly employees begins on the 91st day of employment.

All eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the life (and dependent life if the employee has dependents), accidental death, and long term disability. Medical and dental insurance coverage is conditional on the employee enrolling within the first 30 days of eligibility.

Employees that fail to enroll for **medical** insurance within the grace period **are not** permitted to enroll at a later date unless the following conditions are met:

- a. The employee
 - had other creditable coverage at the time he or she became eligible for our coverage and waived medical coverage on the basis of having other creditable coverage, **and**
 - loses other coverage for reasons other than failure to pay premiums or for cause, **and**
 - requests enrollment within 31 days of the loss of other coverage;

OR
- b. The employee adds a dependent either by marriage or birth or adoption of a child. If the employee is a participant, dependent coverage may be added. If the employee has not enrolled both the employee and dependents may enroll. Enrollment must be completed within 31 days of the qualifying event.

Eligible Dependents that were not enrolled when first eligible may be enrolled at a later date as outlined above **OR** if the employee has enrolled in the program and

- a. dependent coverage was waived on the basis of coverage under another group plan, **and**

- b. coverage is lost for reasons other than failure to pay premiums or for cause, **and**
- c. there is a request to add dependents within 31 days of the loss of coverage.

Employees that fail to enroll for **dental** insurance within the 30-day grace period may enroll under the conditions outlined for medical coverage. Additionally, there will be an open enrollment period for dental insurance each December for coverage to become effective January 1 the following year. Coverage for employees and/or dependents enrolling during this open enrollment period is limited to the preventive care during the first year of coverage.

IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT EMPLOYING AGENCIES AND PRESBYTERIES BE AWARE OF THE ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS. ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL. THE BOARD NEEDS TO BE NOTIFIED WHEN A NEW, FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE IS HIRED.

Benefit Consultant

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

- a. for competitive bids from re-insurers (for specific claims that exceed a specified limit and for aggregate claims if they exceed 125 % of the expected claims);
- b. for quotes on fully insured plans for comparative purposes; and
- c. for proposals from Third Party Administrators (TPA's) for comparison to the current TPA.

In addition, Gallagher advises the Board

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

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

Medical Program

There is good news – at least temporarily. After four consecutive years in which medical costs exceeded premiums collected (1999 – 2002), premiums have exceeded costs for the past two years. This has allowed medical and dental premiums to remain stable since October 2003 **AND** has allowed the reserve to increase to a more prudent level.

The bad news is that medical costs continue to increase. Medical trend is currently projected at 12.1% with 16% trend for prescriptions. The

increase in our reserves, reflecting good claim experience, has permitted the Plan to absorb some of these increases. At the present time, we do not see the necessity of any increase prior to January 1, 2006.

Medical, which includes the drug prescription program, is partially **self-insured**. A portion of the premium is used to purchase reinsurance, a portion is used to pay administration cost to the Third Party Administrator and the balance is retained to pay the medical, and drug claims. The following represents the medical/dental expense breakdown for the past four calendar years:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Paid Medical Claims	\$ 2,486,821	\$ 2,815,163	\$ 2,768,162	\$ 2,640,707
As % of Premiums				
Collected	110.50%	91.20%	74.34%	71.19%
Reinsurance ¹	\$ 197,987	\$ 245,753	\$ 260,845	\$
135,937	As % of Premiums			
Collected	8.80%	7.96%	7.00%	3.66%
Access Fees to Preferred				
Providers	\$ 16,679	\$ 34,932	\$ 17,218	\$ 36,871
As % of Premiums				
Collected	.74%	1.13%	.46%	.99%
TPA Admini. Fees	\$ 67,637	\$ 64,521	\$ 80,570	\$ 172,304
As % of Premiums				
Collected	3.01%	2.09%	2.16%	4.64%
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
HealthStat	\$ --	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,891
As % of Premiums				
Collected	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	.89%
Admin. Costs ²	\$ 61,125	\$ 34,239	\$ 45,667	\$ 36,495
As % of Premiums				
Collected	2.72%	1.11%	1.23%	.98%
Change in Reserve	\$ <579,756>	\$ <107,865>	\$ 551,380	\$ 654,386
As % of Premiums				
Collected	<25.76%>	<3.49%>	14.81%	17.64%
Total Medical/				
Dental Premiums	\$ 2,250,493	\$ 3,086,743	\$ 3,723,842	\$

3,709,591

¹For individual claims that exceed \$85,000 and aggregate claims that exceed 125% of expected claims)

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

Usage has and will continue to drive the premium cost. As hospitals and physicians charge more, as the cost of drugs increase, and as utilization increases costs will continue to rise. While most of these factors are outside the control of individual participants, there are ways in which

participants can help control costs:

- a. monitor claims to make sure that the charges submitted are justified and accurate
- b. be active participants in determining health care by asking for explanation of recommended tests (make sure the physician is not ordering tests just for his protection)
- c. use the mail order for maintenance drug prescriptions and ask for generics vs brand names.

We report once again some of the Plan changes that have been made to shift some of the costs from the churches to the participants. (Note: At the time of this report, no decisions have been made for Plan Year 2006, but will be reported to the churches).

<u>Effective for Calendar Year</u>	<u>< 2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>
Single Deductible	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$ 750
Family Deductible	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 1,000	\$1,500	\$ 1,500
Out of Pocket Maximum					
After Ded.	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$3,000	\$ 3,000
Family Out of Pocket					
Maximum	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	\$6,000	\$ 6,000
Emergency Room Co-Pay	\$ -0-	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Drug Card – Retail					
Pharmacy (30 day Max)					
Generic	\$ 7.50	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
Preferred	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Non-Preferred	\$ 20	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35
Drug Card – Mail					
Order (90-day)					
Generic	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Brand Name	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$ 40
Primary Care Office					
Visit Co-Pay	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 15
Specialist Office Visit					
Co-Pay	4	-0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 30

A second medical plan was first offered in January 2003. This plan increases the single deductible from \$750 to \$1,250, the family deductible from \$1,500 to \$2,500, and the out of pocket maximums to \$5,000 for single and \$10,000 for family. There is an annual savings in family premiums of @ \$ 640 for the increased risk.

A Health Risk Management Program (HealthStat) was implemented at Erskine College in January 2004, open, initially, to employees at Erskine College/Seminary and employees at the Due West Retirement Center. The primary objective of the service is to detect disease symptoms early before they evolve into significant acute care illnesses. A nurse practitioner is available on Tuesdays (1 – 5 PM) and Thursdays (7:30 – 11:30 AM). These hours may be adjusted from time to time.

A more aggressive effort is being initiated to encourage other partici-

pants in the area to utilize HealthStat. The program is now open to dependents and our benefit consultants are studying the feasibility of offering the program in other areas for health screening, possibly in conjunction with Presbytery meetings. The Plan will pay the initial cost of @ \$20 for the health evaluation for the employee and spouse (there is no screening for dependent children.) The screening will now include PSA screening for males over age 40. There is no cost for subsequent visits to the nurse practitioner for routine office visits. Erskine, on behalf of the Plan, has developed an on-line appointment program. While directly benefiting only a portion of the covered participants, the potential impact on claims will be beneficial to the entire group. Grateful appreciation is expressed to Jeannie Wells, Erskine College Human Resource Director, for her role in the implementation of this program.

Since the last meeting of the General Synod, one significant change was made in the medical plan. Effective August 1, 2004, BlueCross BlueShield became the Preferred Provider Network and BCBS of South Carolina became the Third Party Administrator (TPA) for the medical program. This change allowed all medical participants to be covered by a preferred provider.

The medical insurance is renewed in August each year and it has been the practice of the Board to delay implementation of increases as long as possible. The **projected** costs for the year 2006 will be submitted to the churches as soon as possible after the August 1, 2005, renewal date. If there is a price increase, new employees enrolling after August 1, 2005 will be billed at the revised premium rates.

Additional information on the group insurance program can be accessed through our web-site: www.arsynod.org/benefits.html.

Medical Plan Viability

The experience of a sister denomination compels the Board to once again express its concern for the on-going viability of the medical plan if we are unable to maintain the integrity of the group. During the past few years the average number of participating employees has dropped from 425 for plan year 2000 – 2001, to 403 for plan year 2003 – 2004, to 366 for the 9-month period August 2004 – April 2005. At the time of this report there are 359 participants. The Board has observed the following reasons for the decline in numbers:

- a. Some individual employees have waived medical coverage on the basis of being covered as a dependent on a spousal policy.
- b. Some individuals have been able to get an individual policy that is currently less expensive because of age and/or health condition.
- c. Individual churches and/or agencies have formed separate groups that have secured better current rates based on the present demographics of their groups.

These losses generally represent a loss of younger and healthier participants, thus increasing the cost (and potential for greater cost) for those remaining in the group. In time, the overall cost to the churches and agencies in the General Synod will be greater as separate groups than will be the cost if group integrity can be maintained. Additionally, we could come to the point that cost for the smaller, older, less healthy employees will make it impossible to maintain a group program.

Dental Program

The dental plan is a self-insured plan and Kanawha serves as the Third Party Administrator for claim payment. Dental claims are not included in the aggregate stop-loss insurance coverage. There has been no change in dental coverage or premiums.

Life, Accidental Death and Long Term Disability

These programs are fully insured and effective January 1, 2006 will need to be on a non-contributory basis. This means that all eligible employees will be automatically insured. In the past participation has been limited to those persons enrolling in the Medical Plan. To continue on this basis there would be a dramatic increase in the cost to participating employees. The Board is requesting the cooperation of churches and agencies in completing the enrollments.

The carrier for these ancillary benefits was changed to MetLife effective March 1, 2005. There was a slight decrease in the life and AD&D premiums (from \$.30 per 1,000 to \$.239 per 1,000) and in the Dependent Life (from \$1.06 per month to \$.83 per month). The LTD premium remained the same, but it was necessary to modify the benefit to 60% with family integration as opposed to 70% all sources. The restructured benefit is much closer to other plans.

HIPAA Privacy

As a self-insured Plan, the primary focus for our Plan pertains to the protection of Personal Health Information (PHI). The Plan Document has been amended to reflect privacy issues, all Health Plan participants have been given a Privacy Notice and Plan Document, training has been conducted for "health plan workers" at the ARP Center, and security policies and procedures have been developed. Business Associate Agreements have been implemented outlining acceptable usage of PHI by the TPA and consultants. Individual PHI may be used without the participant's consent for Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations (TPO). The use of PHI for any other purpose must have the written authorization of the participant. Ed Hogan, Director of Administrative Services and Board Secretary, has been appointed Privacy Officer and all questions related to PHI should be addressed to him.

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is a qualified, non-contributory, defined benefit plan. The Plan covers

- a. salaried, ordained ARP ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the Church under the provisions of a Call approved by a Presbytery of the Church,
- b. career missionaries appointed by World Witness, and
- c. salaried employees of the Synod or Synod Agency serving in a supervisory capacity.

Eligibility for ministers serving in the pastorate is tied to a “Call.” The Plan Text defines “Call” as follows:

CALL: As set forth in The Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the process and written document for establishing and maintaining an Employee relationship with a salaried, ordained minister of the Church serving in a pastoral ministry of the Church...”

Included in this report is a listing of ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the church that have not yet enrolled in the Retirement Plan. Except for those ministers in Pacific Presbytery, presbytery minutes reflect that a “call” was presented. Under the provisions of the Plan, **all salaried ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church under the terms of a call approved by their presbytery are covered.** These ministers are Participants in the Plan during the first year of ministry, even if the church fails to make contributions or the minister does not enroll. Eligible employees are required to complete an enrollment form. If an eligible employee fails to enroll within the first year of service, participation is suspended with the following implications:

- a. The employee ceases to accrue credit for Service and Earnings and
- b. in the event of death, the Spouse would not receive the lump-sum death benefit nor would be entitled to the survivor income benefit (a monthly benefit equal to 20% of monthly Earnings (maximum benefit of \$800 per month) payable to age 65, with an additional 10% of monthly Earnings while there is a dependent child or children, with a maximum monthly benefit of \$1,200.)

Some presbyteries have been extending calls that fail to include provision for contributions to the General Synod in support of the Retirement Plan, characterized as “tent-making” or “bi-vocational” calls. The purpose seems to be an effort to eliminate the requirement of Chapter X.E.11 of the Form of Government to include in the call provision for contributions for support of the Retirement Plan. The Committee on Minister and His Work has implied that the desire (need?) for such calls may increase in the future.

The Plan currently limits eligibility to employees whose customary

employment is for more than an aggregate of 1,000 Hours of Service in a calendar year. Employees are credited with 45 hours of service for each week in which they are employed at least one hour. The Plan Attorney has advised that new regulations will not allow employees to be exempted on the basis of Hours of Service, and the Plan will have to be amended to remove the 1,000 hour exception.

If it is the will of the General Synod that ministers may be called as pastors on less than a full-time basis and to exclude such ministers from participation in the Retirement Plan, it will be necessary to create a distinction in the Form of Government that can be reflected in the Retirement Plan Text. The distinction cannot be based on “hours of service.”

The Board will submit a Plan change to clarify the term Employee, removing the exclusion for employees whose customary employment is less than 1,000 hours in a Plan Year.. A change in the Form of Government will be proposed to provide for a distinction in “Calls.” The language of these changes will be presented in the official report to Synod.

Employees of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are not included in the Plan as they have a separate retirement plan. Effective January 1, 2004, employees serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States are no longer eligible to enroll in the Plan. Those previously enrolled who have not been terminated from the Plan will accrue credit for Service for vesting purposes. Calls to ministers serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States must provide for contributions to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan approved by the presbytery extending the Call.

Churches and presbyteries are reminded of the provision in the *Form of Government* (Chapter X, E, 11) that requires a Call to have provision for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan. The *Form of Government* requires the Plan to place a Participant on a Leave of Absence status if the terms of a Call (with respect to contributions for the ARP Retirement Plan) are not being met. If a church or agency fails to make contributions for a period of one (1) year, notice will be given to the Participant, to the Clerk of Session, to the Clerk of Presbytery, and to the Chairman of the Presbytery Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work. The failure to meet the terms of the Call within a period of one year from the date of notice will result in the placing of the Participant in a Leave of Absence status until the terms of the Call have been met. In a Leave of Absence status, the Participant does not accrue credit for Service or Earnings, is not covered for the Death Benefit, and is not covered for the Survivor Income Benefit.

Participants may retire as early as age 60, with the Normal Retirement Age being 65. Participants who are at least age 64 and who have at least 25 years of Credited Service may retire at age 64 without an actuarially

reduced benefit. The Normal Form of Retirement is an annual benefit equal to 3.1% of total career Earnings paid on a monthly basis for the lifetime of the Participant.

If there is a Spouse at the time of retirement, and unless the Spouse has consented in writing to another form of benefit, the benefit paid to the retiring Participant will be actuarially reduced. If the Spouse survives the retired Participant, the Spouse will begin receiving a benefit equal to one-half the benefit received by the retired Participant. With the written consent of the Spouse, the joint and survivor benefit can be changed from the one-half continuation rate to a 2/3, 3/4 or full continuation rate. It is also possible for the Spouse to reject the joint and survivor annuity, with the retired Participant receiving a lifetime annuity. The Board encourages **great caution** in the election of this type of benefit.

All benefits are taxable, but for ordained Participants, 100% of the benefit is designated as a housing allowance and is non-taxable to the extent that it is used for that purpose. Board procedures have been established to require third-party verification of ministerial status at the time of retirement for former Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers. The Form 1099-R to retired ministers lists the benefit payments as "Taxable Amount Not Determined." Retired ministers have been given a copy of the Housing Allowance Resolution and this may need to be filed with their tax return.

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

Retirement Plan Trust

SunTrust Bank, Atlanta, serves as Trustee of the Plan and its affiliate, TRUSCO Capital Management, handles investments. Deutsche Banc Alex.Brown serves as an investment consultant to provide performance measurement and monitoring and to assist the Retirement Committee in developing and maintaining investment guidelines. Compensation for the investment consultant is through directed trades. The Board meets with representatives of SunTrust Bank, TRUSCO Capital Management, and Deutsche Banc Alex.Brown twice each year. The relationship between the investment consultant and the investment manager is increasingly supportive and has been very beneficial to the Retirement Committee and Board.

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

At December 31, 2004, invested net assets available for benefits, on a market basis, totaled \$35,311,269 as compared to \$32,336,798 at December 31, 2003.

Calendar year 2004 resulted in a return on investments of 6.8% as

compared to a benchmark of 4.8%. The Retirement Plan Fund is expected to exceed benchmark returns over a five-year time period or a full market cycle. The benchmarks are: 30% of the S&P 500/Barra Growth, 18% of the S&P 500/Barra Value, 6% of the S&P 600 Small Cap Index, 6% of the MSCI EAFE Index (international stocks), and 40% of the Lehman Brothers Government/Credit Bond Index. These benchmarks became applicable for the first quarter 2000. Benchmarks for the 5-year and 10-year periods are based on 60% S&P 500 and 40% Lehman Brothers.

	<u>1 Yr</u>	<u>3 Yrs*</u>	<u>5 yrs*</u>	<u>10 Yrs*</u>
Total Portfolio	6.08%	5.20%	3.60%	9.90%
Benchmark	4.80%	5.30%	1.37%	9.36%

* Annualized returns

The General Synod funds the Plan, primarily from contributions made by churches and agencies of the General Synod. The General Synod, on recommendation of the Board, establishes contribution guidelines to ensure adequate funds. The current guidelines ask that churches and agencies contribute 8.5% of the Participant's Earnings. Because of regulations governing qualified plans, the Earnings recognized for Retirement Plan purposes are limited to an amount not to exceed the threshold established for Highly Compensated Employees (HCEs). The maximum Earnings for 2004 was \$90,000 but increases to \$95,000 for 2005. This amount is subject to annual adjustment by the IRS. All funds received for this purpose, except for direct expenses for Plan maintenance, are transferred to the Trustee for investment.

Actuarial Valuation

Hunt, DuPree, Rhine & Associates, Inc., a Wachovia Company, is the Plan actuary. The Plan has an actuarial review every three years to determine the minimum contribution level required to maintain the Plan on an actuarially sound basis and to determine if it is possible to provide a change in the benefits. The next actuarial review will be for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2006.

Plan Change

Amendment Number Four has two provisions:

- a. Amend Article VI (4) to conform the Plan to the new mandatory distribution provisions under Section 401(a)(31)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under the new law, plans with involuntary cash-out provisions must provide that involuntary cash-outs of more than \$1,000 (but less than \$5,000) upon a participant's termination of employment are automatically rolled over to an IRA that must be established by the Plan Administrator, unless the participant affirmatively elects otherwise. Our Plan currently has a mandatory cash-out if the present value of future benefits is less than \$5,000. The Plan change will reduce the involuntary cash-out ceiling to

\$1,000, relieving the Plan Administrator from the requirement to establish an IRA for a participant who does not affirmatively make an election to receive payment.

- b. Amend Article I (8) to exclude from participation a minister whose call specifies that the minister's customary employment is expected to be less than 1,000 hours in a calendar year.

