

Minutes of the General Synod — 2009

MINUTES
GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TWO HUNDRED FIFTH MEETING



June 9-11, 2009
Bonclarken Conference Center
Flat Rock, North Carolina

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Who We Are in Christ, Facing the 21st Century

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).

Vol. XL

June 9-11, 2009

No. 1

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* * *

TWO HUNDRED FIFTH MEETING

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BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

Flat Rock, North Carolina
June 9-11, 2009

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

MODERATOR FOR THE 2009-2010 TERM

Reverend John R. de Witt..... 6 Quinine Hill
Columbia, SC 29204

VICE-MODERATOR FOR THE 2009-2010 TERM

Mr. Stephen G. Maye6517 Buggy Whip Ln.
Waxhaw, NC 28173

PRINCIPAL CLERK

Reverend C. Ronald Beard, D.D.3132 Grace Hill Road
Columbia, SC 29204-3317

READING CLERK

Reverend Charles F. Edgar 1112 Bessemer Road
Huntsville, AL 35816

BILL CLERK

Reverend Leland R. Beaudrot One Cleveland St., Ste. 110
Greenville, SC 29601

ASSISTANT CLERK

Reverend John D. Cook.....P. O. Box 398
Thomson, GA 30824

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Reverend Andrew K. Putnam 6161 Mt. Gallant Road
York, SC 29745

TREASURER OF SYNOD'S FUNDS

Mr. Guy H. Smith, III.....One Cleveland St., Suite 110
Greenville, SC 29601-3696

HISTORIAN

Mr. Bryan McKown..... 6400 Eastshore Rd.
Columbia, SC 29206

NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

BONCLARKEN

Flat Rock, North Carolina

June 8-10, 2010

PREFACE
BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

The 205th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held at the denominational conference grounds at Bonclarken. The following activities were held at the Pre-Synod Conference on Worship.

THE PRE-SYNOD CONFERENCE
"The Powerful Word"
Monday Evening, June 8, 2009

"BBQ on the Grounds" was served from 5:15-6:15. Following the meal, those attending the Pre-Synod Conference were welcomed and introductions of the principals were presented.

Following a presentation of special music, The Rev. Dr. R. J. Gore presented the Keynote Address, "The Powerful Word."

The attendees met for fellowship following the address.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

At 9:15 a.m., Rev. Mr. Iain H. Murray presented an address, "The Word Powerful in the Personal Life: Andrew Bonar."

At 10:15 a.m., the conference recessed for the morning break.

At 10:30 a.m., Rev. Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson presented the final address of the conference, "The Word Powerful in Evangelism."

Other Special Synod Week Activities

Erskine Theological Seminary hosted a barbecue picnic Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. at the Headspring Pavilion.

On Wednesday evening following the Business Session, Camp Joy hosted an Ice Cream Social at the lakeside shelter.

ARP Women's Ministries sponsored the following activities during the Synod meeting:

Synod Social was held in Synodical Hall on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Pastor's Wives Fellowship was held Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.

Church Planter's Wives Luncheon was held Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with Norine Brunson as the guest speaker

A special "Bonclarken Tour" was hosted on Thursday Morning at 10:30 a.m.

On Thursday Morning at 7:00 a.m., a Church Planting Breakfast sponsored by Outreach North America was held in Dining Room A.

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

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

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

At 7:30 p.m., the 205th annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church began with the Worship Service and the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper.

Opening Worship Tuesday, June 9, 2009

7:00 p.m.	INFORMAL PSALM SING	Earl Linderman
	ACCOMPANIST	Harriett Linderman
	PRELUDE AND PREPARATION	Gabriel C. Statom
7:30 p.m.	CALL TO WORSHIP	Neal R. Mathias
	HYMN OF PRAISE	All People That on Earth Do Dwell
		OLD HUNDREDTH
	INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER	
	GLORIA PATRI	Henry Greateorex
	THE CONSTITUTION OF SYNOD	Gordon S. Query
	MEMORIAL SERVICE	William C. Marsh
	The Listing of Deceased Teaching Elders (Since Synod 2008)	
	The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders (Calendar Year 2008)	
	MEDITATION	Psalm 42 Felix Mendelssohn
	Holly Cole, Soprano; John Neely Gaston, Counter-Tenor; Gary Seydell, Tenor; Daniel Cole, Bass; Gabriel Statom, Piano	
	OLD TESTAMENT READING	Neal R. Mathias
	HYMN OF PRAISE	Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
		AUSTRIAN HYMN
	NEW TESTAMENT READING	T. Duff James
	THE APOSTLES' CREED	
	DOXOLOGY	OLD HUNDREDTH
	SERMON	Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson
	"The Indispensable Word"	
	PRAYER	
	INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE	
	HYMN	Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
		MORECAMBE
	CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION	T. Duff James
	ASSURANCE OF PARDON	
	THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	
	PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	

HYMN OF PRAISE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

BENEDICTION

Sinclair B. Ferguson

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

He Is Lord

POSTLUDE

Gabriel C. Statom

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

Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 a.m..

Earl Linderman led the informal “coffee and singing of the Psalms” on the Dining Room Porch.

The Korean Pastor's Choir sang at the opening worship service that was conducted by Matthew Miller.

Retiring Moderator Gordon Query called the first session of the 205th Synod Meeting to order.

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

Principal Clerk C. R. Beard constituted the roll of Synod.
(The Official Roll of Synod is included in the Appendix.)

Moderator Query presented his Retiring Moderator's Address.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Well, I must say that I'm much more comfortable about speaking to you now than I was at this same hour a year ago – and that's putting it mildly!

Let me start by thanking my wife, Leona, for being such a constant source of encouragement along this mysterious journey of God's leading. Don't get me started extolling her virtues or we will be here until lunchtime without hearing a word from our incoming Moderator!

My remarks will be brief because this is Dick de Witt's day in the sun and you need to here from this wise man – and I really mean that! However, you and I know that the real issue is not that of determining whose place it is in the sun, but only acknowledging that “Jesus reigns wher'er the sun!”

*I would like to take advantage of this final, official opportunity of proclaiming the message I have delivered personally to all ten of our presbyteries over the past twelve months. I bet you know what is coming next: **God's Word is indispensable.***

A couple of months ago, I mailed a little folded brochure to all ARP pastors with these descriptive words printed on the front cover: “indispensable, 1. absolutely necessary, essential, or requisite. 2. incapable of being disregarded or neglected.”

Yes, the Word of God is indispensable for life. With the words, “Man does not live on bread alone, but man lives on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” there need be no confusion regarding the Bible and its indispensability.

God created and designed us to function as men and women, as boys

and girls, on a steady, daily diet of His Word. That matter has already been settled. But, humanly speaking, there remains something that is anything but settled. Let me put it before you in the form of a query – a question for both our teaching elders and our ruling elders.

Is the Bible indispensable to you, or to put it another way: can you make it through a day without a word from God? After each one of us has answered that question personally and affirmatively, we must ask it next of our wives, our children, and our fellow believers – it is for their good. (I will be perfectly honest with you; I cannot make it through a day without a word from my heavenly Father, and I would be a fool to think I could otherwise!)

I would like to close with this thought. There is a peculiar sound I believe God longs to hear. It the constant turning of pages as His powerful Word is being read each and every day! May that sound increase among us ARP's to the point of being so overbearing that even the angels themselves would have to stop up their ears!

You men of faith, you men of the gospel, I love you dearly. You have stirred my heart to the things of Christ at every turn along the way. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Now is the time to pass on the baton of Synod leadership to a man already known by many of you. He has a host of the kind of credentials that bring proper recognition upon this office. But, I cannot let this moment pass without acknowledging three particular things about this man. He was my pastor only a few years ago. He continues to be my great friend in the faith. And this year, 2009, marks the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the gospel ministry.

-Gordon Query

Vice-Moderator Bill Marsh escorted Dr. John R. de Witt to the podium. Moderator Query placed the Moderator's Shield around the neck of Dr. deWitt. Moderator de Witt presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Query.

Moderator de Witt introduced his wife to the Synod.

Moderator de Witt presented his Moderator's Challenge to the Synod.

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

First, I want to express my gratitude to Gordon Query for his distinguished service as our Moderator. His leadership has been characterized by integrity, generosity, personal kindness, and illumined by the transparent quality of his life. When I think of Gordon, two passages from the Scriptures come to mind, both of them words spoken by Jesus: (a) We are told in John's Gospel that, when the Lord saw Nathanael coming to him, he said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile" (John 1:47). (b) I believe that I do not say too

much when I link our retiring moderator with the most resplendent of the beatitudes: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). We have cause to be thankful for the grace and gentility Gordon has invariably exhibited during his term of office.

Second, I believe it appropriate to underscore a commemoration which has drawn the attention of Reformed Christians around the world. John Calvin was born on July 10, 1509. In the present year that date will mark the five hundredth anniversary of his birth. We owe a great deal under God to the reformers who in the sixteenth century summoned the church back to the Scriptures. In a profound sense Martin Luther stands chief among them for his defiance of the rotten hegemony of the Church of Rome and for his rediscovery of the evangelical doctrine of justification by faith alone. We and those who share our heritage remember others as well, with an inexhaustible gratitude. Among them the names come to mind of Ulrich Zwingli, William Farel, John Knox, and especially John Calvin.

Calvin's significance is now being underscored in a variety of ways, by churches, institutions, and learned scholars. Erskine Theological Seminary, for example, is one of the sponsors involved in a great conference to be held next month in Geneva, the city which Calvin's work made famous. Calvin's Tracts and Letters, in seven handsome volumes, are once again in print, for the first time in many years. One of our ministers, Dr. Rob Roy McGregor, has given us translations of Calvin's Sermons on the Acts of the Apostles, in 2008; and now his Sermons on Genesis 1-11:4. It is surely an occasion for rejoicing that the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a relatively small denomination, should have such an important part in making it possible for the world to hear again the voice of "our reformer."

We must pray and trust that the renewed interest in the Reformation and in biblical teaching will prove to be more than transient. Doctrinal truth is not restricted to the classroom or the study. Theology and life cannot be sundered from each other. Our great task is to proclaim the truths of the Christian faith with authority and passion. The only hope for a broken and dying world is the message of sovereign and redeeming grace.

Third, I may be permitted to observe that our General Synod this year reminds me of a landmark event in my own life. It is just nine years ago that I was admitted to the ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, during the meeting of Catawba Presbytery which immediately preceded the synod. Prof. Ray King, in his always kindly way, led me through the process. At one point he asked, "You are now retired?" I responded that I did not really consider myself to have reached that stage in my life. Whereupon he told me, "You had better be retired, or we cannot accept you." However unaware he and I may have been at that point of what would follow, I want now to acknowledge in this public way my sense of obligation to our church for having welcomed us so warmly and for providing Jane and me such a

congenial and spiritual lodging place. Many of us are relative newcomers to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. You with seniority in the denomination have greeted us with open arms, have treated us as brothers and sisters in the Lord, have given some of us pastoral charges, have granted us the privilege of taking part in the life and work of the church, have even elected several to the moderatorial dignity. You may be sure that we ecclesiastical youngsters will always be deeply affected by your amazing generosity.

Fourth, while meetings of our General Synod are strikingly more abbreviated than is the case in other — sometimes more contentious — denominations, we are charged here with doing the Lord's own business. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church carries on the work of the gospel across a broad front, in North America and other parts of the world as well. The truth is that, given our numbers and resources, our commitments are extraordinarily courageous. As moderator elect I have had the opportunity to observe at quite close range the enterprises in which our denomination is engaged. For the most part this has been a most encouraging experience. Depending on the Spirit of God for his assistance and guided by the teaching of his indispensable, powerful Word, we have the responsibility for making decisions which will give direction to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in the months and years ahead. Weighty issues are frequently before the synod. The program this year offers us remarkable opportunities to chart a course that is both faithful to the Scriptures and honoring to the Lord who has enlisted us in his service.

As your moderator, the task has been laid upon me of giving a challenge to the General Synod. I have been asking myself just what I ought to say in addressing you now. Several considerations have occurred to me. We are to conduct ourselves as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. What this means for us is that we acknowledge his sovereignty and seek to do his will as we find that will revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. We are obliged to deal with each other as brothers in the faith, to practice courtesy, to speak with a boldness constrained by Christian forbearance, to conduct ourselves within the framework of decency and order (I Corinthians 14:40), and to do all to the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31). And we must approach the tasks ahead in hope. Often in my mind are some words of a stanza from a now almost forgotten missionary hymn, by Reginald Heber:

*"Waft, waft ye winds, his story,
And you, ye waters roll,
Till, like a sea of glory,
It spreads from pole to pole:
Till o'er our ransomed nature
The Lamb for sinners slain,*

*Redeemer, King, Creator,
In bliss returns to reign."*

—John R. de Witt

Moderator de Witt introduced the Vice-Moderator, Stephen Maye, to the Synod.

Moderator de Witt noted the special meeting following the evening service with regard to Erskine College and Seminary.

Vice-Moderator Maye presented the proposed program for the 2009 meeting of the General Synod. The program as amended was adopted.

Moderator de Witt made his appointments to the Moderator's Committees and called for the status of official reports for reference to the Committees.

Moderator de Witt made the following introductions to the Synod:

Special Guest: Ian Murray

Pages: Benjamin Glaser (Northeast), Garison Taylor (Second Presbytery), John Wages (Second Presbytery)

Ministers who have been received or ordained Since the Last Meeting of the General Synod: (*See Appendix for Presbytery Reports*)

New Missions and/or Congregations Which Have Joined the ARP Family Since the Last Meeting of the General Synod: (*See Appendix for Presbytery Reports*)

Seminary and Special Students Under Care of Presbytery (*See Appendix for Presbytery Reports*)

Guy Smith presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries: Ron and Pam Brunson – 33 years, Lanier Ellis – 15 years, David Hong – 3 years, Thomas Richie – 43 years, Bill and Kathy Warner – 21 years.

The Minister and His Work Committee of General Synod introduced Associate Director of the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PCCMP), Thomas Chadwick, who recognized the Chaplains present. The members of Synod rose in standing applause for their service and safe return home. Mr. Chadwick made a presentation from the (PCCMP) to retiring chaplain, Paul Burns.

Robert B. Elliott presented the **Recommended 2010 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was adopted.

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF SYNOD'S UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Amounts show in \$000 (thousands)

AGENCY	Approved <u>for 2009</u>	Revised <u>2009</u>	Requested <u>for 2010</u>	Recom- mended <u>for 2010</u>
<u>Boards and Agencies</u>				
Central Services	\$310	\$294	\$312	\$287
Utilization of Reserve (1)	(38)	(6)	0	0
Benefits	7	6	9	6
ARP Center Facility	16	15	16	15
ARP Foundation	0	0	0	0
Executive Board & Contingency	107	101	114	99
The ARP	107	102	107	99
Stewardship	18	17	18	17
<u>Commission & Committees</u>				
Inter-Church Relations	18	17	16	16
Lay Ministry	20	19	33	19
Worship	21	20	21	19
Other Committees (2)	22	21	22	21
Total for Non-Program	\$607	\$607	\$666	\$599
Bonclarken	\$152	\$144	\$152	\$137
Christian Ed. Ministries	252	240	257	228
Dunlap	0	0	0	0
Erskine	617	586	617	557
ARP Student Union	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
ONA Operations	716	681	716	646
World Witness	716	681	724	646
Total Program	\$2,453	\$2,333	\$2,466	\$2,214
TOTALS	<u>\$3,060</u>	<u>\$2,940</u>	<u>\$3,133</u>	<u>\$2,813</u>

(1) - 2009 allocations anticipated the use of a reserve which decreased in value

(2) - Other Committees include: Investment, Minister & His Work, Nominations and Theological & Social Concerns

Following the call for reports of reference, memorials were referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Synod recessed for the morning break.

Vice-Moderator Maye assumed the chair.

Doug Petersen presented the report of the **Special Committee on Strategic Planning**. The report was adopted as information and the committee was extended for another year.

Andrew K. Putnam presented an oral report of the **Special Committee to revise the Form of Government**.

Tom Patterson presented the report of the **Special Committee on Multi-Cultural Ministry**. The report was received as information.

REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRY

There are a number of multi-cultural congregations which belong to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. We quickly identify the Koreans as a multi-cultural entity, mainly because they are our largest ethnic group. We also have Hispanic, Iranian, Chinese, Hungarian, and Swahili churches among us.

There is a level of frustration on our part and on their part concerning their participation in Synod's activities and programs as well as Presbytery activities and programs. This Committee is seeking ways to improve communications, increase understanding, decrease misunderstanding, and enable our multi-cultural brethren to participate more fully in the work of our denomination.

The main areas of concern stem from the barriers created by language and culture. While we see improvement on some levels, we recognize the desired results will be achieved slowly and with much repetition of our expectations.

We should also keep in mind the process will always be ongoing. Immigrants from the mother country continue to come to the United States. Addressing the concerns once or twice will not produce the desired results.

The following suggestions have come from our discussions:

Since there is a sizable number of Koreans in our midst, the idea of hiring a second generation Korean in one of the Synod offices was discussed. This person could be a resource employee to field questions and phone calls from the Korean pastors and congregations. Being proficient in both languages, this staff person could talk directly to the Koreans and provide clearer responses to their questions.

On the Presbytery level, and where possible, a mentor could be provided for the multi-cultural ministers – someone who would develop a

relationship with them and be available to instruct and assist them in filling out forms and reports, clarify written correspondence, and provide the needed instruction on procedural matters and expectations.

The Statistical Report Forms need to be translated into the Korean language.

The Board of Stewardship might consider sending an annual letter to the multi-cultural congregations reminding them of their obligation to support the Denominational Ministry Fund and indicating it is time to submit a contribution.