Changes in Retirement Plan Participation

The following changes for the period January 1, 2004-December 31, 2004, are reported for historical purposes. Some changes not previously reported are included:

- a. Active Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant retired: James T. Corbitt (6/30/04), Julia M. Doudoukjian (7/1/2004), Guy H. Smith, Jr. (7/31/04).
- b. Terminated Participant retired: Langdon A. Erwin (10/1/04).
- c. Active Participant and/or widow of deceased Participant lost by death: Mrs. W. Harris (Floy) Blair (7/31/04), W. C. Lauderdale (9/7/04).
- d. Inactive Participant lost by death: None
- e. New Participants: Robert E. Adams (8/3/03), David L. Arthur (8/1/04), Dorothy Bigham (1/16/04), Richard A. Brown (8/21/03), Robert E. Brown (8/2/04), Anthony A. Cowley (7/12/04), Dana Crowell (10/1/03), Luke H. Davis (8/1/04), Walter L. DeHart (8/3/04), Randall D. Foster (1/11/04), Jodie H. Gaston (4/4/04), Dennis W. Heiber (6/15/03), Thomas D. James (3/28/04), Todd T. Jones (7/13/03), Man Soon Park (4/7/02), Timothy J. Phillips (4/25/04), William D. Prince (10/12/04), Charles W. Reynolds (11/2/03), Anthony F. Ward (6/22/03), Lennon Craig Wilkes (8/1/04).
- f. Participants with prior credit for Service and Earnings accumulating Credited Service as an employee of Erskine (E), as a Military Chaplain (C), or as a Participant serving in the Pastoral Ministry outside the United States (P): R. K. Barnes (P); R. W. Bell (E); J. L. Carson (E); G. G. Cotton (C); H. N. Gaston (E); L. Hamrick (C); Jr.; J. M. Hendrick (C); M. A. Kelly (C); M. R. Kiefman (C); P. G. Patrick (E); C. S. Rimmer (C); Mark E. Ross (E); D. M. Schwabauer (C); J. R. Shearouse (P); J. T. West (E); R. D. White (E); M. E. Yarmann (C).
- g. Participant reinstated to active participation or had prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings restored as continuous: B. O. Fleming (1/4/04), S. E. Jordan (4/1/04), P. F. vanDalen (6/27/04), S. R. Woods (1/1/04)
- h. Participants not accumulating Credited Service and employment shall be deemed to terminate if the Participant retires, is removed or transferred from Roll of Presbytery, or fails to accumulate an additional Year of Service by the end of the calendar year indicated:

A. E. Basham (2020), J. W. Berry (2014); T. A. Bloemsmma (2007); T. E. Braithwaite*; Ryung Chun (2005); Julia Doudoukjian*; W. H. Folds, Jr. (2005); J. G. Goforth (2007); M. A. Hunnemann (2005); J. M. Lashley (2008); K. J. Locke (2007); K. I. Lotze*; G. W. McBane*; R. A. Mill (2007); Anthony Quinn (2007), J. J. Seeger*; A. C. Williams (2006); P. V. Williams (2011); R. M. Williams (2017); J. W. Winfree (2007).

*Termination for failure to accumulate an additional Year of Service not applicable

- i. Participants who terminated employment during the year or have previously terminated employment and have qualified for a vested benefit: R. P. Agnew; C. S. Alexander; Suzanne B. Allers; Keith S. Andrews; R. E. Ashmore; B. J. Bauman; S. C. Berthiaume; J. R. Blevins; D. M. Boggs; D. E. Brisben; S. H. Cain; T. M. Campbell; M. D. Chesser; W. A. Church; D. L. Clubb; M. D. Connor; L. C. Cutherell; T. N. DeHart; Karen M. DeHaven; R. W. Dickson; P. M. Doriani; R. I. Dornbush; C. W. Echols; J. H. Farrar; P. J. Forwood; G. J. Gerard; T. D. Gorden; R. J. Hamilton; D. B. Harding; L. E. Hudgens (10/29/04); R. F. Ingram; E. S. Irby; K. E. Jacobs; T. L. Jones; W. E. Kirkpatrick (10/19/03); K. F. Koehler; J. B. Lewis; S. D. Manley; D. W. Matthews; R. F. McAndrew; O. N. McCarter; W. G. McClain; B. McLendon; K. J. McMullen; R. S. Miles, Jr.; Bernard G. Miller; K. F. Muldoon; Lynn H. Naaman-Din; T. M. Oates; J. S. Price; S. C. Reynolds; D. R. Robinson; B. F. Sanders; Melanie D. Seeger; W. T. Sherer, III; R. D. Sherrill; E. M. Sink; D. P. Smith; L. C. Stoker; C. A. Stuck; G. J. Syms; J. E. Taylor; A. L. Toth; W. H. Tyson; M. S. Ulmer; Emily J. vanDalen; D. L. Wakeland; R. M. Wallace, Jr.; W. T. Warren, Jr.; R. Washington; R. A. White; J. C. Whytock; J. M. Williams; P. C. Wing; J. R. Wright; R. J. Yelverton.
- j. Participants with prior Credited Service and Credited Earnings which will be recognized as continuous on completing five (5) years of continuous service (Eligible for Reinstatement): G. G. Cotton (2005); P. G. Patrick (2006); C. D. Trimmier (2005).
- k. Former Participants removed from participation in the Plan without qualifying to retain a vested benefit: R. Washington (For Current Service)
- l. Participants receiving a retirement or survivor income benefit under the Plan at year's end: R. W. Ackerman*; J. E. Adams; C. S. Alexander*; Mrs. Bertha I. Allan-Smith*; L. M. Allison; J. S. Banks; J. C. Barker; C. R. Beard; J. F. Beard; R. E. Beckham; J. M. Bell, Sr.; W. F. Blakely*; Mrs. E. L. (Betty) Bland*; R. A. Bodey*; J. H. Boyce; W. J. Boyd*; R. D. Bradham*; Mrs. C. D. (Mary Kate) Brearley-Glasser; Mrs. A. C. (Jeanie) Bridges*; P. A. Campbell*;

R. M. Canfield; Mrs. J. A. (Grace) Cannon***; J. Coad, Jr.; C. L. Concha; J. T. Corbitt; Mrs. P. G. (Imogene) Covone*; Mrs. F. H. (Edith) Crisco*; G. W. Curry**; D. E. Dagenhart; Mrs. L. L. (Betty) Dattler***; B. E. DeWitt**; Milad F. Doss**; Julia M. Doudoukjian, C. F. Edgar; D. W. Elliott; Mrs. R. B. (Suzanne) Elliott*; D. R. Ellis; L. A. Erwin**, W. N. Falls; J. R. Fee; Mrs. A. A. (Frieda) Fischer*; W. P. Fleming; W. H. Forsyth; C. B. Foster; Carl Geisik; Mrs. W. P. (Mary) Grier*; W. D. Hall; W. M. Harris, Jr.; J. F. Heinsohn ; Mrs. J. B. (Mary) Hendrick*; Mrs. R. E. (Judith) Herrmann*; J. E. Hill; Mrs. G. F. (Bertha) Johnson*; D. R. Johnston; E. Benton Johnston; D. O. Jones; Mrs. J. E. (Sarah) Kennedy, II; L. P. Kennerly; Hae Soung Kim; R. A. King; G. C. Knecht****; W. Y. Koh****; R. B. Leaptrott, Jr.**; G. W. Letchworth; C. Earl Linderman; W. A. Macaulay**, H. S. Mace; J. L. MacLeod; Mrs. R. B. (Gladys) Marshburn*; K. D. McArthur; C. T. McCants; C. W. Medlin**; Mrs. R. S. (Harriet) Miles***; C. L. Mitchell; W. F. Mitchell****; K. F. Morris; Mrs. T. G. (Martha) Morris*; B. E. Murdock; Mrs. F. J. (Betty) Musselman***; Mrs. J. A. (Ruth) Nguyen*; Mrs. B. R. (Lenore) Nowak****; Mrs. G. R. (Mabel) Oates*; T. L. Owens**; D. L. Pearson; Mrs. H. E. (Sara) Pressly*; Mrs. J. E. (Jeannie) Pressly*; Sarah H. Pressly; Mrs. W. L. (Elizabeth C.) Pressly*; Mrs. P. E. (Donna) Price*; Troy L. Pritt; H. B. Probes, Jr.; W. O. Ragsdale; C. A. Reed; L. L. Richardson**; Mrs. A. L. (Margie) Roberts*; Robert J. Robinson; David Rodriguez-Enriquez**; Mrs. A. A. (Katherine) Rogers*; O. J. Rundus**; H. T. Schutte Jan Senneker;; R. P. Shaw; R. E. Sherer; Mrs. P. L. (Margaret E.) Sherrill*; H. L. Smith**; G. H. Smith, Jr.; J. C. Smith; W. E. Stanchfield; Mrs. J. P. (Mary) Steele*; J. T. Stephenson**; J. W. Stodghill**; W. B. Sutherland; J. R. Thompson**; J. A. Turner**; J. Roger Wade**; Mrs. W. M. (Mary) Wardlaw*; Mrs. H. C. (Addie Jane) White*; J. R. White**; R. A. Whitesides; Z. C. Williams; T. L. Wilson; J. R. Wolff**; E. R. Young.

*As widow of deceased Participant, the J&S Option having been selected or automatic as to those who died after 9/3/91.

**As Participant who had transferred to another denomination or terminated employment with a vested benefit. Benefit is frozen.

***As widow of Participant who had transferred to another denomination or terminated employment with a vested benefit.

****As Participant who retired and has transferred to another denomination.

- m. The following persons may be eligible for Retirement Plan participation at year's end, but enrollment procedures had not been

completed. Eligible Employees are covered by the Plan during the first year, but if they fail to enroll within the first year, they are not covered until the enrollment is completed. They do not accrue credit for Service and Earnings and are not covered for the Death Benefit nor for the Survivor Income Benefit: **Catawba:** William H. Elder, Jr. **First:** John C. Kim (Bethel Korean, 11/30/04), Song Choi** (Statesville Korean), Ho Youn Hwang** (Wheatseed Korean), J. Donald Jordan** (Christ Church), Hyo Gon Kim** (Hychon Korean), Eung Chu Lee** (Hanwuri Korean), John Spence** (Messiah Church Fellowship), J. C. Unda** (Hendersonville Hispanic). Florida: None. Mississippi Valley: William R. Izard** (Covenant Reformed), David Storment (Faith – 4/28/04). Northeast: Joseph J. Kim** (Kwang-Myung), Peter Lee (Holy Grace – 4/24/04). Pacific: Chong Hun Byun (Korean Bethel), Hoo Y. Cho** (Calvary Korean, Youngest Choo (Glory Church of Jesus Christ), Chang Young Kim** (The Peace Maker), Bon Koo** (Young Saeng), Paul K. Oh (Inland), Joseph I. Paek** (ARPC Korean), Second: Hyon K. “Paul” Shin** (Young Nak). Tennessee-Alabama: None. Virginia: David Vance** (Redeemer). General Synod Agency: None.

**Did Not Enroll Within First Year of Eligibility

- n. Lump-Sum Settlements were made with the following former Participants who had qualified for a vested benefit with a present value of less than \$5,000: None.

Miscellaneous

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

Internal Revenue Code section 1402(e) makes it possible for a minister to be exempted from coverage under the Social Security system. The minister must file an exemption application (Form 4361) certifying that he is “conscientiously opposed to, or because of my religious principles I am opposed to, the acceptance (for services I performed as a minister...) of any public insurance that makes payments in the event of death, disability, old age, or retirement, or that makes payments toward the cost of, or provides services for, medical care.” The exemption filing deadline is the due date of the federal tax return for the second year in which a minister has net earnings as a minister of \$400 or more.

A minister planning to file for exemption must inform “the ordaining... body of the church...that he is opposed” prior to the time the exemption application is filed. The apparent purpose for this required notification is to offer the ordaining body (presbytery) and the denomination an opportunity to appropriately counsel applicants regarding the impact of such a decision.

The General Synod has previously taken the position that there is

nothing in the Standards of the Church that would support the “religious principles test.” Accordingly, denominational benefit programs are structured to anticipate the benefits provided by the Social Security system. If a minister opts out of Social Security and does not replace these benefits he could create extreme hardship for his family.

Budget for 2006

The Board’s Operating Budget for 2006 is attached to this report and reflects the allocation recommended by the Board of Stewardship. The Board does not carry forward unused funds that have been allocated from the Denominational Ministry Fund.

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

Officers for 2005 - 2006

Chairman: Guy H. Smith

Vice-Chairman: C. Earl Linderman

Secretary: Ed Hogan

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

Meeting Dates

November 3-4, 2005, 1:00 PM (Orientation), Bonclarken

April 20-21, 2006, 2:00 PM, Bonclarken

November 2-3, 2006, 1:00 (Orientation), Bonclarken

Looking Ahead

The 2004 General Synod approved adding the chairman of each presbytery Committee or Commission on Minister and His Work as an advisory member. The Committee on Minister and His Work had recommended that they be added as ex-officio members. At its Fall meeting, on recommendation of the Committee on Minister and His Work, the chairman of General Synod’s Committee on Minister and His Work was added as an ex-officio member, with other presbytery chairmen added as advisors. The Board is enriched with the input and dialogue with these new members.

The Board continues to communicate with the Special Committee on Organization in planning for and structuring support for the work of the Board.

Recognition and Appreciation

The Board has expressed its appreciation to retiring members Paul Bell of the Due West Church and Jared Faellaci of the Redeemer, SC Church for their six years of faithful service. We express appreciation, also, to former member Tom Brown who resigned.

Recommendations

1. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering be continued and that it be taken in the Thanksgiving Season.
2. That, through the adoption of this recommendation, pastors (or clerk where there is no pastor) be encouraged to be attentive to the special needs of retired employees and widows of former employees and seek to assist the Board of Benefits in its ministry to these faithful servants.
3. That churches which have not yet done so, consider adding provisions to the call of its minister(s) and professional employees which were suggested in the Report of the Committee on Minister and His Work in 1995 (See Page 16, 1995 Minutes of Synod.)
4. That effective January 1, 2006 all eligible full-time employees be automatically enrolled in the employee life (and dependent life if the employee has dependents), employee accidental death, and employee long term disability insurance programs.
5. That the General Synod endorse Amendment Number Four to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Adopted September 1, 1961 As Amended and Restated Effective June 9, 2004.
6. That the amendment to *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11 be approved.
7. That presbyteries be requested to insure that all calls to ministers serving in the pastoral ministry include the provision for contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan.
8. That, if it has not been done, presbyteries be requested to give consideration to including in their manual of procedure guidelines for addressing the issue of Social Security exemption with students during the ordination process.
9. That the proposed budget for 2006 be approved.
10. That the membership of the Board of Benefits be changed to add the chairman of General Synod's Committee on Minister and His Work as an ex-officio member.
11. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted
Board of Benefits

	Proposed Budget	
	2005	2006
	Revised	Proposed
RECEIPTS	Budget	Budget

Unrestricted for Operations

General Synod Allocation	\$	6,795	\$	6,795
Undesignated Receipts		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

Unrestricted Sub-Total	\$	<u>6,740</u>	\$	<u>6,795</u>
------------------------	----	--------------	----	--------------

Designated Estimates for Benevolence

Christmas Benevolent Fund

Special Offering	\$	41,000	\$	43,593
Christmas Ben. Fund Interest		900		276
Lake Wales Christmas Ben. Fund		1,030		878
J. C. Lott Trust		<u>5,894</u>		<u>4,215</u>
Benevolent Sub-Total	\$	<u>48,824</u>	\$	<u>48,962</u>

Group Insurance Resources

Group Insurance Premiums	\$	4,236,671	\$	3,835,229
Group Insurance Misc. (Net)		<u>7,792</u>		<u>5,095</u>
Group Insurance Sub-Total	\$	<u>4,244,463</u>	\$	<u>3,840,324</u>
Retirement Plan Resources				
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Ret.	\$	1,698	\$	1,447
ARP Retirement Plan		<u>880,394</u>		<u>919,798</u>
Retirement Plan Sub-Total	\$	<u>882,092</u>	\$	<u>921,245</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	<u>5,182,174</u>	\$	<u>4,817,326</u>
----------------	----	------------------	----	------------------

DISBURSEMENTS

Board and General

Board Travel & Meeting	\$	2,795	\$	3,024
Office and Miscellaneous		<u>4,000</u>		<u>3,771</u>
Board and General Sub-Total	\$	<u>6,795</u>	\$	<u>6,795</u>

Benevolence

Benevolence Sub-Total	\$	<u>48,824</u>	\$	<u>48,962</u>
-----------------------	----	---------------	----	---------------

Group Insurance

Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve	\$	4,210,031	\$	3,795,013
Group Insurance Adm. Support		<u>34,432</u>		<u>45,311</u>
Group Insurance Sub-Total	\$	<u>4,244,463</u>	\$	<u>3,840,324</u>

ARP Retirement Plan

Audit	\$	1,500	\$	1,500
Actuarial Fees		1,000		8,000
Administrative Support		34,432		45,311
Miscellaneous Expenses		1,000		1,000
Transfer to Trustee		<u>844,160</u>		<u>865,434</u>
ARP Retirement Plan Sub-Total	\$	<u>882,092</u>	\$	<u>921,245</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	<u>5,182,174</u>	\$	<u>4,817,326</u>
---------------------	----	------------------	----	------------------

Disbursements Over (Under)

**AMENDMENT NUMBER FOUR
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
RETIREMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (“Church”) established an Agreement providing for and creating the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan;

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

- (4) **TERMINATION BENEFITS:** In the event that a Participant's employment terminates in accordance with Article III (3), the terminated Participant shall be entitled to a retirement benefit deferred to his Normal Retirement Date calculated in accordance with Article V (1) or earlier actual retirement calculated in accordance with Article V (2) based on his Earnings at time of termination, the amount so determined, then multiplied by the Participant's vested percentage pursuant to the following schedule:

The benefits described under this Section are payable in accordance with the provisions of Article IV (Retirement). In lieu of any benefit payable in the form of a monthly annuity commencing at age 65 (age 64 if the eligible Participant has accrued a minimum of 25 years of Credited Service as defined in Article III (2)), the Participant will be paid the actuarial equivalent value of his benefit as a lump-sum amount provided such amount is less than \$5,000 \$1,000 for Plan Years beginning after August 5, 1997 and subject to the date that the Plan first complied or ~~will comply with the provisions in operation~~. The lump-sum amount will be equal to the present value of the accrued ben-

efit (the amount of retirement income at normal or postponed retirement, based on his Earnings and Credited Service at the time of termination) calculated in accordance with Section (1) of Article V and based on the Participant's Vested Percentage as provided for in this Section (4).

- (2) Effective March 28, 2005, Article VIII, Section (9) is amended to read as follows:

- (9) **SMALL PAYMENTS:** In the event that any benefit provided under the Plan has a commuted value at the date such value is determined in an amount less than ~~\$5,000~~ **\$1,000**, the Retirement Committee will direct that a lump sum settlement be paid in lieu of any other benefits under the Plan. Upon reemployment of a Participant who has received such a distribution, any Plan provisions relating to restoration of continuous service for benefit credit purposes shall not be applicable.

However, no lump sum settlement can be paid after benefit payments have commenced unless the Participant and his or her Spouse (or his or her surviving Spouse) consents in writing to the lump sum settlement.

For purposes of determining whether the present value of any benefit provided under this Plan has a value, at the date such value is determined, in an amount less than ~~\$5,000~~ **\$1,000**, the present value of such benefit shall be calculated by using an interest rate no greater than the Applicable Interest Rate.

In no event will the present value of any benefit payable under this section be less than the greater of:

- (a) The present value of such benefit determined under Article I (1); or
- (b) the present value of such benefit using the Applicable Interest Rate.