With regards to Pacific Presbytery, it would be good to re-instate an annual visit from one or more representatives from the General Synod to provide ongoing training and information on the denomination.

Where there are clusters of Korean churches in other Presbyteries, it would be helpful to plan a time when the congregations could meet together to hear a representative from the Synod. If this were done on an annual basis, over a period of time the people in these congregations would have a better understanding of the ARP Church and our expectations of them. Having the congregations meet together would provide a time of bonding for the people as well as an opportunity to provide instruction and information on the denomination.

It would be advantageous to appoint some of our multi-cultural brothers and sisters to serve on various Boards and Committees. This does not mean that every Board or Committee should always have a multi-cultural representation. An occasional appointment will help achieve better understanding of our Synod's work among the multi-cultural community.

The discussions of this committee are ongoing.

Tom Patterson, Chairman

Ron Beard presented an oral report from the **Special Committee on Organization**, noting that the materials collected by the committee from the agencies will be posted on the ARP Synod website. A motion carried that the Committee be dismissed with the thanks of the General Synod to all of its members over the past years.

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

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

The membership of the Committee on Minister and His Work is comprised of the Chairman of each presbytery's Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work, the Chairman of each presbytery's Committee on Credentials, the Director of Outreach North America, and the Vice-President of Erskine Theological Seminary (ETS). The Moderator and Moderator-Elect of Synod, and the Executive Director of Central Services serve as advisory members. The Committee met in November 2008 but cancelled its April 2009 meeting.

To Secure and Maintain Dossiers (Duties 1 and 2)

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

The General Synod, through the Committee on the Minister and His Work assisted by Central Services, maintains dossiers (data forms) submitted by ministers and students. Forms developed by the Committee are administered in accordance with procedures approved by the Committee:

- a. Access to data forms is restricted and forms are released only in accordance with the instructions indicated thereon by the pastor/student.
- b. 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. Beginning in April 2009, these authorized individuals may access data forms through a secured web page. Authorization is granted only through the Benefits Assistant in the Office of Central Services or the Executive Director of Central Services. Access for search committees expires when the congregation issues a call to a new pastor.
- c. When a data form is released or access to the web page has been granted to a church, the presbytery chairman is notified.

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 profile is available through the Office of Central Services and also at www.arphurch.org.

At the request of the Committee, General Synod's Web site provides a list of congregations seeking a pastor. Churches may be added to the list at the request of their presbytery chairman or at the request of the chairman of the individual pastoral search committee chairman. It is incumbent upon the presbytery chairman/search committee chairman to keep the office of Central Services updated on changes and openings.

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

Your Committee has the responsibility to keep the General Synod informed of the work of our military and institutional chaplains. The Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel is our endorsing agency for military chaplains, and it provides pastoral care and guidance for those chaplains. Representatives on the Council are Reverend Ronald Beard (as Principal Clerk), Reverend James Ryan (2009), and Mr. Terry Wallace (2010).

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

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

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

R.J. Gore, Lt. Colonel, USA
Joseph S. Moore, Lt, USA

The following serve in the Civil Air Patrol:

Edward Fleagle
Donis H. Watkins

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

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

Paul G. Patrick serves as Chaplain at Erskine College.

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

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

Ministerial Assistance (Duty 6)

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

A. Preventive Maintenance

In the report to Synod in 2008, the Committee included a document entitled "Pastoral Care for Pastors." (2008 Minutes of Synod, pp. 424 – 427) The Committee urges presbyteries and sessions to follow suggestions in the document in order to strengthen pastors for their roles as congregational shepherds. Further, the Committee recognizes that pastoral sabbatical leave time has a number of benefits for both the pastor and the congregation in that it provides opportunity for focused study and renewal for the pastor. The Committee urges sessions to consider making sabbatical leave available to pastors on a regular basis. Presbytery meetings provide rich opportunities for our pastors to worship and be spiritually renewed, yet too often these meetings are characterized by contentious business sessions interspersed with times of perfunctory worship. Two of our presbyteries, however, Northeast and Mississippi Valley, place primary emphasis at their meetings on worship and fellowship. Pastors from these presbyteries attest to an increased sense of unity in their business sessions and personal spiritual renewal as a result of this focus. Their meetings have become times to look forward to rather than times to be dreaded. The Committee on Minister and His Work commends these two presbyteries and urges all presbyteries to follow their examples.

B. Pastoral Transitions

The Committee identified an appropriate self-study form for congregations going through a pastoral change. The form is available from the Office of Central Services.

C. Orientation Program for New Ministers

The orientation program is designed to build inter-personal relationships among new pastors and to build relationships between pastors and those who are engaged in the ministries of the denomination. We urge pastors to make every effort to attend an orientation program early in their ministry.

We encourage presbyteries to insist on this. Orientation programs are scheduled for the last Monday and Tuesday in March and the last Monday and Tuesday in September. The program begins with dinner (6:00 PM on Monday) and concludes at 4:00 PM on Tuesday. Spouses are invited, and the General Synod will reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for those participating in the orientation program.

D. Consideration of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers and Students

For many years this Committee has recommended, and the General Synod has approved, a recommendation to the churches that preference be given to Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers when considering a call. At least one presbytery requires its churches to exhaust consideration of ARP ministers prior to considering others. There are ministers without a call who have demonstrated their qualifications for ministry by virtue of their ordination and continuing membership in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (It is recognized and understood that not every minister is suited for every pastoral position.) The Committee believes that the commitment of these men to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is deserving of consideration when a church is seeking a pastor.

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

Uniform Written Exams (Duty 7)

A uniform written exam was last updated in 1995, and presbytery chairmen have been asked to have their committees review the exam for the purpose of possible revision. Some presbyteries have developed their own exams, and presbytery chairmen continue to share these with each other.

Budget (Duty 8)

The Committee presents the following budget estimates for 2010.

Committee Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$ 4,500
General Office	150
Presbyterian Council	<u>9,450</u>
	\$ 14,100

Miscellaneous Items

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

B. Officers for 2000 - 2010:

Chairman: John Cook

Vice-Chairman: David Lauten

Secretary: Fred Carr

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

- C. Meeting Dates for 2009 - 2010: The Committee will meet in conjunction with the Board of Benefits. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates: November 5 - 6, 2009 and April 15 – 16, 2010.

Recommendations

1. That presbyteries be encouraged to utilize the 20 recommendations listed in the "Pastoral Care for Pastors" report which was part of this committee's report to General Synod in 2008.
2. That presbyteries be encouraged to devote considerable time to prayer and worship during presbytery meetings, i.e., to consider these meetings as opportunities for spiritual retreat as well as for business.
3. That presbyteries encourage:
 - a. ministers and seminary students to keep updated data forms on file at the ARP Center;
 - b. congregations to complete a "church profile" before seeking a pastor;
 - c. pulpit committees to give preference to ARP ministers and students; and
 - d. congregations, where financially feasible, to employ ARP seminary students for the summer months.
4. That presbyteries require ministers to attend the General Synod orientation program early in their pastoral ministry.
5. That presbyteries that have not yet done so develop a program to encourage congregations to incorporate the annual review of the minister's call into an annual ministry review.
6. That appreciation be expressed to the Presbyterian Council for the work it does on behalf of chaplains and military personnel.
7. That the Synod pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our military and institutional chaplains.
8. That presbyteries that have not yet done so adopt policy statements on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.
9. That the budget for 2010 be approved.

Respectfully submitted

John Cook, Chairman

The recommendations of the Committee on Minister and His Work were adopted. Doug Jones offered the prayer for our chaplains.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Committee on Theological and Social Concerns was tasked "to write a concise position statement on the New Perspective/Federal Vision theology." The Committee met on September 25, 2008 to consider the matter referred to it. Presented below is the committee's response.

Position Statement

"The Theological and Social Concerns Committee reminds the Synod that the Scripture is sufficient being 'The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture'. (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 1, Section 10.) Further, we affirm that the subordinate standards of our church (The Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms) present in a systematic manner the soteriology that is unfolded in Holy Writ.

As such, it is our counsel to the church that in the hearing of, or reading and scholarly study of works related to the 'New Perspectives on Paul', and the 'Federal Vision', our evaluation of such material be handled in light of the Scripture. We also affirm that the Westminster Standards presentation of the doctrines of Justification and Sanctification as stated in chapters 11 and 13 of the Westminster Confession and Questions 33 and 35 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and Questions 70, 71, 72, 73, and 75 of the Westminster Larger Catechism remain a sufficient articulation of God's working salvation in mankind. As such they are to guide us in evaluating issues related to the 'New Perspectives on Paul', and the 'Federal Vision'. The 'New Perspectives on Paul', and the 'Federal Vision', are in conflict with the teaching of our Standards. The 'New Perspectives on Paul', and the 'Federal Vision', are in conflict with the teaching of Scripture and as such they are unacceptable."

Prior to recessing from its work, the committee thought there would be wisdom in presenting a brief bibliography as a resource. The following partial listing of resources is a starting point for those who might wish to study further on this subject.

BOOKS:

Carson, D. A., *Justification and Variegated Nomism: The Complexities of Second Temple Judaism/The Complexities of Second Temple Judaism/The Paradoxes of Paul.*, (2 Vols.) Baker Academic, 2004. ISBN 0801027926, 9780801027925.

Das, A. Andrew, *Paul, The Law and The Covenant*, Hendrickson Publishers,

Inc., 2001. ISBN 1-56563-463-2

Johnson, Gary L.W., Wells, David F., Waters, Guy Prentiss, *By Faith Alone: Answering the Challenges to the Doctrine of Justification*, Good News Publishers, 2007. ISBN 1581348401, 9781581348408.

Kruse, Colin G., *The Law and Justification*, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1997. ISBN 1-56563-277-X

Stuhlmacher, Peter, *Revisiting Paul's Doctrine of Justification*, InterVarsity Press, 2001. There is an essay at the end of this volume by Donald A. Hagner that has a helpful summary of the issues of concern related to the "New Perspectives." ISBN 0-8308-2661-0.

Waters, Guy Prentiss, *Justification and the New Perspectives on Paul*, P & R Publishers, 2004. ISBN 0-87552-649-7

Westerholm, Stephen, *Perspectives Old and New on Paul*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004. ISBN 0-8028-4809-5

WEBSITES

Information on this issue can be found on the following websites:

<http://opc.org/GA/JustificationBook.pdf> Orthodox Presbyterian Church

<http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/07-fvreport.html> Presbyterian Church in America

http://www.rcus.org/main/pub_papers.asp (Federal Vision and New Perspective) Reformed Church in the U. S.

<http://www.covenant-urc.org/urcna/SynodAgenda06.pdf> Pg. 52 and following) United Reformed Church

AUDIO FILES:

The following web page on Monergism.com has links to mp3 audio files of talks on the NPP by a variety of Reformed men:

http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/New-Perspective_on-Paul/Audio-and-Multimedia/

The Theopedia site:

http://www.theopedia.com/New_Perspectivism

D A Carson's talk on the European Leadership Forum site:

<http://www.euroleadershipresources.org/resource.php?ID=240>

J. Ligon Duncan discusses the NPP with Mark Dever here:

<http://resources.christianity.com/details/mrki/20040731/2A9DB05B-4E8E-4F91-9A00-02E5DC276533.aspx>

Criswell Theological Review devoted to the NPP, which had some very good articles. You can see some of it online at :

<http://criswell.wordpress.com/2005/03/27/the-new-perspective-on-paul-vol-2-issue-2-2005/>

In February 2009, the issue of appropriateness of serving the Lord's Supper at certain summer camping events held at Bonclarken was referred to the committee. The committee has not completed its study of this matter. It is our intention to report to next Synod on this issue.

Recommendations:

1. That the Synod adopt the position statement as recommended by the Committee.
2. That the Synod receive the report as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

James Frederick Wittke, Chairman

The recommendations of the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns were adopted.

The Report of the **Committee on Worship** was presented by David Vance

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The Committee on Worship received new purposes and duties from General Synod in 2005 and rejoices in the Lord to report that many new initiatives have come to fruition this year:

Duty 1 – Worship Issues and Materials

•The Committee is very pleased to report to the General Synod that a full draft proposal for a new *ARP Psalter* has been completed and is available for review.

- o The front section contains all 150 Biblical Psalms in modern English. Accuracy, clarity, and simplicity of expression characterize the translation. All musical settings are in staff notation, in four-part harmony; and a great many of the tunes will be familiar to modern hymn-singers.
- o The back section contains 56 of our most popular *Bible Songs* selections from our current Psalter, newly typeset in larger print.
- o The whole work is being kept thin in order to offer congregations a slender volume which might complement existing songbooks.

The Committee presents this proposal after surveying the needs and practices of congregations in the Synod as well as evaluating the work of many denominations over several years. All of the modern English selections are from the forthcoming RPCNA Psalter, *The Book of Psalms for Worship*. The RPCNA has not only offered our Synod the free use of their work in joint publication with their Board but has also for many years demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to support their work by providing recordings, educational and worship materials, children's videos, and many other supporting materials in order to assist individuals,

families, and congregations in singing God's Word.

- The Committee worked with Erskine College & Seminary to offer a very lively and successful conference on February 26-27, 2009 entitled, "Where are the Psalms? The State of Congregational Psalm Singing after Fifty Years of Renewal." There were over 110 conferees in attendance, not including Erskine students. The very capable speakers included Mark Ross, Robert Bell, John Witvliet of Calvin College, Terry Johnson of Independent Presbyterian in Savannah, and composer Hal Hopson. The conference was particularly helpful to ministers, elders, musicians, worship directors, and seminary students. The conference recordings are freely available online at ARPworship.org.

Duty 2 – Guidance on Book of Worship Topics

- The Committee is preparing a helpful short booklet to introduce Synod's Directory of Public Worship to new officers and members alike.

Duty 3 – Music Conference

- The Music Conference at Bonclarken was attended by 310 conferees in 2008. Once again, the conference was not only well-attended but also praised as a very helpful, uplifting, and meaningful experience for those who participated. Plans have been finalized for the 2010 conference and have nearly been completed for the 50th Anniversary Music Conference in 2011.
- The Committee offered the Synod the first annual choral Mid-Winter Music Workshop on February 7, 2009 in Lake Wales, Florida with 43 in attendance.

Duty 4 – Practical Resources for Clergy, Congregations, and Individuals

- Dr. Gabriel Statom has worked for several years to prepare a new collection of 43 reproducible Psalms as a song supplement for congregations. Dr. Statom has made his booklet-sized *Heritage Collection of Psalms* available for purchase through the General Synod Central Services office. The Committee continues to research ways to assist music and worship in small churches throughout our denomination.
- Finally, the Committee is presently collecting a list of books and other resources related to private, family and corporate worship on the ARPworship.org website. And the Committee is continuing to research other useful and appropriate worship-related materials to make available there.

After carefully reviewing the Worship Committee's "Mandates, Purposes and Duties," the committee believes that mandate 7 and corresponding duty 1.b (relating to Christian service through local ecumenical cooperation and ministry) is beyond the scope of the Committee.

Recommendations:

The Committee on Worship makes the following recommendations to General Synod:

1. That the *ARP Psalter* draft proposal be received as information by the Synod, and that all Sessions be invited to review the proposal and send feedback to the Committee at Psalter@ARPworship.org by January 2010, in order that a final draft may be presented to the Synod in the next year.
2. That the following amendments be made to the Worship Committee's "Mandates, Purposes and Duties:"
 - a. That mandate 7 and duty 1.b be removed.
 - b. That mandate 3 and duty 2.a use the title "Directory of Public Worship."
 - c. That the word "needs" in duty 2.c be changed to "need for."
3. That the 2010 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.

For the Committee,
Rev. David Vance, Chairman

The recommendations of the Committee on Worship were adopted.

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

	<u>2009</u>	<u>Proposed 2010</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Gifts, Conference Registrations	67,500.00	46,957.50
T-Shirts	0	1,300.00
Offerings	0	1,200.00
Synod Supplement	<u>32,738.00</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	100,238.00	70,457.50
	<u>2009</u>	<u>Proposed 2010</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
<u>Worship Committee</u>		
Committee Travel/Room & Board	3,000.00	3,000.00
Telephone/Postage	275.00	0
Committee Meeting Expenses	200.00	0
Lord's Day Alliance	350.00	0
Midwinter Music/Worship Workshop	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
TOTAL (Worship Committee)	5,825.00	5,000.00

BONCLARKEN MUSIC CONFERENCE

Clinicians 1 @ \$2000, 5 @ \$1500	9,500.00	8,000.00
Accompanists 5 @ 500	2,500.00	2,500.00
Conference Directors 3 @ 500	1,500.00	1,500.00
Organist 1 @ 500	500.00	500.00
Recreation Leader 1 @ 200	200.00	200.00
Recreation Supplies	300.00	400.00
Craft Leaders 2 @ 200	400.00	200.00
Craft Supplies	600.00	600.00
Night Activities	1,250.00	1,250.00
Night Activity Director	200.00	200.00
Worship Leaders 3 @ 300	300.00	300.00
Childrens Church/Nibble Nook Music	1,500.00	400.00
Child Care	900.00	0
Staff Travel	6,240.00	2,500.00
Staff Food/Lodging	16,223.00	15,000.00
Counselor Honorariums 30 @ 100	3,000.00	3,000.00
Music for Conference	6,500.00	3,500.00
Conference Recording	500.00	200.00
Printing/Mailing	4,000.00	5,800.00
Telephone	500.00	0
Conference Fee (Bonclarken)	29,000.00	15,707.50
Nurses 2 @ 200	400.00	200.00
T-Shirts	4,500.00	800.00
Piano Tuning	400.00	200.00
Organ Rental/Piano Rental	1,500.00	1,500.00
Contingency/Equipment Fund	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL (Bonclarken Music Conference)	94,413.00	65,457.50
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>100,238.00</u>	<u>70,457.50</u>

*Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.*

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

The Committee met via conference calls on February 5 and March 16, 2009.