- (3) Effective June 12, 2005, amend Article I(8) **EMPLOYEE**, to read as follows:

- (8) **EMPLOYEE:** A salaried, ordained minister of the Church serving in a pastoral **or administrative** ministry of the Church under the provisions of a Call approved by a Presbytery of the Church, or a career missionary appointed by World Witness, or a salaried employee of the Synod or Synod Agency serving in a supervisory capacity, but excluding employees of Erskine College or Erskine Theological Seminary. Provided, however,
- (a) ~~the term "Employee" shall include only those Employees whose customary employment is for more than an aggregate of 1,000 hours of service in a calendar year or who become disabled while engaged in such employment, and~~

- (a) ~~(b)~~ for service on or after January 1, 2004, the term “Employee” shall exclude a salaried, ordained minister of the Church serving in a pastoral ministry outside the United States, and
- (b) ~~(c)~~ for service on or after January 1, 2005, the term “Employee” shall exclude a salaried, ordained minister of the Church whose Call has been terminated in accordance with the *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* and the Participant will not accrue additional credit for Service and Earnings, **and**
- (c) **after June 12, 2005, the term “Employee” shall exclude a salaried, ordained minister of the Church whose Call is as an evangelist in accordance with the *Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.**

For periods of service on or after January 1, 2004, hours of service shall be credited on the basis of 45 hours for each week that the Participant qualifies as an Employee.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO FORM OF GOVERNMENT

That the *Form of Government*, Chapter X.E.11 be amended to read as follows (NOTE: For clarification purposes only, changes are indicated by bold type or strikethrough):

“11. The call shall clearly state the amount of salary and other allowances, and shall include information as to manse, vacation, moving expense, medical and hospitalization insurance and, ~~where the minister’s customary employment is expected to be for more than and aggregate of 1,000 hours in a calendar year;~~ **except for calls to new fields or congregations which are unable to support a pastor (i.e., as an evangelist),** shall include provisions for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan (for churches in the United States) or to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan approved by the presbytery (for churches located outside the United States), according to the guidelines approved by the General Synod. **Calls shall** ~~and~~ provide for an annual review of the terms of the call. Without such a statement the call shall not be approved. The call shall meet all requirements of the Presbytery before approval. A call shall be presented to a pastor-elect by the Presbytery in which the congregation issuing the call is located.”

A motion was adopted “That the Moderator appoint a ‘Vision’ Committee to prayerfully reflect upon the comments made by Dr. Carson in his address, the current state of the ARP Church in the present day setting, and to report ideas to the 2006 General Synod on ways that the ARP Church can be more proactive in impacting society with the gospel.” The maker of the motion suggested that the committee be comprised of both “visionaries” and “practicals” so as to best identify issues and proposed responses.

Paul Bell spoke to the Synod on behalf of the Board of Ben-

efits.

The report of the **Moderator's Committee on Bonclarken** was presented.

The Moderator's Committee recommended the adoption of all recommendations and offered two additional recommendations:

1. That Synod encourage ministers and their wives and ruling elders to attend the Bonclarken Ministers' Retreat to be held September 19-22, 2005. Also, local Sessions are encouraged to provide for their pastors to attend this retreat.
2. That the General Synod rise in appreciation to the Bonclarken Board and Staff for the positive way in which they provide for and carry out the ministry of the denomination through Bonclarken's various programs and their assistance to other boards, agencies committees and outside groups..

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

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ:

The Bonclarken Board of Trustees and Bonclarken staff are working very well in our respective roles as we diligently seek to provide and improve Bonclarken's ministry to children, youth and adults, with particular emphasis on youth ministry. The Executive Director and the staff are all working cooperatively and with renewed enthusiasm.

The Bonclarken staff and Board strive to meet the current needs of all guests and to plan responsibly for the future needs of a growing ministry. We work actively to maintain Bonclarken's 64 acres and 35 facilities while looking ahead to needed renovations and additional facilities. We have been entrusted with the care and enhancement of our conference grounds and facilities, and we take this charge seriously.

Bonclarken marked a significant milestone in December 2004 with the retirement of the debt on our Youth Activity Building. This facility has been a blessing to the youth ministry of Bonclarken and has contributed significantly to the large increase in youth participation at Bonclarken in recent years. We are very thankful to God for His provision and faithfulness and to General Synod and the many individuals who assisted in retiring this debt.

There are a number of improvements that can be noted for this past year. We have made internal improvements regarding our accounting and record keeping and initiated changes in staff responsibilities to improve oversight of finances, facilities, maintenance and housekeeping while also focusing on

marketing, guest services and expanded ministry impact. Our Board of

Advisors established a Bonclarken honor roll of “Visionaries and Servant Leaders” to recognize individuals who have strengthened and impacted the work of Bonclarken over the years.

This past summer we dedicated “Janeen’s Cottage.” This cottage, formerly Terrace Apartments, was renovated to house youth groups utilizing a special gift from a couple who wanted to advance the growing youth ministry of Bonclarken in honor of their daughter. We added a large parking lot for guests in the swimming pool area, established a “Nibble Nook” at the lake pavilion and replaced the heating and cooling equipment in the dining facility.

During 2004 we were blessed in establishing “The Tom McGill Endowment.” This came about as the result of the generous bequest Mr. McGill made to Bonclarken in his Will. The income from our endowment is used primarily for capital improvements.

Of considerable importance to the future viability and ministry of Bonclarken is the transfer of responsibility for Bonclarken’s water and sewer systems to the City of Hendersonville. It is no longer our responsibility to service, maintain and replace these systems. This has gotten Bonclarken completely out of the water and sewer business and has severed this tie with the residential property owners. The transfer of responsibility was accomplished at a very favorable cost. Because of substantial amounts of rock hit by the contractor for the City, the sewer improvements and repair of the streets may not be complete by the meeting of General Synod.

With the transfer of the water and sewer systems to the City, it can accurately be said that the private property owners are no longer in any way a burden on Bonclarken and its ministry. To the contrary the property owners provide many volunteer hours, provide a buffer when youth and other conferees roam the grounds, provide generous financial support for Bonclarken’s ministry, and pay reasonable homeowner’s fees for use of roads and for use of recreational facilities when that use does not interfere with use by conferences. While some believe that this may not have been the case in the past, I assure you that it is true today.

The conference center suffered considerable damage to trees and two facilities and lost revenue from group cancellations as a result of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan. Thanks to our insurance coverage and the hard work of a number of people we have substantially recovered from these storms.

The Board of Bonclarken has established several priorities regarding our facilities, and we are pursuing the means to accomplish needed improvements. The two facilities of primary focus are our Chapel and dining facilities.

With funds made available by General Synod and a few individuals, we have re-roofed the Chapel, removed the exterior sky lights, added two

small gable roofs to replace leaking flat roofs and capped the brick buttresses to prevent further deterioration. We have obtained professional input regarding the renovations needed in our Chapel and have developed a planned approach to add more restrooms, improve lighting and sound systems, replace energy inefficient windows and increase the seating area in the sanctuary. The Chapel is the worship center of our conference center, and we are committed to making improvements as funds become available.

Our dining facility is in constant use with more than 100,000 meals served annually. This facility was well constructed in the mid 1970s and has been well maintained, but no significant upgrades have been undertaken in its 30 years of service. With professional guidance we have developed a plan to make a number of interior improvements. Some exterior enlargement is being considered, but our current focus is on interior improvements which will more immediately meet the needs of our guests.

The officers of Bonclarken's Board of Trustees for 2004-2005 are: Bill Patrick, Chairman, Dr. Reid Tribble, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Billie Brady, Secretary; Robert Adams, Treasurer; Jimmy Matthews, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee; Mrs. Sarah Dagenhart, Chairman of the Promotion and Services Committee; and Jim Ashburn, Chairman of the Administration Committee.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Bonclarken, I want to thank the General Synod for the encouragement you give to those who work diligently to carry out the ARP Church's conference center ministry. We want to encourage you to continue to schedule and attend conferences and retreats at Bonclarken and to continue to support Bonclarken as we strive to grow and improve the effectiveness of this ministry.

Changes To Manual of Authorities and Duties

Based on recent actions of the Bonclarken Board, two sections of the Bonclarken page in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* should be changed.

1. Under "Membership: Advisory" Representative of Committee on Lay Ministry and Representative of Committee on Worship should be deleted and Chairman of Bonclarken Board of Advisors should be added.
2. "Stated Meetings" should be changed to read: "In the spring, fall and winter of each year, provided that the winter meeting may be canceled by the Executive Committee if there is no substantial business to be conducted."

Recommendations

We make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That General Synod continue to support Bonclarken in the allocation of Synod funds and in the annual special offering.
2. That General Synod continue to encourage all presbyteries, boards and church organizations to use the facilities at Bonclarken for retreats and conferences.
3. That the meeting of General Synod be held at Bonclarken beginning on June 6, 2006.
4. That the Bonclarken page in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be changed to reflect changes to "Membership: Advisory" and "Stated Meetings" as shown in Addendum to Report of the Bonclarken Board of Trustees.

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

	2005 Budget	2006 Proposed
Operating Revenue:		
Rooms	\$ 580,000	\$ 597,000
Food Service	540,000	556,000
Activity Fees	215,000	222,000
Nibble Nook	15,000	16,000
Gift Shop	35,000	36,000
Programs	40,000	41,000
Camps	50,000	51,000
Property Owners	30,000	31,000
Miscellaneous	<u>30,000</u>	<u>31,000</u>
Total Op. Revenue	\$ 1,535,000	\$ 1,581,000
Non-Op. Revenue:		
General Synod	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000
WSU	9,000	9,000
Mountain Club	90,000	94,000
Churches	<u>16,000</u>	<u>18,000</u>
Total Non-Op. Rev.	\$ <u>258,000</u>	\$ <u>264,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,793,000	\$ 1,845,000
Payroll & Benefits:		
Administration	\$ 253,000	\$ 260,000
Promotion/Marketing	50,000	51,000
Maintenance	119,000	123,000
Food Service	143,000	147,000
Programs	59,000	60,000
Housekeeping	98,000	101,000

Other	27,000	28,000
Taxes & Benefits	<u>233,000</u>	<u>240,000</u>
Total Pysl/Benefits	\$ 982,000	\$ 1,010,000
Cost of Sales:		
Food Service	\$ 200,000	\$ 206,000
Nibble Nook	10,000	10,000
Gift Shop	<u>9,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total Cost of Sales	\$ 219,000	\$ 226,000
Other Expenses:		
Administration	\$ 90,000	\$ 92,000
Maintenance	50,000	52,000
Food Service	35,000	36,000
Programs	67,000	69,000
Marketing	40,000	41,000
Guest Services	63,000	65,000
Property Insurance	90,000	92,000
Utilities	150,000	155,000
Other Expenses	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>
Total Other Expenses	\$ <u>592,000</u>	\$ <u>609,000</u>
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 1,793,000	\$ 1,845,000

Synod rose in a standing round of applause for the service of Bonclarken. Jim Brice, Director of Bonclarken, addressed the Synod in the absence of Board Chairman Patrick. Mr. Brice introduced Joy Rogers, who shared with the Synod her experience of Bonclarken.

The report of the **Moderator's Committee on Covenant Discipleship** was presented. The Moderator's Committee recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-3 and offered two additional recommendations:

1. That the Board and Staff of Covenant Discipleship be commended for the excellent job they are doing.
2. That the members of General Synod be in prayer for the Board as it searches for the new Executive Director to be hired.

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

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

Introduction

"These words which I command you shall be upon your heart;

and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The Board of Covenant Discipleship is the agency of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church which serves by presenting the Gospel and nurturing Christian Discipleship based upon a reformed understanding of the scripture with a continuing challenge to develop a biblical world and life view.

Our Mission

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

We seek to:

1. Teach and Train Leaders.
2. Reach Students with the Gospel and Disciple them based upon a reformed understanding.
3. Minister to the specific spiritual needs of the Mentally and Physically handicapped.
4. Minister to Families and Senior Adults through conferences and retreats.
5. Provide resources that emphasize a consistent Biblical world view.

This annual report is a summary of the major ministry activities of the Board of Covenant Discipleship for the year 2004 and includes a budget and other recommendations for Synod’s approval.

Board Ministries

The Board of Covenant Discipleship held two meetings this past year February 17-18, 2004; September 14-15, 2004.

The following officers served during 2004: Dr. Charles Steele, Chairman; Rev. Rick Lewis, Vice-Chairman; Miss Lou Ann Aheron, Secretary. The following board officers were elected at the February 2005 meeting: Rev. Rick Lewis, Chairman; Rev. Gerald Hallman, Vice Chairman; Lou Ann Aheron, Secretary. The meeting dates for the Board established for 2005: February 15-16, 2005; September 13-14, 2005.

Horizon Conference attendance 447; Quest Conference attendance 435; Camp Joy 3 full sessions 120 campers and 156 counselors and staff; Appalachian Mission—373 ARP young people and adults from 36 churches conducted Vacation Bible Schools in 18 locations in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia ministering to more than 600 children. Twenty-seven attended the Discipleship Weekend at Bonclarken. There were 18 who participated in the summer missions’ trip to Wales (co-sponsored by

Covenant Discipleship and World Witness). Ninety-two Senior Adults attended Bonselior in October.

Other Covenant Discipleship Sponsored Programs

Bible Mastery Month was observed in 14 of our congregations. Catechism Recitations: The Children's Catechism—27 recitations; Westminster Shorter Catechism—2 recitations. Church School Enrollment 17,249.

Use of Curriculum Materials

a. Vacation Bible Schools: Ninety-three churches reported holding Bible Schools in 2004 with a total enrollment of 7693. Seventy-two had schools for youth and children only; twenty-six had schools for the entire family. Fifty-seven provided nurseries. Some schools reported using more than one type of material. **Materials used:** Augsburg—1; Bible—4; Cook—7; Concordia—3; CRC—1; Gospel Light—16; Great Commissions—5; Group—16; PCUSA—1; Scripture Press—1; Standard—6; Other—27; Own—9.

b. Church School: In the Children's and Youth Divisions, the most popular material is Great Commission, while in the Adult Division, *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Adult Quarterly* is the most widely used. Listed below are the breakdown of materials used. Consider these figures in light of the fact that 168 churches reported and that some churches used more than one curriculum in a given department.

Literature	Preschool	Elementary	Youth	Adult
ARP	—	—	4	91
CRC	7	7	7	1
Cook	26	25	22	17
Bible	8	12	20	40
Great Comm.	35	43	42	3
Scripture Press	2	1	-	-
Standard	3	4	3	14
PCUSA	-	1	-	3
Other	15	17	19	28
Own	7	7	11	23

Recommendations

1. The Covenant Discipleship Transition Committee was appointed and has been meeting. The recommendations made by Synod's Committee on Organization were reviewed by the Transition Committee and the following motions were presented to and approved by the Board of Covenant Discipleship:
 - A. That the recommendations of the Committee on Organization would be considered and addressed by the Transition committee.
 - B. That the Board of Covenant Discipleship has no problem with the recommendations concerning Central Services.
2. That the Report and actions of the Board of Covenant Discipleship be adopted.

3. That the budget for 2006 be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Steele, Chairman

Revenues	Revised 2005	Proposed 2006
Contributions for Ministry		
Total Covenant Discipleship		
DM Allocation	\$ 207,299	\$ 217,664
Total Easter Off. Allocation	11,453	12,026
Total Misc Cont.-Oper.	42,805	52,851
Special Endow Fund	1,353	1,394
Total WSU Contributions	<u>17,733</u>	<u>13,817</u>
Total Contr. for Ministry	<u>\$ 280,643</u>	<u>\$ 297,752</u>
Registration and Fees		
Total Conference Reg.	\$ 138,100	\$ 138,300
Total Mission Trip Receipts	<u>35,150</u>	<u>35,150</u>
Total Registration and Fees	<u>\$ 173,250</u>	<u>\$ 173,450</u>
Sales & Sub. Adult Qtly. Inc.	<u>42,933</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 496,826	\$ 521,202
Expenses		
Payroll		
Salaries - Covenant Dis.	\$ 177,411	\$ 227,510
Housing Allow. -Cov. Dis.	16,209	16,695
Staff Benefits	<u>48,407</u>	<u>64,899</u>
Total Payroll	\$ 242,027	\$ 309,104
Staff Expenses	\$ 10,710	\$ 10,924
Board/Committee Exp.	\$ 7,586	\$ 7,737
Promotional Expenses	\$ 1,680	\$ 1,764
General Office		
Resources	\$ 3,361	\$ 3,529
Equip/Software	3,580	3,758
Total Communications	2,772	2,910
Bonclarken Office	6,703	6,847
Total Rent	5,749	6,036
Total Miscellaneous Exp.	<u>8,534</u>	<u>8,960</u>
Total General Office	\$ 30,699	\$ 32,040
Publications Expenses		
Total Adult Quarterly Exp.	\$ 28,317	\$ 29,433
Total Adult Qrtly Large		
Print Exp	4,417	4,638
Total Adult Qrtly		
Teacher Exp	1,749	1,836

Total Other Public. Exp	<u>3,148</u>	<u>3,305</u>
Total Publications Exp.	\$ <u>37,631</u>	\$ <u>39,212</u>
Ministry Disbursements		
Covenant Disc. Audio Visual \$	42	\$ 44
Award Bibles & Books	<u>697</u>	<u>732</u>
Total Ministry Disburs.	<u>739</u>	<u>776</u>
Total Conferences and Training	\$ <u>151,504</u>	\$ <u>152,830</u>
Total Short-Term Mission Trips	\$ <u>13,163</u>	\$ <u>13,821</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>495,739</u>	\$ <u>568,208</u>

The recommendations of the report of the **Moderator’s Committee on Outreach North America** were presented. The Moderator’s Committee recommended adoption of recommendations 1-8 and presented an additional recommendation:

That the General Synod pause for prayer for the staff and for the work of Outreach North America within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The Board recommendations and the additional recommendation of the Moderator’s Committee were adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

Introducing People to Jesus Christ

The Board of Outreach North America praises God for what He is doing in the ARP Church in North America. We have unprecedented opportunities for introducing people to Jesus Christ through our churches, including our church plants and our renewed congregations. We see tremendous opportunities for the growth of the ARP Church in the next decade. This report summarizes the activities of your Board during the last year.

I. New Personnel.

At last year’s Synod meeting we prayed for our transition to a new director following Jim Corbitt’s retirement. Shortly after the Synod meeting, Alan Avera was called as our new director. Since then, we have had a significant transition in ONA personnel. We thank Ann Tankersley and Patrick Greer for their faithful service, and pray the Lord’s blessings on them in their new endeavors. We welcome Jean Piscina, who now shares the Office Manager position with Ruth Younts.

In addition to the ONA employees, we have several people who are helping us on a contract basis. Jim Corbitt is helping in a variety of areas, but particularly in the area of helping write some helpful manuals to guide

us in procedures, and in the area of coaching churches seeking renewal. John Kimmons has agreed to become a director of evangelism and care, helping to promote evangelism, and helping us care for church planters on the field. Jeff Hathcock continues to help us in communication and development. Patrick Greer serves as our Webmaster.

II. Strong Direction for the Future.

The purpose of Outreach North America is to “Introduce people to Jesus Christ; primarily by helping our presbyteries plant new churches and renew existing churches.”

The reason we seek to introduce people to Jesus Christ flows out of our desire to see God’s Name being hallowed, His Kingdom becoming more and more visible, and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven. We seek not just converts, but worshipers who are ready to follow Him and to do His will. We understand that His primary human agency for accomplishing this is the Church. Therefore we seek to help presbyteries plant healthy churches, and we seek to help in the renewal and revitalization of existing churches, so that more and more people will be introduced to Jesus Christ.

This purpose flows out of our National Vision, which was adopted by the Synod in 1998. The goal of our National Vision is “transformed hearts and lives for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.” There are four points to this National Vision:

- Transforming North America’s Heart. Reaching the 197 million unchurched Americans.
- Transforming our Denomination’s Heart. Extending the boundaries of our denomination throughout North America.
- Transforming our Congregation’s Heart. Planting churches with 300 to 500 worshipers committed to planting other churches.
- Transforming our Hearts. Initiating evangelistic opportunities, church plants, and new presbyteries as we seek to extend God’s grace to others.

At the Fall 2004 Board meeting, ONA adopted six goals for the next 3–5 years. These goals give us specific steps toward achieving our vision and our purpose. Each goal includes some specific objectives towards achieving that goal.