Ecumenical Organizations

The ARP has membership in three ecumenical organizations:

- (1) *The International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC)* which will meet in New Zealand in 2009. Frank Van Dalen will be one of the speakers.
- (2) *The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC)* which met November 11-12, 2008 at Greenville Seminary in Taylors, SC. Rev. Kyle Sims, Rev. Tom Shoger, Moderator Gordon Query, and Moderator-Elect Dr. John R. de Witt represented the ARP.

Notable actions at this meeting included the following:

- (a) NAPARC decided against issuing a statement regarding women in combat.
- (b) The United Reformed Church asked the ARP to provide an explanation for their resistance to organic union. ICRC Chairman Kyle E. Sims explained that while the ARP is not resistant to organic union per se, the ARP does not regard the promotion of organic union as a proper function of NAPARC.

(c) Six of the ten NAPARC member denominations have approved the Presbyterian Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Church into membership in NAPARC. A vote of two-thirds is required for admittance. The committee recommends that the ARP approve the Presbyterian Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Church into membership in NAPARC. Information about these churches was included in last year's Inter-Church Relations Synod report. Further information about these denominations can be found at www.presbyterianreformed.org and www.canrc.org.

The 2009 NAPARC meeting will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 17-18. Representing the ARP will be Rev. Kyle E. Sims, Rev. Jack Whytock, Moderator of Synod/Vice Moderator, Moderator-Elect/Vice Moderator-Elect.

(3) *The World Reformed Fellowship (WRF)* will meet in Edinburgh in 2010. Information on the WRF can be found at www.wrfnet.org.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

North American Churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARPC are the Korean-American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and the Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA).

The ARP was represented at the 2008 fraternal assemblies/synods by the following: Tom Shoger (EPC), Peter Kemeny (RPCNA), and Steve Weber (CRCNA).

Notable developments in 2008 in our sister denominations include the following:

The EPC received 44 churches from the PCUSA.

The PCA has dealt with the Federal Vision issue that had been a concern in Louisiana.

The RPCNA will soon publish a new Psalter. The RPCNA has invited Kyle E. Sims to attend their June 2009 Synod meeting in Beaver Falls, PA, at which there will be discussion of ways to establish closer ties between our two Synods.

The CRCNA 2008 Synod meeting was the first that included women delegates. There remains in the CRCNA a group that opposes the ordination of women to the office of elder. Kyle Sims and 2008 Vice Moderator Michael Evans, representing our Inter-Church Relations Committee, met with representatives of the CRCNA Inter-Church Relations Committee on April 17, 2008 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After hearing a report of this meeting, our Inter-Church Relations Committee concluded that while the CRCNA has veered away from its historic moorings in theology, worship, and polity, we should, for the time being, maintain fraternal relations with the CRCNA. A future meeting of Inter-Church delegates from our two denominations is being sought in order to discuss the future of our relationship with the CRCNA, if any.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Sent in 2009

The following ARP delegates are scheduled to be sent to our sister synod/general assembly meetings: PCA (Rev. Robert E. Patrick), OPC (Rev. Ben Dowling), RPCNA (Rev. Kyle E. Sims), Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA) (Rev. Jeff Kingswood), Free Church of Scotland in North America (Rev. Frank Kovacs), and International Council of Reformed Churches (Rev. Frank Van Dalen).

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Invited in 2009

We have invited delegates from the following denominations to attend our 2009 General Synod meeting: the Mexico ARP Synod, the RPCNA, the EPC, the CRC, and the KAPC.

Churches in Fraternal Correspondence

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

Our committee recommends removing the PCUSA from the list of

churches with whom our denomination has fraternal correspondence for two main reasons: (1) *The theological aberrations of the PCUSA continue to worsen.* For example, a memorial from First Presbytery (ARP) notes that the June 2008 PCUSA General Assembly issued an “authoritative interpretation” of their *Book of Order* that permits practicing “gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered” candidates to conscientiously object to the existing standards that require candidates for ordination to live “either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.” This “authoritative interpretation” allows presbyteries to approve the ordination of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons on a case-by-case basis. (2) *The PCUSA does not officially recognize the ARP as a denomination with which it has a relationship of fraternal correspondence.* Officials from the PCUSA whom our committee contacted since January 2009, including their Ecumenical Affairs Office, maintain that their denomination does not have a relationship of fraternal correspondence with us. Since this is the case, and since the ARP has had this relationship in name only for many years (we have not actually corresponded with the PCUSA), we do not have formal grounds or a relational history from which to call the PCUSA to repentance.

Our current lack of a corresponding fraternal relationship with the PCUSA has not affected our relations with PCUSA-related parachurch organizations for example, the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel and the Presbyterian Foundation and it is probable that our removing the PCUSA from the list of churches with whom we have fraternal correspondence will not affect these parachurch relations either. At the same time, the relation between our denomination and these parachurch groups is maintained by other ARP boards, not the Inter-Church Relations Committee.

Officers for 2009-2010

Chairman – Kyle E. Sims

Vice-Chairman – Jack Whytock

Secretary – Peter Kemeny

Proposed Budget for 2010

	2009	2010
Expenses		
Office expenses	\$ 150	\$ 100
Committee travel / conference calls	9,000	3,000
ARP fraternal delegates/representatives	10,000	7,250
Hosting fraternal delegates	2,000	1,000
NAPARC dues	500	500
ICRC dues	3,580	3,600
WRF dues	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 25,230</u>	<u>\$15,950</u>

ICR Committee request for 2008-9 \$ 25,230

ICR Committee request for 2009-10 \$ 15,950 (decrease of 37%)

ICR allocation for 2008-9 \$ 17,900

ICR Committee Request for 2009-10 \$ 15,950 (decrease of 11%)

The Inter-Church Relations Committee has taken the following steps to help reduce expenses for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

1. To reduce travel expenses our committee meetings are conducted primarily via conference calls.

2. We strive to send as fraternal delegates ARP pastors and elders who live in close geographical proximity to the annual meetings of our sister denominations. This practice is more economical than our former practice of sending only committee members as delegates.

3. While we are seeking to cut committee expenses, it should be noted that the only way for our denomination to have meaningful participation in ecumenical organizations such as the World Reformed Fellowship, the International Conference of Reformed Churches, and the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council is to send delegates to the meetings of these organizations, even though these groups meet at various locations around the world.

4. At the request of Paul Bell the ICRC has submitted a real-need budget for 2009-2010. While the 2010-2011 budget will likely be similar to this year's budget, the cost of sending ARP representatives to North American and worldwide ecumenical organizations varies depending on meeting locations, and thus may markedly increase or decrease future budgets.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed Committee 2009-2010 budget be approved.
2. That the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church remove the PCUSA from the list of churches with whom it has fraternal correspondence.
3. That the General Synod approve the Presbyterian Reformed Church and the Canadian Reformed Church into NAPARC membership.
4. That all other actions of the committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle E. Sims, Chairman

Kyle Sims addressed the Synod with regard to some matters within the body of its report. Following discussions, the recommendations of the Committee on Inter-church Relations were adopted.

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

REPORT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee is responsible for oversight of various investments of the General Synod. Committee members meet at least quarterly with the investment consultants to review performance, asset allocation, and any changes with the investment managers.

The Committee developed operating procedures to guide its work during 2008. The committee will meet quarterly in 2009-2010 via conference call except for the annual review meeting in February which will be held at Bonclarken.

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

(1) Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust. The Investment Committee, at the request of the Board of Benefits, has received reports from the consultant and meets with him on a periodic basis to evaluate the performance of the funds. The fund value at 12/31/08 was \$32,123,198. The Chairman of the Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits meets with the Investment Committee in an advisory role.

(2) Endowments and Endowment-type Funds. These are individual accounts belonging to churches, presbyteries, and individual restricted funds of agencies of the General Synod. Each account is invested to meet the risk profile of the fund. Currently four risk model options are provided ranging from Conservative to Aggressive models. At 12/31/08 these funds were valued at \$7,850,465. Representatives of entities with funds invested under the oversight of the Committee are invited to participate in an advisory capacity.

(3) Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities. Members of the Board of Stewardship serve as trustees for the charitable trusts, and the trustees have asked the Investment Committee to provide investment oversight. The committee receives reports and works with the custodian and investment manager, Cornerstone Management, Inc. Each charitable trust is a separately invested entity and the five (5) trusts totaled \$349,877 in value at 12/31/08. The balance in the Gift Annuity Fund was \$76,710 at 12/31/08.

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

funds of the Board of Benefits. The committee completed the review of the investment relationships in 2007 and continues to monitor the performance of its investment consultants and investment managers. The committee uses Deutsche Bank as the investment consultant on the ARP Retirement Plan and Smith Barney on the endowment type funds.

With the Smith Barney relationship, the funds have access to separately managed accounts in addition to mutual funds. The combined value of our accounts allows us to access investment managers in some asset classes that typically have high minimum investments (such as \$1 million). The combined value also allows us to have lower investment expenses. Each account receives monthly statements and quarterly performance reports along with online access.

The Investment Committee believes that this new set-up will provide additional value to each of our accounts and will do so in a less costly manner. We also believe that this provides a good investment vehicle for local churches and agencies. If your church has need of such a service, please contact the Executive Director of Central Services.

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

The committee expresses its appreciation to Mike Cruce for his service in helping to set-up the Investment Committee and serving as chairman the last two years.

Recommendations

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

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cruce, Chairman

The recommendations of the Investment Committee were adopted.

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

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

The Committee has completed the self-study which began approximately three years ago. The desire of the Committee is to find ways beyond the

conference ministry to reach the laymen of our denomination with effective tools for doing ministry within the local congregation. The results of the study are presented in the form of an amendment to the Manual of Authorities & Duties.

The Family Bible Conference will be held on July 20-23 at Bonclarken. The Rev. Richard Phillips, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church (PCA), Greenville, SC, and Dr. Mark Ross of Erskine Seminary will be the keynote speakers. The theme for the conference is "Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God." The theme verse is Jonah 2:9. The Annual Meeting of ARP Women's Ministries will be held on July 20. Mrs. Tracie Miles from Proverbs 31 Ministries will be the featured speaker at the meeting.

The Rev. Morrie Lawing serves as the Synod-appointed Director of the Family Bible Conference through 2009. The Rev. Greg Hamer is the Assistant Director. Mr. John Barron serves as Treasurer of the Conference. Mrs. Pam West serves as the ARPWM Director, and Mrs. Eliza Hardin serves as the Assistant Director. We thank each of them for their service as they complete their terms in July.

The Laity in Action Conference will be held at Bonclarken on September 18 & 19. Co-sponsored by the Committee on Lay Ministry and the Alliance of Loyal Laity, this conference is a family event and includes child-care and a children's program. The Rev. Richard Phillips of Second Presbyterian Church (PCA), Greenville, SC, will be the keynote speaker. This two-day conference is cost efficient and should particularly appeal to those within a one-to-three hour driving distance of Bonclarken. The conference has been moved from the July slot to September in order to reduce competition with the other conferences and activities held during the summer.

Two awards are presented annually by the Committee at the Laity in Action Conference. The Onesimus Award is given to a layman who has exhibited himself/herself to be a slave for Christ both within and outside the local congregation. Last year's Onesimus Award was presented to Mr. Bill Patrick of the Greenwood, SC, Church. The Barnabas Award is given to a church which shows itself to be an encourager to other churches through its unique ministry. The 2008 Barnabas Award was given to the Pinecrest Church, Flat Rock, NC.

The Committee feels there is a strong need for the Cornerstone (Young Adult Conference) which has not been held now in four years, because of the lack of a conference director. A possible director has been identified. A planning meeting will be scheduled some time during the summer to put plans in place for the conference which will be held in late February or early March of 2010 at Bonclarken.

A unique program is offered through the Lay Ministry Committee to provide work teams to assist congregations with various tasks (such

as painting, building construction, landscaping, literature distribution, etc.). Volunteers furnish their own transportation and bring their own tools. Meals, lodging, and supplies are provided by the church or agency needing the help. Contact Tom Patterson if you have a need for a Work Team.

Some limited funding is provided through our budget to assist presbyteries, clusters of congregations, and individual congregations who desire to sponsor teaching and training events for laymen on a more local level. You may make application for these funds through the Director of Lay Ministry.

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

Recommendations

1. That sessions and pastors promote attendance at the Laity in Action Conference, the Family Bible Conference, and the Cornerstone Conference.
2. That sessions call on their people to pray daily for the work and ministry of the local congregation, the presbyteries, and the General Synod and challenge the laymen to have a systematic study of the Scripture and also to set aside a time for daily devotions.
3. That laymen be challenged to familiarize themselves with our doctrinal standards as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.
4. That opportunities to prepare and equip lay people for effective Christian service and opportunities to involve laymen in ministries be provided through the local congregations and also through the work teams provided through this committee and that encouragement to participate in community-based ministries be given through the local congregation.
5. That the retreat and conference ministries of the ARP Church be given proper promotion within each congregation.
6. That sessions be encouraged to designate one Sunday in the month of October as a day to celebrate and emphasize the role of laymen in the church.
7. That the following personnel for the Family Bible Conference be approved for the 2010-2011 term: Rev. Greg Hamer, Director; Rev. Tim Watson, Assistant Director; and Mr. John Barron, Treasurer.
8. That the proposed amendment to the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be approved.

9. That the Budget for 2010 be approved as follows:

Laity in Action Conference	\$ 5,000
Family Bible Conference	\$12,000
Laity Workshops	\$ 1,000
Cornerstone Conference	\$ 2,000
Director of Lay Ministry	\$ 4,000
Cooperative Work with A.L.L.	\$ 3,000
Committee Expense	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
Total	\$33,000

Respectfully submitted,
Ron McKnight, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON LAY MINISTRY

Membership: At Large: ~~Twelve~~ Thirteen members, ~~all~~ one of whom shall be a minister and 12 of whom shall be laypersons, six men and six women (one of whom shall be nominated from a name or names submitted by the ARP Women's Ministries)

Advisory: President of ARP Women's Ministries,
Director of Lay Ministry, ~~ARP Women's Ministries~~
~~Conference Director, ARP Women's Ministries~~
~~Leadership Training Chairman~~ ARP Women's Ministries
Administrator, President of Alliance of Loyal Laity,
Family Bible Conference Director, Moderator of Synod,
Moderator-Elect of Synod, Coordinator of the General
Synod, Cornerstone Planning Committee Chairman.
2000 Minutes of Synod, p. 681)

Terms of**Service:**

At Large: Four years.

Advisory: As determined by the office to which elected or appointed.

Stated Meetings: At least twice annually.

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

~~Sub-Committees:~~ ~~Sub-Committee on Conferences~~

~~Sub-Committee on Outreach~~

~~Sub-Committee on Growth~~

Administrative Officer: Director of Lay Ministry

Authority: ~~The Committee on Lay Ministry shall promote, train for,~~

~~encourage, and support by all means available lay involvement in the total ministry of the church to the world.~~
For a biblical ordering of the life and ministry of the church, the Committee on Lay Ministry shall promote lay involvement in the total ministry of the church to the world by providing encouragement, resources, and training to local churches (congregations) for the energizing of the laity.

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

Duties:

1. To plan and ~~execute~~implement, in cooperation with presbyteries, congregations, and the ARP Women's Ministries, conferences, retreats, and workshops with a view of involving men, women, and young people.
2. To plan and ~~execute~~implement a Family Bible Conference for the Synod each year in coordination with the ARP Women's Ministries and agencies of Synod.
3. To recommend to the General Synod a Family Bible Conference Director, an Assistant Director, and a Treasurer.
4. To plan and implement a Laymen's Conference and a Young Adult Conference for the Synod each year.
5. To promote the work of laymen through denominational publications and other media.
6. To encourage utilization of lay persons within the ministry of the church in such areas as evangelism, teaching ministry, stewardship, and services on boards and committees of congregations, presbyteries, and Synod.
7. To recommend to the Synod for appointment the Director of Lay Ministry and to direct the work of this person.
8. To promote lay-centered Bible study in congregations of the denomination through such programs as Bible Mastery Month, home Bible study, and family ~~altars~~devotions.

9. To present to Synod an operating budget to cover cost of conferences, salaries, and expenses for the administration of lay ministry.
10. As a part of lay ministry, to promote men's and women's work ministries in presbyteries and congregations.
11. To report annually to the General Synod.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE LEADERS **Revised February 16, 2002**

- I. DIRECTOR
 - A. Selection:

The Family Bible Conference Director is approved by the General Synod on recommendation from the Lay Ministry Committee.

The Director shall serve a two year term.

The Assistant Director, after serving two years, becomes Director. If the Assistant Director cannot become Director, the Lay Ministry Committee shall appoint a Director subject to the approval of Synod.
 - B. Responsibilities:
 1. General oversight and coordination of the conference program.
 2. Through the Lay Ministry Committee, make budget requests to the General Synod for the Family Bible conference.
 3. Serve as liaison with the Bonclarken staff.
 4. Chair the Conference Planning Committee consisting of the Director, Assistant Director, the Director of Lay Ministry, and the ARP Women's Ministries Conference Committee.
 5. Secure the following conference personnel:
 - a. Music Leader
 - b. Morning Watch Leader
 - c. Workshop Leaders as need may arise. This will be done in coordination with the ARP Women's Ministries Conference Committee.
 - d. Evening Worship Leader. This person is to be chosen from a list of speakers approved by the Committee on Lay Ministry.
 - f. Registrars
 6. Work with the ARP Women's Ministries leadership to coordinate ARP Women's Ministries emphasis.
 7. Collect pictures, biographical data of conference participants.
 8. Prepare conference publicity posters and distribute them to churches.
 9. In coordination with the ARP Women's Ministries Conference

Director, prepare the printed program and arrange for printing.