1. Work with presbyteries to develop a grass roots movement for Church planting. This goal will be demonstrated by having over half of our churches actively involved in church planting.
 - A. Challenging the largest churches in the denomination to develop a plan for planting a daughter church within the next five years.
 - B. Change the existing ordained or licentiate church planting

internship program to encouraged mother-daughter church planting by placing interns in existing healthy churches that have a desire to plant a church.

- C. Create a new internship program to give college and seminary students hands-on experience in church planting in a newly developing church plant. This should create a core of people who are excited, much like short-term missionaries, and who will promote church planting through established churches, even if they do not themselves become church planters.
 - D. Encourage team-model church plants, like the Living Waters model. Find a way even for small churches to be involved.
 - E. Develop a sponsorship program, where people can become sponsors of a new mission, having a sense of personal involvement and ownership.
 - F. Promote mission trips from established churches to mission congregations. The mission trips can involve: outreach, VBS, physical labor (on land or building), etc.
 - G. Expose more of our ministers and elders to teaching on church planting.
 - H. Present more stories in the ARP magazine articles and the Outreach newsletter of teamwork, where established churches are involved with helping our missions.
2. Work with presbyteries to develop spiritual health within our churches. This goal will be demonstrated by having over half of our churches actively engaged in programs of evangelism with ongoing self-evaluation.
 - A. Varied programs will be evaluated for use in the works of evangelism and Church renewal, and these will be promoted with an explanation of their strengths and weaknesses for use as ONA resources.
 - B. Regularly send pastors and elders books and resources.
 - C. Make the ONA website a world-class resource for church renewal.
 - D. Develop the grass roots movement for Church planting, which is crucial. If accomplished, that will go a long way toward renewing our existing churches.
 - E. Hold yearly prayer times, like the one Hal Morris convened last Spring in Charlotte, bringing together different leaders in our denomination. Make the next one specifically geared toward Church Renewal.
 - F. Promote a Synod-wide emphasis on prayer, and a Synod-wide day of prayer, encouraging people to gather in clusters.
 3. Work with presbyteries to change the heart of our denomination into

a heart that is breaking for the lost. This goal will be demonstrated by seeing a 100% increase in the number of professions of faith being reported.

- A. Employ a consultant evangelist, who is willing to give significant time toward promoting evangelism throughout our presbyteries. The purpose of this position is to provide motivation and resources.
 - B. Provide as many resources as possible through the ONA website.
 - C. Provide teaching on evangelism approaches for different personality types, and for people with different spiritual gifts, to show that it is something we can all do.
 - D. Publicize and promote people and churches who are doing it well.
 - E. Provide financial support for pilot or model programs.
4. Work with presbyteries to create and communicate new models for reaching our increasingly multi-cultural population. This goal will be demonstrated through having 25% of our churches actively reporting some kind of multi-cultural outreach.
- A. Find out what is already happening. Some interesting things are happening that most people don't know about, such as the combined English / Spanish services at Harrison Bridge Road, or different language Sunday School classes. ONA presbytery chairmen will include information about multi-cultural outreach that is taking place in their churches in the Semi-annual presbytery report to the ONA Board.
 - B. Promote the ministry of ARP Connect.
5. Work with presbyteries to actively promote the ARP denomination in new areas. This goal will be demonstrated through new contacts telling about the new ways they have heard about the ARP Church. It will also be demonstrated by "providential opportunities" in areas of North America that are new to the ARP.
- A. Get the word out at different seminaries.
 - B. Explore new publications to which we can send news articles.
 - C. Make our website known.
 - D. Find out how people are hearing about us now.
6. Increase total ONA revenues by at least 50%, and work with presbyteries to increase their church extension resources.
- A. Develop a sponsorship program through which local churches and individuals can encourage and support specific missions (Use this like World Witness uses direct support of missionaries. Look at the World Witness budget in the minutes of Synod, and see where the vast majority of World Witness financial

resources are raised).

- B. Help mission developers raise direct support for their work. Provide training and resources for this effort.
- C. Establish a denomination-wide church planting intern fund (give it a name, much like the PCA has the “Timothy Fund” for this purpose). Develop guidelines for the use of the fund, and a funding strategy to develop the fund.
- D. Improve ONA visibility, and do a better job of telling our story. Do this through: ONA Director being out in the field, providing tools to our churches and presbyteries that they value, promoting teamwork, improving our published resources and website, etc.
- E. Get the ONA promotional video “The Torch of Faith” into our churches, and have the majority of ARP members see it. Encourage presbytery church extension committees to use it as a resource for promoting work within their presbytery. Let them use it to encourage financial support to presbytery as well as financial support to ONA.
- F. Make sure we are being good stewards of the resources the Lord provides.
- G. Develop a long range “development plan.” Seek to engage in long-term development rather than short term “fund-raising.” Practice “friend-raising,” developing a solid support network of friends of ONA and of ONA missionaries.
- H. Develop the grass roots movement for Church planting. If accomplished, that will go a long way toward making resources available. Resources have to be invested in developing this grass roots movement, but once people start looking for ways to be involved in church planting, resources will follow.

III. Tools and Teamwork.

To help develop the climate for our vision, purpose and goals to be accomplished, the office of ONA is emphasizing providing tools and encouraging teamwork. We have sought to improve the Outreach Newsletter by specifically including articles having to do with tools and teamwork. We are working diligently to publish the newsletter each quarter. We are also planning a monthly email Outreach Prayer Update. This will be a tool to encourage prayer for our mission developers out on the home mission field.

To further promote tools and teamwork, our director is seeking to spend about 50% of his time out in the field. He is visiting presbyteries, churches, missions, seminaries and his counterparts in other denominations. He is also seeking to become educated through seminars, reading, and discus-

sions. He has developed a presentation "*North America as a Mission Field*," which he has presented to churches and to other groups. If you would like to request this presentation, please contact the ONA office. As John Kimmons comes onboard as director of evangelism and care, he will also be spending time out on the field visiting churches and missions.

We are slowly but surely working to improve our website to make it a vehicle for sharing tools that churches and mission can use. Please check our website at www.outreachnorthamerica.org.

IV. Study of Professions of Faith.

The Office of Outreach North America is doing a study of the number of professions of faith that have been reported in the Minutes of Synod over the past ten years. We have found that Synod-wide we have averaged 675 professions of faith each year. ARP Churches are averaging 1.9 professions of faith per 100 members. The next step in the study is to identify churches that are consistently doing better than the denominational average to see what we can learn from them.

In the process of studying the number of professions of faith being reported, we have noted that our current annual reports do not distinguish between professions of faith being made by covenant children, and those coming from adult conversions. It would help us better understand how we are obeying the Great Commission if we could distinguish between these two kinds of professions of faith, so we are recommending that Synod change the annual statistical report to include a breakdown between professions of faith through adult conversions and through covenant children professions.

V. Status of Report on our Missions.

One new work was started with Synod funding in 2004—Christ Our Hope in Mission Viejo, CA, with Rev. Bob Brown.

The following missions received funding from Synod during all or part of 2004.

Canadian Presbytery

Trinity, Chatham, ON

Rev. Henry Bartsch

Catawba Presbytery

Living Waters, Lake Wylie, SC

Rev. Bill Babson

Grace Covenant, Irmo, SC

Rev. Jerry Berry

Providence, Mount Pleasant, SC

Rev. Richard Brown

Christ Church, Habersham, SC

Dr. Douglas Culver

Hope, Pearland, TX

Rev. Gentry McColm

New Millennium, Katy, TX

Rev. Stephane Cobbett

New Song, Columbia, SC

Rev. David Zimmerman

Iglesia Biblica, Columbia, SC

Rev. J.J. Diaz

First Presbytery

Waxhaw, Waxhaw, NC

Rev. David Satterfield

DaySpring, Cleveland, NC

Rev. Luke Davis

Florida Presbytery

Christ Our Hope – Mission Viego, CA Rev. Bob Brown

Mississippi Valley Presbytery

Hernando Reformed, Hernando, MS Rev. Steve Woods

Virginia Presbytery

Redeemer, Blacksburg, VA Rev. David Vance

The proposed budget for 2006 is attached.

The annual report for ARP Connect, a joint ministry of ONA and World Witness, is attached.

The officers of the Board for 2005–2006 are:

Chairman	Eddie Spencer
Vice Chairman	Joe Welsh
Secretary	Penny Thornton

Recommendations

1. That Synod affirm the six goals ONA has adopted for the next 3–5 years.
2. That Synod encourage churches to broaden their vision for reaching our culture by seeking ways to be actively involved in church multiplication.
3. That Synod encourage our churches to learn more about our ministry to Muslims and to investigate how they might become involved in that ministry in their neighborhoods by inviting ARP Connect to make a presentation to their church.
4. That presbyteries develop strategies for recognizing those men who have the skills, knowledge, attitudes and gifts for being church planters. That Synod, Presbyteries and Erskine Seminary encourage students of theology to become educated in church planting and revitalization
5. That Synod endorse ONA's objective to develop an internship fund and to encourage individuals and churches to support efforts to nurture potential church planters and church plant team members through internships.
6. That Synod change the annual statistical report to include a breakdown between professions of faith through adult conversions and through covenant children professions.
7. That the proposed budget be approved.
8. That the report of the Board of Outreach North America be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Frazier, Chairman

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

	2005 Revised	2006 Proposed
Receipts		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 665,839	\$ 699,131
Direct Support and Specials	1,500	530
Hillcrest Fund	5,864	5,864
Manse Loan Fund Investment Income	10,449	10,449
Mattie B. Ellis Fund Income	526	526
Operating Fund Interest	6,177	4,852
Permanent Fund Income	5,601	5,601
Ralph Grigsby Fund	1,610	1,610
Special Endowment Fund (Pratt)	1,314	1,314
St. Andrew Church Fund	-	6,676
Special Offering	16,500	16,500
WSU Unrestricted	<u>34,167</u>	<u>26,667</u>
Administration & Program		
Receipts Total	\$ <u>749,547</u>	\$ <u>779,720</u>
Disbursements		
Director of Outreach North America		
Salary & TDA	\$ 41,265	\$ 43,328
Housing	24,235	25,447
Social Security Allowance	5,011	5,261
Retirement	5,993	6,293
Insurance	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,750</u>
Director Sub-total	\$ <u>91,504</u>	\$ <u>96,079</u>
Administrative Support Sub-total	\$ <u>45,622</u>	\$ <u>47,089</u>
Staff Expenses Sub-total	\$ <u>18,106</u>	\$ <u>20,433</u>
General Office and Board		
General Office	\$ 15,522	\$ 15,988
Rent	8,907	9,175
Strategic Planning Retreat	-	5,000
Board Travel & Meeting	<u>16,194</u>	<u>16,679</u>
General Office & Board Sub-total	\$ <u>41,623</u>	\$ <u>46,842</u>
Promotion and Publicity		
Home Page	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,545
Outreach	12,000	12,360
Promotional Resources	<u>8,290</u>	<u>8,539</u>
Promotion and Publicity Sub-total	\$ <u>21,790</u>	\$ <u>22,444</u>
Professional Services		

Development Consultant	\$	12,000	\$	12,000
Executive Coach		5,000		5,000
Consultant		24,500		-
Director of Evangelism & Care		39,000		39,000
Multi-Cultural Consultant		3,500		3,500
Presbytery Mission Directors		<u>6,000</u>		<u>-</u>
Professional Services Sub-total	\$	<u>90,000</u>	\$	<u>59,500</u>
Pre-Development				
Demographic Studies	\$	<u>3,500</u>	\$	<u>3,500</u>
Pre-Development Sub-total	\$	<u>3,500</u>	\$	<u>3,500</u>
Recruiting and Training				
Recruitment				
Assessment Center	\$	23,000	\$	24,150
Intern Program		114,577		199,681
Training				
Mission Developers Retreat		12,000		12,600
Boot Camp		5,000		5,250
Mentors		10,000		10,500
Church Planting Course		<u>5,000</u>		<u>5,250</u>
Recruiting and Training Sub-total	\$	<u>169,577</u>	\$	<u>257,431</u>
Mission Supplements*				
Multi-Cultural – Greenwood, SC	\$	8,000	\$	9,333
New Church Development				
Trinity (Canadian)		13,333		3,333
Christ Church – Habersham (Catawba)		22,500		12,500
Mount Pleasant (Catawba)		16,667		6,667
DaySpring (First)		25,000		15,000
Waxhaw (First)		13,333		3,333
Tradewinds (Florida)		27,500		20,833
New Church Plants				
Hope (Catawba)		2,500		-
New Song (Catawba)		30,000		-
Orange County (CA) Hope (Florida)		79,511		46,033
Hernando Reformed (M. Valley)		<u>42,500</u>		<u>15,000</u>
Mission Supplements Sub-total	\$	<u>280,844</u>	\$	<u>132,032</u>
Evangelism and Renewal				
Evangelism				
Undesignated	\$	5,000	\$	5,000
Appalachia		15,000		30,000
Muslim Ministry (ARP Connect)		20,800		21,632
Erskine Mission Conference		1,500		1,500
Renewal		<u>9,000</u>		<u>9,000</u>
Evangelism and Renewal Sub-total	\$	<u>51,300</u>	\$	<u>67,132</u>

Providential Contingency			
Undesignated	\$	12,000	\$ 16,600
Centerpoint Community (First)		8,000	4,000
Providential Contingency Sub-total	\$	20,000	\$ 20,600
 Total Disbursements	 \$	 832,866	 \$ 773,082
 Change in Fund Balance	 \$	 <83,319>	 \$ 6,638
Beginning of Year Balance		411,789	328,470
End of Year Balance	\$	328,470	\$ 335,108

*Mission Supplements reflect current year funding and scheduled funding for next calendar year.

ARPCConnect

The ARPCConnect ministry of training individuals to develop relationships with Muslim people in their community has continued this past year and is now in three areas—South Carolina, North Carolina, and Northeast Presbytery. More than 15 presentations have been given in churches concerning the ARPCConnect ministry to provide training (3 one-month classes), and to meet Muslim people. Limited numbers in the Church are joining in this witness to Muslims. Deeply felt needs in the lives of Muslims have prompted an expression of the Body of Christ through those in the Church who are able to help with and pray for those needs. We have witnessed the Lord's sovereignty in a friendship with a student in Charlotte, whom was met at a mosque and who has visited an ARP Church at his own request. Team ministries have been initiated in Columbia, Charlotte and Gastonia. ARPs indicating an interest in varied levels of involvement now number over 140. Prayer continues to be a major emphasis through an e-mail prayer memo and a regular newsletter.

Alan J. Avera addressed the Synod on behalf of Outreach North America and its hopes and plans. Raymond W. Cameron Jr. led the Synod in prayer for the work of ONA.

A motion carried that Northeast Presbytery be permitted to develop a mission congregation in Orange County CA.

A motion carried that the remarks of Mr. Avera be printed in the *Minutes of the General Synod*.

DESPERATE NEED

People in our world need the gospel: not only people across the ocean, but also the people across the street.

We heard last night about the body blows we have taken from our culture.

Spiritual darkness, cultural and societal decay have reached unprecedented levels globally. Poverty, hunger, injustice, sickness and the breakdown of the family are now commonplace among all nations.

We greatly desire to see this turned around to the glory of God's Name, so we pray earnestly for a widespread spiritual awakening through which the invisible kingdom of God becomes more visible in every sphere of life. We long and pray to see God's will being done more and more on earth as it is in heaven.

Responding to that need.

The ARP Church has a commendable history of taking the gospel across the ocean. World Witness has been far-sighted in recognizing new mission fields that the ARP Church is being called to reach. The ARP Churches have done a great job of responding to the opportunity represented by these new mission fields.

Other churches have also done a great job of responding to the mission field across the ocean. As a result, the last 5 years have seen the greatest global church growth ever.

For example:

Every day sees 80,000 – 100,000 new believers in the world.

Worldwide 3,500 new churches are planted each week.

Another Mission Field

But there is another mission field – and I am not sure we have been as far-sighted in recognizing this mission field, and least not in terms of being a mission field. That is the mission field across the street, across town, across the state, and across the country. The United States and Canada are in fact now mission fields.

While Christianity is growing worldwide, it is *not* growing in North America.

If fact, it's worse than that. For example:

In the last 10 years, all protestant denominations have declined 9.5%

And while 3,300 churches are started in the U.S. each year, another 4,600 close.

So we have a net loss each year of 1,300 churches!

Praise God, the ARP church has not been one of the declining denominations. We have in fact grown by 5.22% over the past 10 years. But that is while the population has increased 11.4%.

There are over 197 million unchurched Americans, many of whom, believe it or not, have never clearly heard the Gospel.

This makes the United States the 3rd largest mission field in the world. Canada is not too far behind.

So the United States and Canada have become a mission field.

And not only that, God has seen fit to bring some of the foreign mission field right here to us. There is increasing immigration into this country. We don't have to travel very far to reach people of Muslim, Hindu, Bud-

dhist or whatever background.

Great Opportunity

So God has given us all a great opportunity to be involved in missions. You don't have to travel across the ocean. One of the world's largest mission fields is right here. That's what I want you to understand that Outreach North America is all about. Just as World Witness is the ARP's world missions agency, so Outreach North America is your home missions agency.

And as your home missions agency, we seek to help you respond to the *third largest mission field* in the world as passionately as you have responded to the other mission fields across the ocean.

The purpose of Outreach North America is to introduce people in North America to Jesus Christ; primarily by helping our presbyteries plant new churches and renew existing churches.

We understand that God's primary human agency for introducing people to Christ and for transforming them so that they can transform the culture and make His invisible Kingdom become more visible is the Church. So we seek to help presbyteries plant healthy churches, and we seek to help in the renewal and revitalization of existing churches, so that more and more people will be introduced to Jesus Christ, so that they will be able to transform our culture, so that God's Name will be more and more glorified.

We Need You

To help the ARP Church respond to the opportunity of the mission field within our midst, the Board of Outreach North America has adopted 6 strong goals for the next 5 years. You have now affirmed these goals. We need you now to communicate them back to the people in the pews. We have bulletin inserts for you to use in communicating these goals – please pick them up at the ONA display. Communicate these goals, then help us work toward reaching them.

And we need you to make a place for North American missions in your missions programs and in your missions budgets in the local churches. Since the United States is the third largest mission field in the world, I believe it should have a prominent place in the missions programs and in the missions budgets of our churches.

And then consider what your church can do, particularly in the area of church planting. We are praying for a grassroots movement for church planting. That will mean having most of our churches involved, and it will mean seeing them networking together in geographic regions to develop a church planting strategy for their region.

I know that many of you think your churches are small and struggling. Many of you have told me that your church is concerned for its own survival,

so how can we be involved in things such as church planting. Understand that this makes you excellent vessels for displaying God's power and glory. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians chapter 4:

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Remember also the words:

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The report of the **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap** was presented, recommending the adoption of all recommendations and recommending that Synod commend the Dunlap Board for their diligent use of funds and service in ministry. The Board's recommendations and the additional recommendation of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

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

The Dunlap Board of Trustees (Board) met on two occasions since the last meeting of Synod, November 3–4, 2004, at Bonclarken and March 23, 2005, by telephone conference. Minutes of the meetings have been filed at the ARP Center.

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

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

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

How have we done? During the period 1987—2004 (following the action to enlarge the corporate purpose) the Dunlap Ministry has made grants of \$1,668,184 for @ thirty six different ministry entities (some of which received multiple grants.) Grants have been made for both capital and operating purposes, for scholarships, for development. The ministries tell us that we have made a difference!

The present, and ongoing, challenge for the Board is to identify and evaluate those ministries that best emulate that which we would do if we were still providing “our” home.

Board Resources and Methodology

Resources for ministry come from two primary sources:

- Endowment earnings. When Dunlap closed some of the liquid assets were returned to the General Synod. The remaining assets and proceeds from the sale of the property were placed in two separate endowments. The value of the original land grant on which the campus was situated was placed in the “Will Ministry Fund” with the assets and earnings restricted exclusively to the care of orphaned children. The balance was placed in the “Orphanage Ministry Fund” for the broader purposes of the corporation. On an annual basis, 5% of the three-year average market value of these endowments are available for ministry.
- Trusts and restricted endowments which have Dunlap as a beneficiary. Currently Dunlap is a beneficiary of the B. J. Wade Trust, the Ola B. Hunter Trust, and the Kennedy Annuity.

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

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

for helping a rotating Board to stay focused on the primary purpose of the ministry

for guiding ministries seeking assistance, to include the Dunlap Board’s Statement of Biblical Christian Belief

for establishing ongoing relationships with homes that do what Dunlap was doing

The Board has also developed guidelines for evaluating opportunities for ministry outside the United States. These guidelines are made a part of this report for informational purposes.

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

environment for children. We express thanks to those who have responded. Interested organizations should be encouraged to contact:

William H. Dunlap Fund
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center
One Cleveland Street
Greenville SC 29601-3696

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

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

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

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

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

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

These two homes provide opportunities for mission and ministry to individuals and churches. The ministries have been encouraged to inform churches of their ministry and of opportunities for service and involvement. Resources for pastors and other professionals are referenced through the General Synod web site. The Board is recommending that these two homes be approved as “Cooperative Ministries.”

Present Ministry

The following ministries are receiving financial assistance during this calendar year. **Presbyterian Home**, 150 Linden Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24503-2099 (804-384-3138). We provide nominal financial support to Presbyterian Home to open these services to the churches in Virginia Presbytery. Virginia Presbytery has been asked to provide input to the Board on an annual basis to help determine if there is a continuing need to support the ministry. Website: www.phfs.org. **Collins Home & Family Ministry**, Highway 188, P. O. Box 745, Seneca, SC 29679 (864-882-0893), is a non-denominational, Christian family group home, and is funded through private contributions. The home has two residential homes and a Family Center. The Family and Community Outreach Center provides a place to conduct counseling and general educational opportunities for the children

and families. Website: www.collinschildrenshome.org. **Palmer Home for Children**, P. O. Box 746, Columbus, MS 39703-0746, (662-328-5704), is “a Christian home for children who have nowhere else to turn.” Established in 1895, it is chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi and is governed by an independent, self-perpetuating Board of Directors. Two-thirds of the board members must be members in good standing of a Presbyterian Church. Currently the home has seven cottages, each capable of housing 10 children. A new home is being built in DeSoto County, Mississippi. Website: www.palmerhome.org. **French Camp Academy**, One Fine Place, French Camp, MS 39745-9703, is “an interdenominational Christian boarding school for young people, mostly teenagers from some type of broken, or troubled, or dysfunctional home situation.” There are many students that meet the Dunlap Fund’s definition of orphaned and live at FCA on a year-round basis. Website: www.frenchcamp.org.

Partnership with World Witness’ “OPORA Training Project for Russian Evangelical Churches Working with Orphans and Children-At-Risk” has been approved. This three-year training project will provide (1) Christian training in life skills and biblical truth for children in orphanages, (2) Christian mentors for orphans being released from orphanages, and (3) humanitarian aid to orphanages when possible.

The Board continues to provide financial assistance for orphans attending Erskine College. The Board reviews with Erskine on an annual basis the need for financial assistance for orphans and has found a continuing need. Funding is set at \$20,000 per year. Information on the scholarship program, and information on the Dunlap Scholars may be found on the Dunlap web-site - <http://www.arpsynod.org/dunlap.html>.

In addition to the Erskine Dunlap Scholarship program, the Board has a scholarship program for Associate Reformed Presbyterian orphans who are unable to attend Erskine College. Interested parties should contact the Board at the ARP Center address.

Administrative Activities

As requested by the 2004 General Synod, the Board reviewed the Report of the Special Committee on Organization. There was only one reference to Dunlap in the Report of the Special Committee – Item 1.1 of Financial Matters: “The consolidation (merger) of the Board of the ARP Foundation with the Board of Stewardship, and possibly with the addition of the Dunlap Ministry.” The Board adopted a motion “That the Board of Dunlap maintain its present structure as a board under General Synod.” The Board noted the importance of representation from each presbytery.

With reference to Central Services, the Board adopted a motion “that Administrative Services continue providing financial support and continue to provide the services that it has in the past.”

Budget for 2006. The projected budget for 2006 is based on using 5% of the three-year average market value of invested funds plus the income

from trusts. The actual expenditures for 2006 will be approved at the 2005 Fall meeting of the Board. The Board calls to the attention of the General Synod that no denominational ministry funds are requested from the General Synod. Dunlap funds are audited as a part of the General Synod Audit, with financial reports presented to the Board.

Meeting Dates for 2005–2006: November 2-3, 2005, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken; March 22, 2006, 11:00 A.M. (EST), Telephone Conference Call; and November 1-2, 2006, 3:00 P.M., Bonclarken.

Officers for July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006:

Chairman: Darrell Peer

Vice-Chairman: William B. Everett

Secretary: Ronald Pritts

Treasurer: Guy H. Smith, III.

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

The Board expresses grateful appreciation to two members completing their term of service: Tom Patterson and Harry Robbins.

Recommendations

1. That the Budget for 2006 be approved.
2. That Palmer Home for Children and Collins Home & Family Ministry be recognized as “Cooperative” Ministries.
3. That the “Policy Guidelines for Overseas Ministry” be printed in the Manual of Authorities and Duties.
4. That all other actions of the Board, as reported herein, be sustained.

Darrell Peer, Chairman

Tom Patterson, Secretary

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP FUND

Budget

	2005 As Revised	2006 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Earnings for Ministry (5% of 3-year Avg)	\$ 54,732	\$ 54,732
Reserve Funds	10,235	0
B. J. Wade Estate	38,607	42,065
Ola B. Hunter Trust	1,447	1,698
Kennedy Annuity (Corpus)	0	0
Denominational Ministry Funds	0	0
Total Receipts	\$ 105,021	\$ 98,495
EXPENDITURES		
Administration		

Board Travel & Meeting	\$ 2,771	\$ 2,500
Administrative Support	4,250	4,250
General Office	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
Sub-Total for Administration	\$ <u>7,521</u>	\$ <u>7,250</u>
Ministry		\$ 91,245
• Collins Home	\$ 30,000	
• Palmer Home	30,000	
• Presbyterian Home, Lynchburg, VA	1,500	
• French Camp Academy*	6,000	
• Erskine Scholarships	20,000	
• OPORA Ministry to Orphans in Russia	<u>10,000</u>	
Ministry Sub-Total	\$ <u>97,500</u>	\$ <u>91,245</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ <u>105,021</u>	\$ <u>98,495</u>
Reserve for Ministry	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>

*Restricted to Home/Full-Time Care

**Policy Guidelines for Overseas Ministry
of the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage
March 23, 2005**

Foreword

The Purpose of each board and agency of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination is to carry out a specific ministry of the church. The ministry committed to the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage("Dunlap") is to provide care, support, maintenance, and education of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children, and to support projects related to their care.

Our ministry then is to those made vulnerable by unfortunate circumstances and whose vulnerability is compounded by their youth. Our purpose is to assist those providing all the following:

basic physical necessities
spiritual, mental and emotional well-being; and
assistance toward greater self reliance.

Concerning Individuals in Need of Assistance

The most vulnerable of human conditions is that of one who has no advocate (understood Biblically as "one who comes alongside to help"). The death or inability of one or both of a child's natural advocates (i.e., parents) frequently sets the child at a distinct disadvantage in gaining those things necessary for survival and advancement.

It is the policy of Dunlap to consider in its deliberations the various factors contributing to a child's vulnerability. These factors would include such things as:

- (a) The degree to which unfruitful, unnecessary, unhealthy or danger-

ous circumstances attend the child's situation.

- (b) The amount of effort necessary to lift the child above these circumstances.
- (c) The degree to which the child can provide for his own basic necessities.
- (d) The amount of assistance coming from other sources, etc.

In short, this Board attempts first to determine the degree of disadvantage (or the vulnerability) in which a child is placed by the loss of (a) parent(s), or by the inability of (a) parent(s) to provide for the child's needs.

Secondly, this Board considers the category of need. These are, by priority:

- (a) Basic necessities of life.
- (b) Spiritual, mental, emotional necessities.
- (c) Educational necessities.

First priority is given to the most vulnerable individuals whose needs are basic to survival.

Policy Guidelines

The primary purpose of Dunlap is to provide (and/or support homes which provide) comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment for a child or children when the parent or parents are unable to do so.

The following shall be used to guide Dunlap as it seeks to assist the church in fulfilling its biblical challenge of ministry to children:

- (a) Dunlap, through the General Synod, its presbyteries, and congregations, shall consider existing residential care programs which might need financial assistance and which are providing comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment. Notarized documents of the charity registration must be submitted with application. Grants shall be made only to those projects/organizations that, in the Board's judgment, have a financial likelihood of success. Except as might be approved for those homes and projects with which Dunlap has formulated a formal relationship, funding for such projects shall not exceed five years and if continued shall be on a declining basis.
- (b) Applications must be received by March 15, to allow for independent on-site evaluation of the ministry in order for a grant to be considered in November. Included in the application shall be names, addresses, phone numbers, or contact information of churches and/or individuals in the United States that are contributing to and are familiar with the ministry.
- (c) Dunlap shall seek to work cooperatively with World Witness to

- establish programs for orphans.
- (d) Dunlap shall be open to ministry opportunities in areas of the world outside Associate Reformed Presbyterian mission fields where we might work cooperatively with other denominations and/or non-profit organizations to provide comprehensive care for children.
 - (e) Dunlap shall be open to the establishment of ongoing relationships with a home (or homes) that fulfill all objectives for which William H. Dunlap Orphanage was established. Consideration of such relationships shall be in accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Ongoing Relationships and shall be governed by an agreement approved by the governing boards.

Definitions

Care: Attention to the needs of another with the aim of providing that which is wanting.

Support: Provision of the basis for existence or promotion of the interest or cause of someone.

Maintenance: Perseverance in the effort put forward in one's behalf.

Education: Instruction intended to enhance one's spiritual, mental, and moral development.

Child: A person from infancy to maturity, but not beyond 25 years of age.

Orphaned: The condition of being deprived of one or both parents, either by death, desertion, or other condition which prevents a person from having access to normal parental care.

Fatherless: The sense of this word comes from an age in which the father was the primary (if not exclusive) provider. This term is understood to indicate the loss of the primary provider, father or mother.

Helpless/Needy: These criteria are taken together because both describe a condition of vulnerability. A helpless person is one with no advocate. A needy person is one whose physical and developmental needs are met either not at all or inconsistently.

Concerning Other Matters

Grant applications shall be received for review at the fall meeting of Dunlap for funding in the subsequent calendar year. With the unanimous consent of Dunlap, grant applications may be considered at other regular or called meetings.

Applicants shall be given a copy of these Policy Guidelines, a copy of General Policy and Instruction for Applicants and a copy of the Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief. These Policy Guidelines shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

The recommendations of the report of the **Moderator's Com-**

mittee on Executive Board were presented. The Moderator's Committee recommended:

1. That recommendations 1-3, 6 be adopted.
2. That recommendation #4 not be adopted, and that the following substitute be approved: That the proposed changes in the Manual of Authorities and Duties pertaining to the Translation Committee be approved with the addition of the words "be copyrighted and" between the words "will" and "bear" in Guideline 8.
3. That recommendation #5 not be approved, and that the following substitute be approved: That the request of the Woman's Synodical Union to form a committee to plan and run the Family Bible Conference be referred to the Committee on Lay Ministry with direction for them to explore, with the ARP Women's Ministries, the potential for a single-leader conference. If such a single leadership group is deemed appropriate, a detailed plan for the change will be presented to the 2006 meeting of Synod for consideration and potential action.

The Board recommendations 1-3 and 6 were adopted and the additional recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

The Executive Board of Synod is the agency of the General Synod empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of the General Synod. It provides oversight for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, the Office of Administrative Services, the promotional work of the General Synod, and the Coordinator of the General Synod. The Board met on one occasion since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its actions and activities and presents recommendations for the consideration of the court.

Membership includes the current officers of the General Synod (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Vice-Moderator Elect, Principal Clerk, and Treasurer), the immediate past five moderators, and one ruling or teaching elder from each presbytery (Canadian Presbytery and North-east Presbytery are jointly represented until July 1, 2006). Non-voting advisory membership includes the Coordinator, Historian, Parliamentarian, President of WSU, and Chairmen and Chief Administrative Officers of the boards of the General Synod.

Acts on Behalf of the General Synod

The Executive Board has been granted the authority and duty to act on behalf of the General Synod in emergencies. These are situations that,

in the opinion of the Executive Board, cannot wait until the next stated meeting of the General Synod but which do not warrant a called meeting of the General Synod. Before considering a particular action, the voting members of the Board entitled to sit as a member of the court must first vote to act on behalf of Synod. Since the last meeting of the General Synod, the Executive Board took no action on behalf of the General Synod.

Referrals and Communications

- A. **Concurrent Assemblies and Synods of NAPARC Churches.**
An inquiry was sent to member churches of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council to see if they are willing to hold concurrent General Assemblies and Synods in 2009. The purpose is to hold seminars and meetings in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin. The Committee on Inter-church Relations was asked to make a recommendation to the General Synod.
- B. **Translations Committee.** General Synod 2004 approved the recommendation of the Special Committee on Organization pertaining to a "Translations Committee." The Executive Board was asked by the Special Committee to present guidelines for implementing the action of General Synod. The following recommendations are proposed for consideration by the General Synod:
 - a. That duty number 15, 2004 *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, page 12, be amended to read:
"15. When the General Synod has authorized the translation of the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* (or a portion thereof), to appoint a "Translation Team" to undertake the task in accordance with the "Guidelines for Translation Committee" approved by the 2004 General Synod."
 - b. That the following guidelines be printed in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, Executive Board of Synod:

Guidelines for Translations of Standards of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church As Approved by the General Synod (2004 Minutes of Synod, Page 397)

1. The translation of the Standards is to be encouraged.
2. The integrity of the translation must be assured.
3. The translation may not be a private undertaking by an individual.
4. The translation must be a team effort led by an ARP Church-approved fully-bilingual individual.
5. General Synod reserves the right to authorize (or otherwise) a translation.

6. The Executive Board of Synod is charged with the responsibility of determining the suitability of the translators.
 7. The ARP Church reserves the right to publish or not to publish a translation.
 8. Authorized translations will bear the imprimatur (official seal) of the ARP Church. **[See Proceedings]**
- C. Letter from Woman's Synodical Union Regarding the Family Bible Conference. The WSU Board, at its October 2004 meeting, approved a request to the General Synod. The WSU noted:
- “The responsibility of planning and running the (Family Bible) conference is divided between two organizations: the WSU and Synod. The WSU and Synod leadership separately organizes and carries out different portions of the conference, each having its own committees, duties and budget. The “men’s side” receives all the registration monies and has ended up with a surplus the last three years, while the “women’s side” has come up short. For financial reasons, as well as organizational reasons, it is our recommendation that the conference be put on by a committee dedicated to that purpose with a unified budget.”

The Executive Board approved the following request of the WSU for submission to the General Synod:

“The WSU requests that Synod form a committee to plan and to run the Family Bible Conference. This committee will consist of equal representation from the ARP Women's Ministries and from General Synod. The committee will work together in working from one budget.”

Committee Responsibilities

The Executive Board has four standing committees:

- A. **Committee on Administration:** This committee oversees the work of Administrative Services which provides management of the ARP Center Facility and accounting and general administrative support services for all agencies of Synod, except for Erskine, Bonclarken, and World Witness. Full-time staff members are Ed Hogan and Leland Beaudrot. Beth Willis, Louise Raby, Donna Wentz, and Alisa Prince continue to work on a part-time basis. Administrative Services serves as the administrative offices for Benefits, ARP Foundation, Dunlap, Executive Board, and Stewardship.

The committee meets prior to each meeting of the Executive Board. The Principal Clerk serves as chairman and the membership includes the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Treasurer. The Coordinator and Administrative Officer serve as advisory members. The committee is responsible for preparing the budgets for Admin-

istrative Services, the Center Facility, and the Executive Board. Additionally, the Committee on Administration has been designated as the Audit Committee of the legal entity (General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc.)

The Center Facility operates as a separate entity for funding purposes. Funding comes from allocations from the General Synod, rents from tenants (ARP and non-ARP), and occasional, unsolicited grants.

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

The proposed 2006 budgets for the Center Facility, Administrative Services, and the Executive Board are attached.

- B. **Committee to Plan Emphases:** The Moderator-Elect serves as chairman. Membership includes the Vice-President of the Woman's Synodical Union and representatives from each presbytery in alternating years, chosen by the Moderator-Elect. The emphases for the period July 2005 - June 2006 were approved by the Executive Board and are attached as information.
- C. **Committee to Plan Synod's Program:** The Moderator-Elect serves as chairman and he chooses a committee to assist him in planning for the meeting of Synod. The Executive Board approved the tentative program and authorized the Moderator and Moderator-Elect to make changes as might be necessary prior to presentation to the General Synod. Authorization was given for the WSU to include material in the 2005 Synod packet. The preliminary program is distributed with the unofficial reports.
- D. **Committee on Oversight of Coordinator:** Committee members are the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and the two immediate past moderators. The immediate past moderator serves as chairman. The committee meets with the Coordinator prior to each meeting of the Executive Board and reports to the Executive Board.

The Reverend Wilfred A. Bellamy began his duties as Coordinator July 1, 2002, and is to be commended for both his work as Coordinator and as a member of the Special Committee on Organization. He was a member of the Special Committee prior to assuming his duties as Coordinator and was encouraged to continue to serve as a member by the Committee on Oversight.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Board that the work of Wilfred Bellamy as Coordinator be continued. The position description of Coordinator, as adopted by the General Synod and

included in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, allows the Executive Board to renew the contract on an annual basis for up to three additional years. With General Synod's approval, the term of service may be extended on an annual basis for an additional four years, for a maximum service of eight years. The Executive Board has renewed the contract for the period July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006.

Miscellaneous Items

- A. **Pre-Synod Conference.** The Moderator-Elect was granted permission to plan for a Conference, to be held Monday Evening and Tuesday AM. A request of \$ 4,500 has been submitted to the Board of Stewardship to help fund the conference for 2005. The Executive Board budget for 2006 reflects funds for a conference for 2006 should one be planned.
- B. **Meeting Dates:** The following meeting dates have been set: October 27, 2005, March 23, 2006 and October 26, 2006. All meetings are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. at the ARP Center. The Committee to Oversee Coordinator meets at 6:00 PM on the day preceding the Board meeting and the Committee on Administration meets at 8:30 AM on the day of the meeting.
- C. **Appreciation:** The Board expresses appreciation to former moderator Dwight Pearson on completion of his seven years of association with the Executive Board. Appreciation is also expressed to Richard Moore (Mississippi Valley) and Charles Roberts (Northeast Presbytery). The Board acknowledges and expresses its appreciation to Moderator Frank Hunt and Vice-Moderator James McClurkin for their leadership and spiritual direction during the past year.

Recommendations

- 1. That the proposed budgets for Administrative Services, ARP Center Facility, and Executive Board of Synod be approved.
- 2. That the starting date for the next regular meeting of the General Synod be June 6, 2006 and that the meeting be held at Bonclarken.
- 3. That all changes in previously published dates for Synod-wide activities be coordinated with Administrative Services before implementation.
- 4. That the proposed changes in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* pertaining to the Transition Committee be approved. [**See Proceedings**]
- 5. That the request of the Woman's Synodical Union to form a committee to plan and run the Family Bible Conference be approved. [**See Proceedings**]
- 6. That all other actions of the Executive Board as reported herein be

sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Hunt, Moderator
C. Ronald Beard, Principal Clerk

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

A.R.P. CHURCH INVESTMENT HOLDINGS, INC.