10. Makes necessary conference reservations with Bonclarken.

11. In coordination with the ARP Women's Ministries Conference

Director, arrange for use of rooms and facilities at Bonclarken.

12. Set dates with Bonclarken for future conferences.

13. Coordinate with the Editor of The Associate Reformed

Presbyterian to publish line item conference program and sketches of participants.

14. Serve as advisory member of Lay Ministry Committee.

II. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

A. Selection:

During the second year as Assistant Director, he shall meet with the Conference Sub committee of the Lay Ministry Committee to consider the Assistant Director for the following year. This committee shall recommend to the Lay Ministry Committee a person to fill this position after considering all input from each person on the sub committee.

B. Responsibilities:

1. To work with the Director to coordinate and carry out the conference program.
2. To serve as a member of the Conference Planning Committee.
3. To carry out the duties of the Director in his absence.
4. To assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Director.
5. To oversee the registrars.

III. TREASURER

A. Selection:

The Treasurer shall serve a two year term and can succeed himself. The Treasurer is appointed to his position by the Lay Ministry Committee. He does not have to be a member of the Lay Ministry Committee; however, he shall be a lay person of good reputation, skilled in accounting as well as leadership. He shall serve as both a trainer and advisor to the incoming Assistant Director and Director.

B. Responsibilities:

1. Attends Family Bible Conference.
2. Maintains a checking account for the Family Bible Conference.
3. In coordination with the Director and Assistant Director, applies for the appropriated funds from the General Synod.
4. Handles and disburses funds that come from General Synod and Conference registrations as well as other gifts directed to the Conference.
5. Advises Director and Assistant Director in availability

of funding for proposed expenditures.

6. Files a yearly financial report with the Chairman of the Lay Ministry Committee following each Conference.

Job Description for Director of Lay Ministry

Position:	Director of Lay Ministry Reports to: Chairman of Lay Ministry Committee
Status:	Part-time
Qualifications:	Must be energetic, enthusiastic, good organizer, excel in communication.
Position Summary:	The Director of Lay Ministry is responsible for coordinating, planning, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of the lay ministry program throughout the Synod under the direction of the Lay Ministry Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Prepares material for publication in the ARP Magazine to promote involvement of lay persons in the total ministry of the church.
2. Visits and promotes lay ministry throughout the Synod.
3. Serves in an advisory capacity on the Lay Ministry Committee.
4. Develops and directs program for Layman's Weekend Retreat.
5. Assists the Director of the Family Bible Conference.
6. Prepares correspondence necessary to complete tasks.
7. Provides Lay Ministry Chairman with monthly documentation of activities and expenses incurred.
8. Applies the philosophy of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod.
9. Cooperates with ARP Women's Ministries, Bonclarken staff, ARP Conference Center and other committees.
10. Request must be submitted to the Lay Ministry Committee to serve on additional committees.
11. Serves a term of office for one year.

A motion carried that the Executive Board examine Duty #10 regarding the work of the Principal Clerk as reported in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, taking note of the responsibilities of the General Synod regarding presbyteries listed in the *Form of Government*, Chapter XIII. As a result of the examination possible alterations to Duty #10 noted above may be considered.

Following announcements, the morning business session closed with prayer and the blessing for the meal by Alan Morrow.

Wednesday, June 10, 1:45 P.M.

The Moderator's Committee meetings began at 1:45 P.M.

Wednesday, June 10, 7:00 P.M.

Following an organ prelude at 6:30 P.M. by Gabriel Statom the evening worship service was led by S. Dean Turbeville followed by music selections from the Treble Makers of Palmer Children's Home.

Sue Robertson, President of the ARP Women's Ministries, presented her President's Address to the General Synod. The motion carried to print the address in the Minutes of Synod.

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

Mr. Moderator, Members of the Court, and Friends, it is a great privilege to speak to you this evening and share with you how the Lord has been guiding the ARP Women's Ministries in this past year. It has been an humbling experience to be president of our ARP Women's Ministries, traveling throughout our denomination, visiting local churches, and attending annual meetings, luncheons, workshops, and sharing in the great hospitality of the ARP people.

Even though my term as President ends on August 31st of this year, I have been richly blessed to be a part of our church and its outreach to all those who need the touch of Jesus in their lives. I have learned well the lesson that our Lord has taught us – "when God calls us to His work, He will enable us, and empower us with His Spirit to complete His work." That is the constant assurance we need when we dedicate ourselves, individually, as well as corporately to the continuing work of what Jesus began with His disciples in the First Century.

This year we have been using as our Bible Study book: Paul's Letters to the Maturing Churches, adapted by Lynn Brookside. This is an interesting study of Paul's letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. Our theme verse for the year has been Colossians 3: 14 & 15 – "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." NKJV

The Spiritual Life book has been True Woman, by Susan Hunt. It has been a

pleasure to study such an author as Susan Hunt. She has given the ARP women a deeper understanding of who we are in Christ, and our place within the church. Next year we will complete this series with our study of *Heirs to the Covenant*.

A few of the changes that have been implemented this past year are coming into focus. The change in the term of office for the President/Vice President' will now be in effect beginning this year, September 1, 2009. The Vice President will serve one year; the second year she will serve as President; and the third year she will serve as Past President, non-voting advisory member. It will fall to me to flesh out the job description of the Past President for the future members of the ARPWM Board.

As far as our Finances are concerned, our ARPWM Treasurer, Tracey Smith, has kept us advised of all things monetary. At last July's Annual meeting, we voted in a \$1.00 increase for the Contingency Fund from each member. It has been years since there has been an increase, and Tracey advised us that it was necessary. This will go into effect at the beginning of September 2009. The ARPWM budget has been pretty consistent from year to year. For 2008-09 year, our total budgeted is \$113,415; and our largest budgeted item is still for the Jubilee Birthday Missionaries – Judy Buis and Judy Hodges – for \$46,000. We have still been able to help support the Retired Missionaries, Family Bible Conference, Camp Joy, and the ARP.

Last year we designated our Annual Meeting offering to the Women's Intern at Erskine College and Seminary. Even in these increasingly hard times, the ARP women continue to support those causes that are near and dear to their hearts. This year we will again encourage our women to continue in helping support a Women's Intern at Erskine. Even though Hannah Casey will no longer be there, there will be a new Intern to minister to the women students.

We still have seven Presbyterials and two Presbytery Representatives in Canada and Northeast. We have never been able to establish, as of yet, a Women's Representative from the Pacific Presbytery. This is an area that we hope to eventually reach out and embrace into the ARPWM family.

This 2009 General Synod Meeting marks the second anniversary of the Commissioning of the ARP Women's Ministries Administrator, Elizabeth Burns. We are indeed grateful and delighted to have Elizabeth as an integral part of our Executive Board. She has brought a rich background of Biblical knowledge, and other areas of expertise that has blessed all of us. She is spearheading the development of the ARPWM website to be ready, hopefully, by this fall. She has represented us well with new ministers and other ARP employees for the past two years, welcoming them into our ARP fellowship, and explaining the WM role in the ARP Church.

At the March Executive Board meeting for Synod, with the advisement of Executive Director Paul Bell, I invited Administrator Elizabeth Burns, and Vice President Kathy Barron, to be introduced to the Board and to support me as I asked the Board a very important question concerning the ARP Women's Ministries. The question was: "Exactly WHO or WHAT are we in the eyes of Synod? The ARP Women's Ministries is an integral part of Synod, but – we are not an Agency, or a

Board, nor a Standing Committee. So then, where do we, as an organization, fit into the overall order of our church?" The Executive Board members very graciously took our questions seriously and will study them to help identify exactly (hopefully) how Synod sees the ARPWM, and how we can work together for the continued glory of God.

In February, I attended the Lay Ministry Committee meeting in Huntersville, NC. I was nominated to this Committee by my former Pastor and have served on it since July 2006. At this meeting, I had invited Dot Hutelmyer, former First Presbyterian President, to attend. The ARPWM had just appointed her to the Family Bible Conference Committee, which is under the umbrella of the Lay Ministry. I felt it was very important for Dot to be there to meet the other members and get a feel of what her job on the FBC Committee will entail. At this time she is absorbing everything she can to understand her position of FBC Director of the WM for 2010.

During this meeting we all got a very clear picture of the WM Committee for the Family Bible Conference, which includes the WM Vice President and the Spiritual Life Chairman. During our transition from WSU to ARPWM, this FBC Committee was lost in the shuffle. It is by much prayer and God's Providence that we have found our bearings and again with His help will blaze new trails for the future of the Family Bible Conference.

Since I have become President of the ARPWM, I have grown to really appreciate the invitation to attend the various Board meetings of Erskine College and Seminary and the Synod Board. It has been like continuing education in the ARP Denomination. Every meeting has been different in its content, but the same in its order of business. This is encouraging that as the years go by, we, as ARP members have a stability of purpose and foresight to insure that the ARP Church will stand the test of time – changing where we need to change and remaining true to the theology of who we are in Christ.