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

The only holdings at this time represent the land and proceeds from the sale of land donated to the General Synod for the benefit of Outreach North America. Members of the Executive Committee of Outreach North America serve as officers for the corporation.

The A.R.P. Church Investment Holdings, Inc. is a subordinate organization of the General Synod.

Bylaws for A.R.P. Church Investment Holdings, Inc. are being developed.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Inc.

“General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc.” is the legal entity for the General Synod. The voting members of the Executive Board of Synod serve as directors of the corporation.

GSARPC meets at least annually to conduct business of the corporation. The annual meeting was held March 17, 2005 but had no business.

EMPHASIS FOR 2005-2006

DECADE THEME: New Life in the New Millennium

THEME FOR JULY 2005-JUNE 2006—Nurturing and Equipping God’s People

PRIMARY THEME VERSES: *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13, ((ESV)))*

JULY 2005—Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Becoming a Holy People of God.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9, ((ESV)))

AUGUST 2005–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: The Preaching of the Word.

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21, (ESV))

SEPTEMBER 2005–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Baptism into Christ.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27, (ESV))

OCTOBER 2005–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: The Lord’s Supper.

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (ESV))

NOVEMBER 2005–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: The Ministry of Prayer.

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18, (ESV))

DECEMBER 2005–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: The Confessions and Catechisms of the Church.

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15, (ESV))

JANUARY 2006–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Family Worship.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, (ESV))

FEBRUARY 2006–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Music

in the Church.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16, (ESV))

MARCH 2006–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Making Disciples.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20, (ESV))

APRIL 2006–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: The Ministry of Service.

For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. (2 Corinthians 9:12, (ESV))

MAY 2006–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Christian Education in the Church.

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. (Titus 2:7-8, (ESV))

JUNE 2006–Nurturing and Equipping God’s People: Christian Liberal Arts Education.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2, (ESV))

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2005	2006
	Revised	Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Current Fund Receipts		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 167,471	\$ 194,629
AS Expense Reimbursement	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous Sales & Services	3,536	3,642
Operating Fund Interest	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 176,007</u>	<u>\$ 203,271</u>

Agency Support		
ARP Foundation	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,550
Benefits	68,021	70,023
W. H. Dunlap Fund	4,250	4,250
Other Agencies	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 74,821</u>	<u>\$ 76,823</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 250,828</u>	<u>\$ 280,094</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Director		
Salary	\$ 66,497	\$ 68,492
Retirement	5,652	5,822
Insurance	14,607	15,337
Employer Tax	<u>5,087</u>	<u>5,240</u>
Director	<u>\$ 91,843</u>	<u>\$ 94,891</u>
Assistant to Director		
Salary	\$ 30,674	\$ 31,595
Housing Allowance	9,165	9,440
Retirement	3,386	3,488
Insurance	<u>14,423</u>	<u>15,144</u>
Assistant to Director	<u>\$ 57,648</u>	<u>\$ 59,667</u>
Support Staff Sub-Total	<u>\$ 90,529</u>	<u>\$ 90,852</u>
Staff & Program	<u>\$ 1,517</u>	<u>\$ 1,910</u>
Equipment		
Copier Lease	\$ 10,445	\$ 10,445
Postage Meter/Scales	1,029	1,080
Equipment Maintenance	5,814	6,105
Equipment Purchase	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Equipment	<u>\$ 19,788</u>	<u>\$ 20,130</u>
General Office		
General Office	<u>\$ 9,745</u>	<u>\$ 12,644</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 271,070</u>	<u>\$ 280,094</u>
Income Over (Under) Expend.	\$ (20,242)	\$ 0
Beginning Unencumbered Res.	<u>\$ 20,242</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Ending Unencumbered Reserve	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

**ARP CENTER FACILITY
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	2005 Revised	2006 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Denominational Ministry Alloc.	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,000

General Synod Interest Allocation	<u>304</u>	<u>214</u>
Allocations & Interest, Misc.s	\$ <u>15,304</u>	\$ <u>16,214</u>
Rent—General Synod Agencies		
Covenant Discipleship	5,639	5,808
Outreach North America	8,176	8,421
Publications	5,256	5,414
World Witness	<u>17,283</u>	<u>17,802</u>
Rent—General Synod Agencies	\$ <u>36,354</u>	\$ <u>37,445</u>
Rent—Non-Synod Agencies		
Unit #202 (Thompson)	7,703	7,934
Unit #204 (Stone)	2,336	2,406
Scottish Presbyterian	<u>2,723</u>	<u>2,805</u>
Rent—Non-Synod Agencies	<u>12,762</u>	<u>13,145</u>
Total Rent		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>64,420</u>	\$ <u>66,804</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Facility Management		
General Office	\$ 863	\$ 900
Expendable Supplies	541	557
Renovation/Contingency	<u>4,706</u>	<u>5,280</u>
Facility Management	\$ <u>6,110</u>	\$ <u>6,737</u>
Facility Maintenance		
Garbage Pickup	\$ 824	\$ 865
Ground Maintenance	3,960	4,079
Heating & Air Conditioning	2,000	2,060
Janitorial	14,400	14,832
Pest Control	<u>301</u>	<u>301</u>
Facility Maintenance	\$ <u>21,485</u>	\$ <u>22,137</u>
Utilities		
Electricity	\$ 17,112	\$ 17,626
Gas	14,402	14,834
Water & Sewer	<u>5,311</u>	<u>5,470</u>
Utilities	\$ <u>36,825</u>	\$ <u>37,930</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>64,420</u>	\$ <u>66,804</u>
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	\$ (0)	\$ (0)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ <u>14,428</u>	\$ <u>14,428</u>
Ending Fund Balance	\$ <u>14,428</u>	\$ <u>14,428</u>

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

RECEIPTS	2005	2006
	Revised	Proposed

Current Fund Receipts

Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 100,748	\$ 119,793
Additional Allocation (Historical Con.)	7,500	—
Miscellaneous	1,318	1,472
Synod Meeting Registration	<u>3,675</u>	<u>3,675</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 113,241	\$ 124,940

DISBURSEMENTS**General Synod Officers**

Moderator of Synod	\$ 3,867	\$ 3,867
Moderator-Elect of Synod	3,094	3,094
Principal Clerk	4,521	4,521
Treasurer of Synod	3,675	3,675
Vice Moderator	500	500
Vice-Moderator-Elect	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
General Synod Officers	\$ 16,157	\$ 16,157

Board

General Office Expenses	\$ 1,061	\$ 1,200
Executive Board Travel & Meeting	5,513	5,513
General Liability, Umbrella Insurance	6,000	7,075
Orientation to Work of General Synod	2,500	2,000
Leadership Orientation	0	1,200
Reserve for ARP Subscriptions	1,000	1,000
Emphasis Committee Travel & Exp.	<u>1,030</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Board	\$ 17,104	\$ 19,488

Preservation of Historical Material

Curator of ARP Materials Honorarium	\$ 500	\$ 500
Historian Honorarium	1,000	1,000
Reimbursed Expenses for Historian	1,000	1,000
Office Expenses	500	500

Montreat Office

Presbyterian Historical Society	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Preservation of Historical Material	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500

Coordinator

Coordinator Fees	\$ 47,895	\$ 47,895
Coordinator Reimbursed Expenses	<u>6,180</u>	<u>6,180</u>
Coordinator	\$ 54,075	\$ 54,075

Minutes of Synod

Preparation and Distribution	\$ 2,173	\$ 2,173
Printing	<u>\$ 13,082</u>	<u>13,082</u>
Minutes of Synod	\$ 15,255	\$ 15,255

Plan Book

Printing	\$ 2,298	\$ 2,298
Preparation & Distribution	<u>1,155</u>	<u>\$ 1,155</u>
Plan Book	<u>\$ 3,453</u>	<u>\$ 3,453</u>

Meeting of the General Synod

Program and Preparation	\$ 4,917	\$ 4,917
Honorariums	900	900
Staff Expenses	695	695
Pre-Synod Conference	<u>0</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Meeting of the General Synod	<u>\$ 6,512</u>	<u>\$ 11,012</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 117,556</u>	<u>\$ 124,940</u>
Excess Income Over (Under)		
Disbursements	<u>\$ (4,315)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

The **Moderator's Committee on Publications** recommended the adoption of Board recommendations 1-5 and offered two additional recommendations:

1. That the editor, associate editor and the Board of Publications be commended for their excellent work in producing and outstanding publication, in showing excellent stewardship of funds, and decreasing their request for denominational funds.
2. The Moderator's Committee on Publications concurs with the concerns of the Board of Publications and recommends that the Board of Publications continue in its present form.

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

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Publications offers thanks to God for the blessings showered upon the *ARP Magazine* in the past year. He has consistently given "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." Through the generosity of a number of people and organizations, the financial outlook of the *ARP Magazine* had greatly improved by the end of 2004. The Board was able to return to the Denominational Ministries Fund almost half of the additional allotment authorized by the Board of Stewardship to satisfy a previous deficit. During the past year, the Board was also able to replace or update a number of old or stolen pieces of equipment in the office of the *ARP Magazine*.

In the past year, the Board of Publications has continued its primary task of publishing the *ARP Magazine*, as well as maintaining a web page

for the magazine, and distributing news through the *ARP News Update* released weekly over the ARP Center's toll-free line, e-mail and the General Synod's web page. While the Board of Publications has handled formatting and layout for *The Adult Quarterly*, including the *Teacher's Guide* and *Large Print Edition*, for Covenant Discipleship in the past, a renewed emphasis has been given to providing assistance to other agencies of the church with their publishing needs. To date, this has included designing a number of brochures and newsletters. Most recently, the Editor has collaborated with Rev. Leland Beaudrot, assistant to the director of Administrative Services, to help redesign and reorganize the denomination's web page. It is hoped that the new page will be online in the near future.

The Board of Publications also continued to assist the Family Bible Conference by designing and coordinating printing of the conference brochures.

A recent addition to the pages of the *ARP Magazine*, is a regular theological column. "Focus Point," coordinated by Rev. Joel Gillespie of Covenant Fellowship ARP Church in Greensboro, N.C. The column is written by different authors on a variety of subjects, quite often approached as a series in order to be thorough. We have had excellent response to this new feature.

At its March meeting, the Board of Publications was asked to consider oversight of an existing e-mail discussion list, Presbyterians-ARP. The list was begun about nine years ago by Rev. Ken McMullen, who continues to serve as moderator of the group. The Board discussed the request and voted to decline.

In the past year, God has provided all the tools needed to produce the *ARP Magazine* and we are deeply grateful. That leaves the remaining task of building the subscription base. Subscription numbers remain at an unsatisfactory level. Along with other measures being taken to help alleviate the situation, the Board is now offering bulk subscriptions to churches at a reduced rate.

The Board of Publications firmly believes that the *ARP Magazine* plays an important role in the ARP denomination. As a primary information source, it has a unique opportunity to provide readers with an overview of the work the Lord is doing in our denomination. By doing so, the magazine can encourage churches and individuals in their service to Him, and also serve as an excellent tool for maintaining the connectional nature of the ARP Church.

The Board of Publications heard the proposal of the Special Committee on Organization regarding the dissolution of the Board of Publications. We indicated that The ARP magazine and its editor ought to have its own Board which would be accountable to General Synod. We requested

that the Special Committee reconsider the concerns that were presented previously, particularly keeping in mind that The ARP magazine provides a ministry as well as a service.

Recommendations:

1. That all churches consider the benefits of participating in the Church Club Plan for subscriptions to the denominational magazine.
2. That churches unable to meet the minimum number of subscriptions required by the Church Club Plan consider ordering bulk subscriptions for distribution to their members.
3. That each Session appoint an agent to promote and handle subscriptions to the *ARP Magazine*, if it has not already done so.
4. That General Synod encourage churches and pastors to promote the magazine to their members.
5. That the report of the Board of Publications be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John van Eyk, Chairman
Sabrina M. Cooper, Administrative Officer

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS BUDGET

	2005	2006
REVENUES	BUDGET	PROPOSED
Denominational Min. Alloc.	\$ 105,000	\$ 99,321
Miscellaneous Gifts	0	0
WSU Contributions	3,000	3,000
ARP Subscription Income	76,017	78,298
ARP Advertisement Income	12,984	13,374
Misc Income	0	0
WSU Study Book Sales Income	18,540	19,096
Agency Support & Services	1,300	1,339
Interest Allocation	<u>1,628</u>	<u>1,677</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 218,470</u>	<u>\$ 216,105</u>

PAYROLL & STAFF BENEFITS

Salary/TDA - Editor	\$ 52,538	\$ 54,114
Salary/TDA - Asst. Editor	32,208	33,174
Salary - Clerical	1,236	1,273
SS - Editor	3,195	3,291
SS - Asst. Editor	1,997	2,057
SS - Clerical	45	46
Medicare - Editor	747	770
Medicare - Asst. Editor	467	481
Medicare - Clerical	11	11
Insurance - Editor	14,928	15,376
Insurance - Asst. Editor	6,162	6,346

Workers Compensation Ins	543	560
STAFF & BOARD EXPENSES		
Editor Expenses	3,090	3,183
Staff Expenses	750	773
Board Meeting & Travel Exp	3,500	3,605
Dues & Membership Fees	175	180
PUBLICITY & PROMOTION		
Publicity & Promotion	1,000	267
ARP News Update 800 Charges	213	220
"The ARP" Web Page	600	0
Periodicals & Publications	0	0
EQUIPMENT		
Equipment Maintenance	103	106
Equipment Purchase	0	2,500
COMMUNICATIONS		
Internet Services	179	185
Long Distance	773	796
MISCELLANEOUS		
Rent	5,256	5,414
Office Supplies & Misc	3,017	3,108
Contingency	515	530
PRODUCTION EXPENSES		
Preparation & Printing	47,408	48,830
Labels and Postage	11,873	12,229
Materials and Supplies	1,500	1,545
Photography Expenses	1,000	159
OTHER EXPENSES		
WSU Study Books	14,540	14,976
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 209,570	\$ 216,104
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ 8,900	\$ 0

Thomas C. Shoger, Co-Chairman of the Board of Stewardship, addressed the Synod prior to the reading of the report of the Moderator's Committee on Stewardship.

The **Moderator's Committee on Stewardship/Foundation** recommended the adoption of recommendations 1-8 and 10-12. Recommendation 9 of the report was deemed to be a moot point due to previous action. The recommendations were separated. Recommendations 1, and 4-12 were adopted. Recommendations 2 and 3 were presented and adopted.

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP/FOUNDATION

Introduction

General Synod 2004 authorized the Board of Stewardship and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation to unite their mission and ministry under one board with the following provisos:

- a. That the approved membership as of July 1, 2004 of both boards constitute the membership of the new board until a revised membership is approved at the next meeting of the General Synod.
- b. That the newly constituted board present revised by-laws and or policy book to the 2005 meeting of the General Synod, being cognizant of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Organization.
- c. That the newly constituted board present a proposal to the 2005 General Synod for a field worker to help presbyteries, churches, and individuals to understand stewardship as part of personal sanctification.

(2004 Minutes of Synod, pages 466, 527)

General Synod 2004 also authorized the implementation of provisions of the Report of the Special Committee on Organization “that are acceptable to a particular board or committee.” (2004 Minutes of Synod, page 400)

The members of the Board of Stewardship and the directors of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc., met jointly September 23–24, 2004, and officially united the mission and ministry of the two boards. The Board appointed a committee to prepare revised by-laws and policy book and to prepare the proposal for the field worker “to help presbyteries, churches, and individuals to understand stewardship as part of personal sanctification.” Their work was presented at the April 7–8, 2005 meeting of the unified board.

The 2004 reports emphasized the desire to change the focus of stewardship work from meeting the needs of Synod to meeting the spiritual needs of the people in the pews. Expressed was the desire for a teaching ministry to help people with Biblical life management and stewardship information and motivation, believing that when lives have been changed and blessed, resources for ministry at all levels will follow.

As a practical consideration, the Boards envisioned two committees to handle the administrative activities - one for budgeting and allocation and the other for investments. These committees would use the existing staff resources of Administrative Services. The Special Committee on Organization recommended for consideration separating the two committees from the unified board, creating a Finance Committee and an Investment Committee, both reporting to the General Synod.

In its deliberations, the Board concurred with the Special Committee on Organization on the matter of creating a separate Investment Committee. Implementation for the Investment Committee was left to the discretion of

the Special Committee on Organization. The Board concluded that it was within its intended purpose to retain a Finance Committee within the Board of Stewardship. The Special Committee on Organization concurred.

While the mission and ministry of the two boards have been united, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation"), will continue to exist as the legal entity for holding the assets contributed to the General Synod, including Gift Annuities, Charitable Trusts, and endowment-type funds. The members of the Board of Stewardship will serve as the directors of the Foundation and meetings will be held concurrently. Actions of the Board pertaining to the Foundation will be recorded in separate minutes. The newly constituted Investment Committee will be used as the investment advisory committee of the Board.

The Board again shares its conviction that the church's willingness to commit resources on a short-term basis to help develop Christian stewards in our congregations is critical to the success of a "Ministry of Biblical Stewardship." We see the need for a person, with appropriate education and experience, to work in the field, helping presbyteries, churches, and individuals understand stewardship as part of personal sanctification. This person's primary focus will be ministry, divorced from the gathering of funds for ministry. As authorized by the 2004 General Synod, the Board has prepared a position description for a "Stewardship Counselor" to provide vision and leadership for the Board's efforts in the "Ministry of Biblical Stewardship."

The revised by-laws for the Foundation, Policy Book for the Board of Stewardship, and the position description for the "Stewardship Counselor" are attached.

The Board will continue to seek to work cooperatively with individuals, churches, presbyteries, and agencies of the General Synod in the mutual goal of extending Christ's Kingdom. We express our most sincere appreciation to individuals, the Woman's Synodical Union, congregations, and agencies for their financial stewardship. We rejoice in our partnership as we seek to witness and minister in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Position Paper on Financial Support and Fund-Raising in the Local Church

General Synod 2003 asked the Board of Stewardship "through whatever means of advisement or counsel it may require, to make study of the biblical and pragmatic issues involved in the manner of financial support and fundraising in the local church, and to present to the General Synod for its approval at its meeting in June 2004 a position paper setting forth biblical principles guiding the practice of the local church in regards to proper means for securing the finances necessary for the work of the church." (2003 Minutes of Synod, p. 69.)

The Board's response to the 2004 General Synod (2004 Minutes of Synod, pages 528 – 532) was recommitted to the Board due to the fact that it was not presented as a "Position Paper."

As has been previously indicated in this report, a main focus of the Board this year has been uniting two boards into one, restructuring the unified board, revising by-laws and policy book, and developing a position description. As a result the position paper was not addressed until the spring meeting. At that meeting the development of a "Position Paper" proved to be a more difficult task than anticipated. The Board has appointed a committee to complete the work, with the intent of submitting the position paper to the Committee on Theological Concerns for review and comment. The intent is to submit to the 2006 General Synod a position paper that has the endorsement of the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns. We apologize that we have not been able to complete this work.

Audit

The independent firm of Ron Millard, CPA P.A. is conducting the December 31, 2004, audit. The scope of the audit includes the books of the Treasurer of the Synod, the ARP Foundation's custodial funds, the ARP Foundation's gift annuity funds, and Outreach North America's revolving loan funds.

The Special Committee on Organization has reported that it will be recommending that the Finance Committee of the Board of Stewardship serve as the Audit Committee for the General Synod. The Policy Book of the Board of Stewardship will be amended accordingly to reflect the action of the General Synod on this matter.

The audited financial statements will reflect an increase in General Synod's operating fund balance of approximately \$106,922, as compared to an increase of \$72,250 in the prior year. The fund balance at 12/31/2004 was approximately \$323,682. This represents approximately 11.18% of the approved and recommended allocations of \$2,894,557 for 2005 (including additional recommended allocations.) Synod, by its previous action, has directed an operating reserve of not less than 6.5% of the anticipated funds for allocation. Commitments that would reduce the operating reserve below the prescribed level must be referred to the Board of Stewardship for study and recommendation. (See *Rules of Order*, Section VIII (F).)

Budget of Allocated Funds

Funding For 2005: Each year, at the Spring meeting of the Board, the projected revenues for the current calendar year are reviewed. If the expected funds exceed the allocations approved at the prior meeting of the General Synod, the Board follows the procedure adopted by the 1997 General Synod (page 622, *1997 Minutes of Synod*). This procedure allows the Board to consider additional funding requests from the program agen-

cies of the General Synod and to make recommendations to the General Synod for the additional allocations.

If the expected funds fall below the amount approved for allocation, the Board has the unpleasant and difficult task of adjusting the allocations. That was last necessary for Calendar Year 2003.

For the current calendar year, the board anticipates sufficient revenue to recommend the following additional allocations:

Bonclarken—\$ 5,000 to be used for the actuarial drawings for a possible chapel improvement project, with an additional \$20,000 set aside to be used if and as needed for actual chapel improvements.

Covenant Discipleship—\$ 25,000 set aside to be used as needed to continue with the development of reformed writing and curriculum. An ARP Sunday School series for young people, following the international series, is being planned.

Covenant Discipleship—\$ 20,000 set aside to be used as needed to help in the transitional cost for a new Executive Director in 2006

Erskine—\$ 25,000 set aside to be used as needed to renovate the Facilities Maintenance building at Erskine.

The Executive Board of Synod asked for \$4,500 to cover the cost of the pre-synod conference on Worship. This will be paid from current year reserves.

General Synod 2004 authorized the ARP Foundation to carry forward unused funds for calendar year 2004. With the restructuring of the Board of Stewardship and the ARP Foundation into one board, the Board of Stewardship is requesting permission for the new board to carry forward unused funds for calendar years 2005 and 2006.

For 2006: The Board's recommended allocations are presented separately as "Recommended Allocations of Synod's Unrestricted Income." The projected income for 2006 reflects the anticipated commitments for 2005. The Board has made its projections, based on the following at the time of the Board meeting:

193 churches have made commitments for 2005 or are making payments in such a manner that the commitment can be anticipated.

13 churches have reported that they will not give.

Of the 57 churches not reporting, 35 did not exist or did not give in 2004. The 22 that gave in 2004 (but have not yet pledged or given in 2005) gave \$ 42,660 in 2004.

Consistent with prior guidance by the General Synod, the Board of Stewardship will review the approved allocations and will make adjustments as necessary following the receipt of commitments for 2006 and the 2005 year-end report.

The Board of Stewardship reminds the members of the Court that the Board of Stewardship does not act on the budgets of General Synod agen-

cies. Budgets are to be reviewed in Moderator's Committees or when the Court considers Standing Committee Reports.

Attention is called, also, to a particular action of the 1983 General Synod:

"That all agencies of Synod submit line item budgets to the Board of Stewardship as a part of the budget making process, and that all agencies, excluding Erskine College, submit proposed line item budgets for the ensuing fiscal year as a part of their official report to Synod. Further, that, except for Erskine College, the salaries of the administrative officer(s) be shown as a separate item. (Salaries for other personnel may be shown in total.) (1983 *Minutes of Synod*, p. 79)"

All agencies (excluding Erskine) are submitting line item budgets to the degree needed by the Board of Stewardship, but not all are showing the salary of the chief administrative officer as a separate item. Some agencies are not including this information in their reports to Synod and Synod has not noted the failure to comply. The Board is submitting a recommendation to determine if the 1983 action reflects the current will of the General Synod.

Communications and Educational Resources

Stewardship materials are distributed to each church on or before September 1. Pastors/Clerks are encouraged to make sure that these materials are distributed to those involved in the budget making process.

The orientation program for ministers and professional employees beginning service in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church offers one of the best opportunities for education and inclusion. Presbyteries are urged to make participation mandatory and to schedule a time for attendance.

Denominational Ministry Fund

All churches are encouraged to give for denominational ministry through the Denominational Ministry Fund. The General Synod has established that the primary means for Associate Reformed Presbyterians to channel financial resources for denominational witness and ministry is through the Denominational Ministry Fund. These gifts fund the allocations approved by the General Synod. The goal, established by the General Synod, is for each church to give 20% of its unrestricted tithes and offerings. Churches that are unable to meet the 20% goal are asked to give at least 10% (a tithe of the tithe). Churches that cannot meet the 20% goal are encouraged to increase their level of giving by one (1) percentage point each year toward the goal.

The Board will be studying the matter of funding for denominational

ministries.

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

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

We would again encourage the presbyteries to
 take steps to secure information from its churches (The effort to have the churches report pledges to their presbytery chairman produced very mixed results. Some chairmen failed to report any pledges. The same procedure is planned for involving presbytery in the funding process.),
 counsel churches that are not giving through the Denominational Ministry Fund, and
 encourage churches that are giving less than 10% to increase their percentage level of giving in an effort to reach the Denominational Ministry Fund goals established by the General Synod.

The Board continues in its efforts to establish a structure to allow the Canadian churches to participate financially in the ministries of the General Synod.

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

Special Offerings

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Easter Offering					
ARP Foundation	\$ 16,393	\$ 11,588	\$ 12,673	\$ 10,758	\$ 12,599
Bonclarken	23,955	17,252	19,456	16,377	15,705
Covenant Disc.	17,465	12,377	13,462	11,977	11,120
Erskine College	21,264	15,805	17,091	15,900	15,194
World Witness	<u>35,919</u>	<u>25,843</u>	<u>28,417</u>	<u>23,181</u>	<u>24,597</u>
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 114,996</u>	<u>\$ 82,865</u>	<u>\$ 91,099</u>	<u>\$ 78,193</u>	<u>\$ 79,215</u>
Thanksgiving Offering					

Ersine Seminary	\$ 9,351	\$ 11,760	\$ 10,670	\$ 12,128	\$ 11,355
American Bible Soc.	6,476	8,503	7,571	7,609	8,143
Outreach North America	16,513	19,259	16,012	16,440	15,828
Christmas Ben. Fund	37,094	42,049	41,029	40,935	43,593
Sub-Total	\$ 69,434	\$ 81,571	\$ 75,282	\$ 77,112	\$ 78,919
Total Offering	\$ 184,430	\$ 164,436	\$ 166,381	\$ 155,305	\$ 158,134

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

Financial Resource Management

The Board will continue to administer endowment-type assets. The Foundation will provide the investment vehicle for the endowment-type funds of the General Synod and agencies of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The attached report "Ministry Through Endowments" provides additional information.

Administrative Information

Board Membership

The joint membership of the unified board exceeds the membership as proposed in the Policy Book for the Board of Stewardship. Some members could be reassigned to the newly constituted Investment Committee. It is the boards desire, and recommendation, that the membership be achieved through attrition without any member's service being arbitrarily curtailed.

Meeting Dates for 2005—2006: September 22—23, 2005, April 20—21, 2006, and September 21—22, 2006.

Officers

The following have been elected to serve for the period July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006:

Chairman: Tom Shoger

Vice Chairman: Tim Erskine

Secretary: David Walkup

Mr. Guy H. (Chip) Smith, III, serves as Treasurer and Mr. Ed Hogan serves as the Board's Administrative Officer.

Retiring Members

The Board expresses its appreciation to retiring members Rodney Shands, Jeff Lipscomb, James D. (Jim) Bockover, Grier Westbrook, Ed Carson, and Mrs. Harriet Linderman (WSU).

Recommendations

1. That the restructuring of the Board of Stewardship as reflected herein be sustained and that the following documents be approved for inclusion in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*:
 - a. By-laws of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc.
 - b. Policy Book for Board of Stewardship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. That the Position Description for the Stewardship Counselor be approved.
3. That the Board of Stewardship be authorized to fill the position as soon as practicable.
4. That the process for preparing and submitting a position paper on “Financial Support and Fund-Raising in the Local Church” as presented in the Report be affirmed.
5. That the recommended additional allocations from 2005 funds, as presented in the report, be approved.
6. That boards and committees requesting allocations from the General Synod for budget year 2007 submit their requests following procedures outlined by the Board of Stewardship.
7. That the General Synod directive of 1983, as referenced in the body of the report, be restated as follows: “That all agencies of Synod submit line item budgets to the Board of Stewardship as a part of the budget making process, and that all agencies, excluding Erskine College, submit proposed line item budgets for the ensuing fiscal year as a part of their official report to Synod. Further, that, except for Erskine College, the salary (to include housing allowance) of the chief administrative officer be shown as a separate item. (Salaries for other personnel may be shown in total.)”
8. That each church, in determining its level of giving through the Denominational Ministry Fund:
 - a. have a Session meeting (joint meeting with Diaconate if appropriate) at the beginning of the budgeting process to review the Report of the Board of Stewardship and other material presented by the Board of Stewardship and
 - b. commit to a planned process attempting to attain Synod’s established Denominational Ministry Fund goal.
9. That presbyteries, if they have not done so:
 - a. establish procedures that require ministers entering ministry in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to attend the General Synod orientation, preferably within the first year of ministry in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; and
 - b. consider establishing procedures for monitoring and encour-

aging the reporting of statistical data by the churches in its presbytery.

[Not Considered]

10. That the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings be continued for 2006.
11. That the Budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved and permission be granted to carry forward unused funds for calendar years 2005 and 2006.
12. That all other actions, as reported herein, be sustained.

Respectfully,

Tom Shoger, Co-Chairman

Ed Hogan, Administrative Officer

Budget

Board of Stewardship

	2005	2006
	Budget	Proposed
RECEIPTS		
Synod Supplement	\$ 69,792	\$ 76,792
Special Offering	12,000	12,000
Transfers for Ministry	<u>25,083</u>	<u>25,083</u>
Total Receipts	\$ <u>106,875</u>	\$ <u>113,875</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board and Travel Expenses	\$ 11,803	\$ 11,803
Administrative Support	3,750	3,750
General Synod Audit	5,950	5,950
Program and Resources	5,700	5,700
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	25,083	25,083
General Office Expenses	1,467	1,467
Stewardship Counselor		
Compensation & Benefits	-0-	76,468
Adjustment for Partial Yr. Funding	-0-	<21,472>
Consultant OR Stewardship Couns.	10,665	10,665
General Synod Contingency	<u>24,532</u>	<u>24,532</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>88,950</u>	\$ <u>143,946</u>
Receipts Over (Under) Disb.	\$ 17,925	\$ <30,071>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>12,146</u>	<u>30,071</u>
Ending Fund Balance	\$ <u>30,071</u>	\$ <u>-0-</u>

Note: Board of Stewardship would be funded on as need basis effective calendar year 2007.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Ministry Through Endowments

The **Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation Endowment** provides resources for denominational ministry. The goal for the Foundation Endowment is that it will grow an average of 10% per year through additional gifts and investment performance. The purpose for the Endowment is to provide a steady flow of resources to supplement those provided by churches through the Denominational Ministry Fund. On an annual basis, five percent of the prior three year ending market value of the Foundation Endowment is contributed to the General Synod as a contribution to the Denominational Ministry Fund. At 12/31/2004, the market value of the Endowment was \$ 662,950. The value of the fund increased by 10.55% in 2004. In addition to the Foundation Endowment, the Board:

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

have been donated to the Foundation for designated purposes.

- **Special Endowment Fund.** This fund was established by Logan V. Pratt, Sr., a founding director of the Foundation and past member of the Board. All gifts and realized gains and losses on investments are treated as the corpus of the fund and only the net income from interest and dividends is distributed to the specified agencies. In the event that the Foundation should cease to exist, the assets will be distributed to the following six agencies on an equal basis: Bonclarken, Covenant Discipleship (Christian Education), Due West Retirement Center, Erskine College, Outreach North America, and World Witness. Additional gifts of \$1,619.74 were added in 2004. The 12/31/2004 fund balance (at cost) was \$176,658.02 including an income balance of \$9,262.28 (as compared to \$8,760.30 at 12/31/2003). The income balance has been distributed in accordance with the terms of the fund, with 10% of the income given to the General Synod to help fund the Denominational Ministry Fund allocations. The fund is open for additional contributions. We again express our appreciation to Mr. Pratt.

- **ARP Foundation Crowder's Creek Cemetery Fund.** Established in 1988, one half of the income is reinvested with the other 50% distributed to the Session of the Crowder's Creek Church for cemetery maintenance. If the income distributed to the Session exceeds the amount needed for maintenance or expansion of the cemetery, the excess is to be divided equally between the Boards of World Witness and Outreach North America. The fund is open for additional contributions.

- **Robert Oates Fund for Evangelism Leadership Training.** Established with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oates in 1989, the fund is used "to promote person-to-person evangelism training and experience within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination, especially within the ranks of the teaching elders." Typically, offering scholarship assistance for attendance and completion of evangelistic courses will do this. First priority is given to ARP Seminary students at Erskine. Second priority is given to ministers or staff of ARP churches that have not had the opportunity in the past to attend such training programs. Third priority is given to ARP Seminary students in seminaries other than Erskine who express a desire for such training. Over \$12,137 has been distributed to date. Should the need exist, the donor has requested, and the Board has concurred, that the corpus can be invaded. Interested persons should contact the Administrative Officer (Ed Hogan) or the Vice President of ETS (Neely Gaston). The fund is open for additional contributions.

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

Investment Management

The Foundation currently uses UBS Financial Services, Inc. PACE Select Advisor Trust as the investment vehicle for endowment type funds under the Foundation’s umbrella. The PACE Trust is a family of twelve, style-specific, no-load funds managed by institutional investment advisors. This program:

- Is designed to promote diversification in the investments. The following PACE Select Models are available (Prepared 12/31/04):

Cash	Stocks	Bonds	Total Standard		
%	%	%	Return	Deviation	
Very Conservative	10	0	90	5.27	4.34
Conservative	2	21	77	5.88	5.50
Mod Conservative	2	37	61	6.35	7.07
Moderate	2	52	46	6.74	8.66
Mod Aggressive	2	67	31	7.14	10.41
Aggressive	2	83	15	7.66	12.53
Very Aggressive	2	98	0	8.03	14.36

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

- Allows churches and agencies greater flexibility in allocating and reallocating assets to meet particular financial objectives. Each agency determines the asset allocation that most fits their needs and risk tolerance.
- Provides direct reporting on the investments by providing each fund with a monthly statement from the investment manager.
- Provides the best investment manager for a particular asset class. The size of the investment pool allows UBS Financial Services, Inc. to hire the best manager for a particular asset class rather than one investment manager for several asset classes.
- Provides for quicker response when there is the need to change an investment manager if there is a change in the firm due to loss of personnel, style drift, or poor performance.
- The Administrative Officer receives monthly statements and facilitates additions and withdrawals. Quarterly performance statements are submitted to the Investment Committee. The consultant meets with the Board at regularly scheduled meetings and is available for telephone conference between meetings. There are now fifty-four (54) separately

invested funds (included those referenced above) invested in the PACE SelectAdvisor Trust. Additionally, the ONA Endowment is invested primarily with SunTrust Bank. Asset mix ranges from 80% equity to 100% fixed income. At 12/31/2004, the market value of funds under the Foundation umbrella was \$9,502,977.

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

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

- The funds under the investment umbrella of the Foundation are audited as a part of the General Synod audit. A copy of the audit is given to the Chairman of the Board and is available for review at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

BYLAWS ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, INC. AS AMENDED TO APRIL 8, 2005 ARTICLE I

Name, Seal, Offices, and Fiscal Year

1. **Name.** The name of this corporation is ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, INC.
2. **Seal.** The seal of the corporation shall be circular and shall bear on its outer edge the words "Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc.," and in the center, the words and figures "Corporate Seal 1966." The board of directors may change the form of the seal or the inscription thereon at its pleasure.
3. **Offices.** The principal office of the corporation shall be located at One Cleveland Street in the City of Greenville, County of Greenville, State of South Carolina.
4. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of this corporation shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE II Board of Directors

1. **General Structure of the Board.** The corporate powers, business, property, and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its board of directors. The members of the Board of Stewardship shall serve as Directors of the corporation. Directors need not be residents of

the State of North Carolina. The Moderator and the Moderator-Elect of the General Synod, the Coordinator of the General Synod, and the Administrative Officer shall serve as advisory members to the Board. The number of Directors shall be as determined by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as set forth in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*, as that document exists from time to time.

2. **Annual Meetings.** The board shall meet at least two (2) times annually which meetings may take place via telephonic conference call or other similar arrangement wherein each Director can hear and be heard simultaneously with other Directors.
3. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by the chairman or by any three (3) directors of the board.
4. **Notice of Meetings.** Directors shall be advised of a called meeting by telephone, mail, or electronic communication so as to receive notice of such meeting at least five (5) days before such meeting, but such notice may be waived by any director. At any called meeting at which every member shall be present business other than that listed in the call may be transacted. Telephone conference call meetings may be held when necessary; however, an affirmative vote of a majority of the directors will be required for approval of action.
5. **Quorum and Manner of Acting.** At all meetings of the board of directors, a majority of the directors shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the directors present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the board, except as may be otherwise specifically provided by statute or by these bylaws. If at any meeting there is less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice to secure a quorum.

ARTICLE III

Officers

1. **Number.** The officers of the corporation shall be the officers of the Board of Stewardship and such other officers with such powers and duties not inconsistent with these bylaws as may be appointed and determined by the board of directors.
2. **Chairman.** The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the board of directors. He shall have and exercise general charge and supervision of the affairs of the corporation and shall do and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the board of directors.
3. **Vice-Chairman.** At the request of the chairman or in the event of

his absence or disability, the vice-chairman shall perform the duties and possess and exercise the powers of the chairman; and, to the extent authorized by law, the vice-chairman shall have such other powers as the board of directors may determine and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the board of directors.

4. **Secretary.** The secretary shall have charge of such books, documents and papers as the board of directors may determine and shall have the custody of the corporate seal. He shall attend and keep the minutes of all the meetings of the board of directors. He may sign, with the chairman or vice-chairman, in the name and on behalf of the corporation, any contracts or agreements authorized by the board of directors and, when so authorized or ordered by the board of directors, he may affix the seal of the corporation. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of secretary, subject to the control of the board of directors, and shall do and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the board of directors.
5. **Treasurer.** The treasurer shall have the custody of all funds, property and securities of the corporation, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the board of directors. He may be required to give bond for the faithful performance of his duties in such sum and with such sureties as the board of directors may require. When necessary or proper, he may endorse on behalf of the corporation for collection checks, notes and other obligations and shall deposit the same to the credit of the corporation at such bank or banks or depository as the board of directors may designate. He shall sign all receipts and vouchers and, together with such other officer or officers, if any, as shall be designated by the board of directors, he shall sign all checks of the corporation and all bills of exchange and promissory notes issued by the corporation, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly designated by the board of directors or by these bylaws to some other officer or agent of the corporation. He shall make such payments as may be necessary or proper to be made on behalf of the corporation. He shall enter regularly on the books of the corporation, to be kept by him for the purpose, full and accurate account of all monies and obligations received and paid or incurred by him for or on account of the corporation and shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times to any director on application at the offices of the corporation. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer, subject to the control of the board of directors.
6. **Administrative Officers.** The board may employ or appoint an Executive Director and/or Administrative Officer. Such Administra-

tive Officers shall not be voting members of the board and the duties shall be usual to such positions and such other and further duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the board.

ARTICLE IV

Committees

Various Committees. The Chairman shall have the power to appoint such committees as may be necessary for the effective conduct of the business of the corporation; provided that the directors shall at all times have power to modify, add to, take from or otherwise change and alter the duties and function of any such committee.

ARTICLE V

Contracts

The board of directors may authorize any officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to a specific instance; and unless so authorized by the board of directors, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or to any amount.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

The board of directors shall have power to make, alter, amend and repeal the bylaws of the corporation, subject to the limitation of ARTICLE VII, by affirmative vote of a majority of the board, provided, however, that the action be proposed at a regular or special meeting of the board and adopted at a subsequent regular meeting, except as otherwise provided by law, provided that any amendment shall be submitted to the next session of the General Synod for approval.

ARTICLE VII

Dissolution or Liquidation

Upon the dissolution or liquidation of this corporation, all of its assets held at that time shall be transferred and paid over to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for its unrestricted use. This article may never be amended except as may be necessary to keep this corporation qualified and tax-exempt under the aforesaid laws.

POLICY BOOK BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP OF THE

**ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
APRIL 8, 2005**

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. NAME. The name shall be “*Board of Stewardship of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church,*” commonly known as Board of Stewardship (Board), with principal offices at the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center, One Cleveland Street, Greenville, South Carolina.

Section 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Board is to:

- (a) Promote the general ministries and programs of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church;
- (b) develop and/or identify, and keep current, resources that can be used for the teaching of biblical stewardship in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church;
- (c) assist in developing financial stewardship models for presbyteries, congregations, and agencies of the General Synod;
- (d) develop and implement programs for securing the funds required to meet the operating needs of the General Synod;
- (e) prepare for presentation at the annual meeting of the General Synod a recommended allocation of Synod’s anticipated unrestricted income;
- (f) prepare and maintain denominational budget preparation guidelines;
- (g) receive and maintain a fund or funds of real and personal property and to use, make donations of, and apply the whole or any part of the income therefrom and the principal exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific and educational purposes and for no other purpose;
- (h) initiate and carry out programs in support of the religious, charitable, missionary, and educational programs of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, or its successor;
- (i) solicit and accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, purchase or otherwise and to hold for investment or reinvestment and to sell, donate, lend or otherwise dispose of money, real estate, personal property, stocks, bonds, or other securities or any other kind of property;
- (j) refrain from engaging, either directly or indirectly, in any activity that would (1) prevent it from obtaining exemption from federal income taxation as a corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or (2) cause it to lose such exempt status; and

- (k) invest endowment-type funds and other long term investments of the General Synod and of those agencies of Synod which commit funds to the Foundation, in accordance with guidelines approved by the General Synod.

ARTICLE II

The Board

Section 1. NUMBER AND TENURE. Membership on the Board shall be as follows:

- (a) Six (6) members elected by the General Synod each serving for a six-year term;
- (b) Chairman of Finance/Stewardship Committee from each presbytery or a representative chosen by the presbytery as an ex-officio member;
- (c) Treasurer of Synod and WSU Treasurer as ex-officio members; and
- (d) the following as non-voting, advisory members: The Moderator and Moderator-Elect of the General Synod, the Coordinator of the General Synod, and the Board's Administrative Officer.

Members elected by the General Synod shall not be eligible for a second term until one (1) year after completion of the term.

Members elected by the General Synod who are absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board without an approved excuse will be considered by the Board to have resigned and will be notified, and the General Synod shall be requested to elect a member to fill the unexpired term.

Section 2. VACANCIES. Vacancies shall be filled as set forth in Section 1 in this Article.

Section 3. MEETINGS. The Board shall meet at least two (2) times annually. The Board shall meet on the call of the chairman or secretary or any three voting members. Members shall be advised of a called meeting by telephone, electronic communication, or mail so as to receive notice of such meeting at least five (5) days before such meeting but such notice may be waived by any member. At any called meeting at which every member shall be present business other than that stated in the call also might be transacted. Telephonic conference-call meetings may be held when necessary; however, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board will be required for approval of action in a telephone meeting.

Section 4. QUORUM. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board. If at any meeting there is less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice in order to secure a quorum.

Section 5. AUTHORITY. The Board shall have responsibility for

working cooperatively with the congregations and agencies of the General Synod to:

- (a) develop and administer programs and ministries to secure financial resources to meet the operating needs of the General Synod;
- (b) to present to the General Synod a recommended allocation of those resources;
- (c) 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.

In the exercise of its authority, the Board shall comply with the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* and shall act in an impartial and non-discriminatory manner.

Section 6. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. The Board may employ an administrative officer or utilize the services of the Director of Administrative Services as the administrative officer. Such administrative officer shall not be a voting member of the Board and his duties shall be the duties usual to such positions and such other and further duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

Section 7. COMPENSATION. Board members shall not receive compensation for their attendance at the meetings of the board, but will be reimbursed for normal and reasonable expenses. Compensation paid to the administrative officer shall be within the limitations of a budget approved by the General Synod.

ARTICLE III Officers

Section 1. OFFICERS. The officers of the Board shall be the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as the Board may from time to time provide. The chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary shall be members of the Board. The treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the General Synod.

Section 2. ELECTION. The chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary shall be elected for a term of one year by the Board at its Spring meeting to begin service on July 1 following.

Section 3. VACANCIES. In case of a vacancy in any office of the Board, except for that of treasurer, the majority of the members then in office, even if less than a quorum, may elect an officer to fill such vacancy, and the officer so elected shall hold office and serve until the normal date for the end of a term of office.

Section 4. CHAIRMAN. The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board and perform such other duties as are usually incumbent upon

and incident to this position which may be assigned from time to time by the Board. The chairman shall make committee appointments, subject to confirmation by the Board.

Section 5. VICE-CHAIRMAN. The vice-chairman shall have the power and perform the duties of the chairman during the absence or disability or refusal to act of the chairman or in case of a vacancy in the office of chairman, and perform such other duties which may from time to time be assigned by the Board.

Section 6. SECRETARY. The secretary shall perform the duties incident to this office or which may from time to time be assigned by the Board. He shall keep minutes of all the meetings of the Board and of the Executive Committee of the Board, and shall give notice of all such meetings requiring notice. The Board may appoint a Recording Secretary to record the minutes of Board and committee meetings.

Section 7. TREASURER. The treasurer shall perform all duties usually incident to his office or which may from time to time be assigned him by the Board.

ARTICLE IV Committees

Section 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and chairmen of the other standing committees. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be

- (a) to handle emergencies between stated meetings of the Board;
- (b) to be of general assistance to the Treasurer of Synod and its administrative officer in areas of general management of the Board and General Synod which have not been specifically assigned elsewhere; and
- (c) to bring to the Board any recommendations deemed necessary for the good of the Board.-

The committee shall keep full and accurate records of its proceedings and actions and shall report them to the next succeeding meeting of the Board. The Board may alter or revise such actions, provided that no rights of third persons shall be affected by any such revision or alteration.

Section 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE. The Finance Committee shall consist of not less than one-half of the voting members of the Board. This committee shall be responsible for items referred to it by the Board with specific responsibilities:

- (a) To develop and maintain the basis for determining Denominational Ministry Fund goals;
- (b) to develop, maintain, and communicate to the agencies of the General Synod a procedure for developing the recommended allocation

- of General Synod's unrestricted resources;
- (c) to approve the estimate of Denominational Ministry Fund resources for the ensuing budget year; and
- (d) to apply the procedure for developing the recommended allocation of General Synod's unrestricted resources in preparing the recommended allocations to the Board.

Section 3. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The Communication and Education Committee shall consist of not less than one-half of the voting members of the Board. This committee shall be responsible for items referred to it by the Board with specific responsibilities:

- (a) to develop and/or identify, and keep current, resources which can be used for the teaching of total stewardship in Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches;
- (b) to develop and oversee an ongoing communication program with presbyteries and churches for securing financial resources for denominational ministries; and
- (c) to provide oversight for denominational deferred gifts.

The Committee shall be cognizant of the materials prepared by or under the auspices of the Executive Board of Synod and shall work cooperatively with the Executive Board of Synod in promoting the work of the General Synod.

Section 4. OTHER COMMITTEES. The chairman shall have the power to appoint such other committees as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of the business of this Board.

Section 5. LIMITATIONS. The Board shall at all times have power to modify, add to, take from or otherwise change and alter the duties and functions of committees, subject to the review of the General Synod.

ARTICLE V

Miscellaneous

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of the Board shall begin on the first day of January and terminate on the 31st day of December of each year. Terms of office for Board members will begin July 1 and will terminate on June 30 of the final year of their term of service.

Section 2. ANNUAL REPORT. The Board shall make an annual written report at the annual meeting of the General Synod.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

AMENDMENTS TO POLICY BOOK. This Policy Book may be amended by the Board members at any regular or special meeting, provided a copy of such proposed amendment has been mailed to each member of the Board at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting. A majority vote of the members of the Board shall be necessary for the adoption of any amend-

ment at any such meeting. No amendment in conflict with any standing rule or action of the General Synod shall be adopted and all amendments must be reported to the General Synod for review.

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Stewardship Counselor

Function: The Stewardship Counselor is a field worker whose mission is to assist in developing total biblical stewardship: within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Accountability: The Stewardship Counselor is accountable to the Board of Stewardship.

Coordination: The Stewardship Counselor will coordinate on a regular basis with:

1. The Board of Stewardship's Administrative Officer.
2. The Coordinator of the General Synod insofar as his duties relate to the agencies of the General Synod.

Responsibilities:

1. Encourage total biblical stewardship.
2. Promote tithing as a principle of Scripture and the General Synod's approved source of securing finances necessary for the work of the church.
3. Develop resources for and work with Presbytery Stewardship Chairmen to encourage and stimulate biblical stewardship within the presbyteries.
4. Provide resources for and work with individual churches to develop/expand a biblical stewardship emphasis.
5. Develop communications with presbyteries and churches regarding the use of denominational resources.
6. Assist in the stewardship efforts of all General Synod agencies, including but not limited to:
 - a. Providing counsel and assistance with long range financial planning.
 - b. Assisting in the development of deferred gift programs.
7. Work with Erskine College and Seminary to develop curriculum and training in Christian stewardship for all students.

Qualifications:

1. Must be an active evangelical Christian with a strong desire to serve the Lord.
2. Must be a member of an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church or Associate Reformed Presbyterian Presbytery, or willing to become a member in all good faith, and one who affirms the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*.
3. Must have a history of personal stewardship.
4. Must be able to teach, counsel and encourage people to practice biblical stewardship.

REPORT OF BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund

The numbers for 2004 have been adjusted to reflect actual giving. The numbers for 2005, as compared to previous year giving, is based on pledged amounts:

Category	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Churches Meeting Goal					
Gave 20% or More	18	14	20	19	19
Increased by 1 Percentage Point	40	59	31	33	34
Mission Church Pledging 10%			2	6	
Churches Giving but Not Meeting Goal					
Increased Percentage Level	56	42	58	55	47
Remained at Same Percentage Level	1	5	6	0	3
Percentage Level Decreased	78	72	72	64	80
Giving but Percentage Not Determined		3	1	14	16
Decreased Giving but at 10% or Above				6	8
Churches Not Giving Reported Zero Pledge	63	67	73	66	20
No Report or Gifts to Date					
Total Churches ¹	256	262	263	266	265

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

Churches Meeting the 20% Goal for 2004, based on contributions as percentage of 2002 General Fund Receipts:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Abbeville	Second	Bartow	Florida
Due West	Second	Ebenezer	Virginia
Elk Shoals	First	Lake Placid	Florida
Lake Wales	Florida	Lancaster First	Catawba
Lauderdale	Virginia	Louisville	Second
New Sterling	First	Pinecrest	First
Pressly Memorial	Tenn-Ala	Prosperity, TN	Tenn-Ala
Providence*	Second	Smyrna	Catawba
Unity	Catawba	Wellspring	Virginia
White Oak	Second		

*Includes distribution from Betts Endowment Fund

Churches that did not reach the 20% Goal but did reach the goal of increasing their 2004 percentage level of giving by at least one (1) percentage point over the percentage level given in 2003:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
All Saints	First	Bethany	Catawba
Centerpoint	First	Cornerstone	First
Cornerstone Com. Florida		Covenant (J)	First
Ebenezer	Second	Fuller Memorial	First
Generostee	Second	Hardeville First	Catawba
Havana	Miss. Valley	Highlands	Second
Johnson Creek	Virginia	Lakeside Fellow.	First
Lemira	Catawba	Midlane Park	Miss. Valley
Neely's Creek	Catawba	Newberry	Second
Oconee	Second	Ora	Second
Redeemer	Second	Richland	Miss. Valley
Rock Hill First	Catawba	Scots Kirk	Catawba
Tirzah	Catawba	Trinity (Chatham)	Canadian
Trinity Korean	Pacific	Vineyard Mission	Pacific
Westminster	Catawba	Westview	First
Wildhurst	Virginia	York	Catawba
Young Saeng	Pacific		

Mission churches that reached the goal of giving at least 5% (10% for mission churches begun in 2003 or later) of General Fund receipts:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Hope Mission	Catawba	Living Waters	Catawba
New Millenium	Catawba	Providence	Catawba
Waxhaw Mission	First	Redeemer	Virginia

Additionally, the 2004 contributions of the following churches represented a percentage increase over their percentage level of giving in 2003:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Covenant Reformed	Canadian	Grace Fellowship	Canadian
Riverside	Canadian	Chester	Catawba
Clover	Catawba	Columbia First	Catawba
Edgemoor	Catawba	Edwards Mem.	Catawba
Good Shepherd	Catawba	Long Creek	Catawba
Mayesville	Catawba	Oak Ridge	Catawba
Sharon	Catawba	Union	Catawba
Adams Farm	First	Back Creek	First
Bethel Korean	First	Brookside	First
Coddle Creek	First	Covenant (S)	First
Crowders Creek	First	Gatonia First	First
Maupin Avenue	First	Mooresville	First
Mustardseed	First	New Beginnings	First
New Covenant	First	New Perth	First

Pisgah	First	Providence	First
Stony Point	First	Westminster	First
Christ Pres.	Florida	Faith (Wildwood)	Florida
Frostproof	Florida	Park Springs	Florida
Trinity	Florida	Helena	Miss. Valley
Mount Zion	Miss. Valley	New Albany	Miss. Valley
Parkway Place	Miss. Valley	Ballston Center	Northeast
Good News (MD)	Northeast	Piney Creek	Northeast
Bethlehem	Second	Christ Pres.	Second
Devenger Road	Second	Faith	Second
Iva	Second	Second	
Pressly Memorial	Second	Thomson	Second
Unity	Second	Young Memorial	Second
Bethel	Tenn-Ala	Hopewell	Tenn-Ala
Broad Creek	Virginia	New Lebanon	Virginia

Based on pledges and/or giving for 2005, the following churches will meet the 20% goal for 2005:

Church	Presbytery	Church	Presbytery
Abbeville	Second	Bartow	Florida
Camden	Tenn-Ala	Due West	Second
Ebenezer	Virginia	Elk Shoals	First
Lake Placid	Florida	Lake Wales	Florida
Lauderdale	Virginia	Louisville	Second
New Sterling	First	Peachtree Crns.	Second
Pinecrest	First	Pressly Mem.	Tenn-Ala
Prosperity, TN	Tenn-Ala	Providence*	Second
Sherwood Forest	Catawba	Unity	Catawba
White Oak	Second		

*Includes distribution from Betts Endowment Fund

The report of the **Moderator's Committee on World Witness** was presented. The Moderator's Committee recommended the adoption of all recommendations and presented two additional recommendations:

1. That Synod make our churches aware that the giving to the overall general work of World Witness is down in large measure due to Tsunami-designated gifts that have been channeled through the Office of World Witness.
2. That Synod ask our churches to be in prayer for the Synod of Mexico, for the pastors and churches and missionaries there, and for all Hispanic ministries in the United States.

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

**REPORT OF WORLD WITNESS, THE BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS
TO THE 2005 MEETING OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OF
THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

¹ *The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; **and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.***

(Genesis 12:1-3 NIV)

Introduction

Woven throughout scripture is the theme of covenant blessing. As children of Abraham, we are blessed so that we may be a blessing to others and, as a result, God may receive great glory. It is the privilege of God's children who are adopted into the family of Abraham to share the greatest blessing, the knowledge of the gospel, with those who have never had an opportunity to hear, whether they are near or far away.

In the past year, World Witness has continued this ministry of the Great Commission of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ—discipling, teaching, baptizing and being used of God for His eternal glory to see the Kingdom of God grow.

The following Report provides highlights of the past year of ministry:

The Board

During the 2004–2005 ministry year, the Board held three regular meetings to consider its business, spend time in prayer for the missionaries and national workers, and continue casting a vision for the future. The Board spent considerable time studying and responding to the recommendations and suggestions of the Special Committee on Organization. Time was also spent in the Board meetings establishing a framework for the future leadership of World Witness. A highlight of our work this year was the election and announcement of our new Executive Director Rev. P. Frank van Dalen.

During the past year, new missionary candidates have been appointed. Miss Rebekah Carson was appointed as missionary to Germany. John and Margie Marsh were appointed as part-time representatives of ARPCoConnect in the Northeast. Joseph and Julie Alghrary were appointed as missionary candidates of ARPCoConnect. Lon and Mary Crotts were appointed as Volunteer Missionaries to Mexico. Miss Laura Romer was appointed as Cooperative Missionary with Wycliffe. Walt and Val Shepherd were appointed as Cooperative Missionaries with the PCUSA as International Pastor in the Republic of Congo. James Hering resigned as a full-time

missionary and was reappointed as a volunteer Theological Education Associate.

After consultation, the resignation of Jonathan and Jamie Winfree was accepted by the Board and they returned to the U. S.

The Board approved the resignation of Charles and Michelle Hammond because of the health of a family member.

David and Susan Cullen returned to the U. S. from Wales after the completion of their 2 year commitment.

After consultation with WW staff, the Board approved the transfers of Andy and Nannette Howard from Russia to Wales, Scott and Victoria Andes from Moscow to Almaty to continue church planting, and Ruth Wilson from Mexico to the WW office as Short Term Coordinator.

The Board has elected the following officers for the 2005–2006 year commencing July 1, 2005: Chairman—John C. Dorr, Jr.; Vice-Chairman—Drew Severance; and Secretary —John Mathis.

Details of individual Board actions are contained in the official Minutes of World Witness and are available for review at the World Witness Office.

The 2005–2006 Meetings of the Board of World Witness are scheduled as follows:

October 4 -6, 2005	Bonclarken
January 18-19, 2006	Greenville
April 5-6, 2006	Bonclarken
October 11-12, 2006	Bonclarken

The proposed World Witness 2006 Budget follows. The full budget of World Witness and other reports for the previous financial year are available for inspection at the World Witness office.

The year 2004 Official Audit Report is appended to this Report.

PROPOSED WORLD WITNESS 2006 BUDGET

	Revised Budget 2005	Proposed Budget 2006
General Synod Allocation	\$ 665,839	\$ 720,000
Endowment and Interest	49,000	49,000
One Great Hour of Sharing	23,000	23,000
Missionary Support	1,955,688	1,982,072
Missionary Work	650,067	459,610
Pakistan Income—Grants	400,000	300,000
Misc Bequests	80,000	80,000
Short Term Trips	180,000	180,000
Other Income	512,259	531,340
TOTAL Income	\$ 4,515,853	\$ 4,325,022
Mexico Expense	\$ 584,965	\$ 587,839
Pakistan Expense—General	237,460	237,460