At the ARPWM March meeting, we experimented with a different format of conducting our business. The Executive Committee had agreed to try having all of the Presbyterian Presidents, the Representatives, and the Board members to e-mail their reports to our Secretary, Beverly Hicks, early, so that she could in turn send them to each member of the Board. In this way we would have time to read the reports, make notes if we wanted to, and be better prepared for our Board meeting. It was a wonderful success! I facilitated the meeting to ask each member to add more to her report verbally if she wanted to explain or comment on what she had reported. In turn, each member had a chance to share more information with all of us. Overall, we found this type of exchange to be, not only enlightening, but also more relaxed and informative.

Speaking of reporting to others, it has been a concern of mine that sometimes our women are not given a chance to share what their local Women's Ministry is doing within their own church. When I became the President of my local church's WOC – Women's Ministry, I approached my pastor one Sunday after worship and

asked him if I could attend the Session meeting and give my annual report on what concerns the women had and their plans for the year. He seemed quite surprised that I wanted to meet with the Session. I told him that I believed that a representative of the women should meet with the Session at least once a year to let them know the plans and concerns of the women, and at any other time that it might be necessary. He welcomed me to come and give my report to them, which I did. Later, I wondered if there were other local churches where the women were never asked to report to the Session on the work of the Women's Ministries. I would encourage all of our pastors and elders to encourage their women to share with them about their ministries within the church. After all, God created woman to be the helper and companion to man. We still need each other in the 21st Century!

Our March Board Meeting also brought a surprise to us! Professor Doug White at Erskine Seminary telephoned me and asked the Women's Ministries to nominate this year's recipient for the Julia Hardeman Rhodes Award. Well, I had to call our Historian, Sandra Miller, to give me all the background information on the award. I was aware of the award, but did not know the particulars. Professor White wanted to share the honor of nominating a recipient each year – the ARPWM this year, and Erskine Seminary next year. When I brought the matter before our Board members, I suggested a few names of women who had served their local church, the presbytery, and WSU or ARPWM by reaching out to others to share the Lord's work, and the work of the ARP Church. Other names were also mentioned.

After some discussion, all of the Board members agreed that this year's recipient was to be Dorothy Green Tribble from Chapin, SC, and member of First Columbia. She was honored at a special Chapel at Erskine Theological Seminary on April 28th. The ARP [magazine] has a wonderful article about Dot in the June issue. Dot is the third recipient of the Julia Hardeman Award, and we celebrate her many years of service to her church and community.

Also in April, four of our women attended a REAL Training Conference at Signal Mountain Presbytery close to Chattanooga, TN. This training was created and developed by Women In Ministry serving in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In this past year, Elizabeth Burns and I, and a few of our Board members, have seen the need for more training for our ARP women to become better equipped to take on roles of leadership, and being better trained to handle different positions within the Women's Ministries, whether it is at the local, Presbyterial, or ARPWM levels. Therefore, when Elizabeth came across this particular conference, she encouraged our women to try and go to expose ourselves to the training that was offered. I report that the training was superb! REAL is an acronym for "Reaching –Equipping – Advancing – Leading." The training was broken into five main areas: Why We Do What We Do – A Theology of Ministry; The Soul of a Leader; Essentials for Women in Leadership; The Tools for Ministry; and Designing a Ministry. This last session was very important in helping to improve in what we do as Women's Ministries –to be sure that we have a Mission Statement; Strategic Planning; Marketing ourselves;

and being able to tell others about who we are and what we do. I think that all four of us --Elizabeth Burns, Kathy Barron, Joanne Hamilton, and I -- were equally impressed by the training sessions, and we came away with much to think about, especially how we can implement some of the new ideas into our own local and Presbyterian Women's Ministries, as well as the ARPWM Board level.

One of the truths about the work of Christ that has come through loud and clear throughout this year has been: Our ministry as ARP Women, is nothing more, and nothing less than Jesus' OWN continuing ministry. He continues to call us, individually and collectively, to grow in our relationship with HIM so that we can bring Jesus, God Himself, to humanity. Wherever we are, wherever we go, we are His representative to the entire world around us. How can we do this? Everyone who calls himself or herself "Christian" must be dedicated to Christ Jesus, not only as our Lord and Savior, but also as the basis of all that involves our lives.

Elizabeth [Burns] has shared with us a way to move towards becoming true women for God. We are to know Jesus more intimately; to love Him more deeply; and to serve Him more faithfully. Faith in God is dynamic, rather than static -- meaning that God works with us for His purpose and will to be done in our lives. May all that we do be done for Him!

Members of the Court and Friends, I thank you for being an attentive audience. Thank you for allowing me to share with you my report from the ARP Women's Ministries for this last year. Thank you for your continued godly leadership for the ARP Church. As the baton passes from me to Kathy Barron, the incoming president, on September 1, 2009, I ask for your prayers for Kathy and all the members of the ARP Women's Ministries as we plan for our Annual Meeting in July and face a new year, with work to do done for God's glory and purpose.

In closing, I share the Apostle Paul's words with you from 1stThessalonians 5: 16-18: 'Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'"

Kyle Sims, on behalf of the Committee on Inter-Church Relations, introduced three Fraternal Delegates who addressed the Synod:

The Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorf, the Ecumenical Director of the Christian Reformed Church.

The Rev. Dr. Don Fortson, professor of Church History at the Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Prutow, professor of Homelitics at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburg, Moderator of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

Jack Whytock closed the presentation with prayer.

Synod adjourned with the Benediction by Greg Slater.

Thursday, June 11, 7:00 A.M.

Earl Linderman led the informal "coffee and singing of the Psalms" on the Dining Room Porch.

The Rev. Dr. Dennis J. Prutow led the opening worship service.

The Camp Joy campers and the volunteer staff of Camp Joy made a special appearance before the Synod at this time. Former Camp Joy staff members in attendance at Synod were invited to join in the last part of the program. The members of the Synod responded with extended standing applause.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2010

Retired Moderator Bill Evans nominated Steven Maye. Retired Moderator Gordon Query seconded the nomination.

A motion carried that the nominations be closed and Mr. Maye be elected by acclamation.

Mr. Maye addressed the Synod.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** was presented. Synod recessed for the morning break.

MEMORIAL FROM FIRST PRESBYTERY

RE: DISSOLVING ALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

[NOT ADOPTED]

WHEREAS, for approximately three decades the Presbyterian Church (USA) has been entangled in controversy over the ordination of practicing "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered" persons; and

WHEREAS, the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), meeting in June 2008, issued an "authoritative interpretation" of their Book of Order that permits practicing "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered" candidates to conscientiously object to the existing standards that require candidates for ordination to live "either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness," and that allows Presbyteries to approve the ordination of "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered" persons on a case-by-case basis; and

WHEREAS, this action is a rejection of the truth in Holy Scripture and in nature that our God-given gifts of sexuality are to be expressed only in the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman; and

WHEREAS, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in its long history has sought to maintain fraternal relations with like-minded Presbyterian and Reformed denominations; and

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church currently maintains a relationship of Fraternal Correspondence and other cooperative relationships with the Presbyterian Church (USA); and

WHEREAS, the recent decisions by the Presbyterian Church (USA) make it difficult for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the

Presbyterian Church (USA) to walk in one accord in faithful obedience to Holy Scripture;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that First Presbytery of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church request the General Synod to, with deep regret and sadness, dissolve all relationships with the Presbyterian Church (USA), and that the Moderator of the General Synod be instructed to frame a letter to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) informing the Stated Clerk and the Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee of this action.

Attest:

Mr. Tom Patterson

Principal Clerk of First Presbytery

MEMORIAL FROM FIRST PRESBYTERY

RE: COMMEMORATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN CALVIN [ADOPTED]

WHEREAS, the 500th Anniversary of the birth of John Calvin is to occur on July 10, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* is arguably the greatest apologetic of the Christian faith coming from the uninspired hand of man; and

WHEREAS Calvin's scholarship contributed mightily to the emergence of liberty, including the freedom of men, the rule of law, and the principles of the republic, in several nations of the world, specifically, Switzerland, Germany, France, Scotland, Ireland, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, and, not least, the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Calvin's theology contributed to the founding of Reformed and Presbyterian churches in Europe and the British Isles, which churches have spread around the world; and

WHEREAS, Christians throughout the world are participating in events commemorating Calvin's birth this year;

THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT First Presbytery give thanks to our sovereign God for the life and contributions of John Calvin affecting the members of our churches as a free people;

THAT First Presbytery encourage its member churches to mark the anniversary date of Calvin's birth for the purpose of enlightening the members of our churches of the many contributions of John Calvin that affect our lives as Americans and as Christians;

THAT First Presbytery memorialize the General Synod meeting in June 2009 to encourage member Presbyteries to promote similar commemorative

events within their member churches;

THAT First Presbytery petition the Governor and the Legislature of North Carolina to mark the date of Calvin's birth by appropriate resolutions;

THAT First Presbytery petition the President and the Congress of the United States to mark the date of Calvin's birth in similar fashion;

and THAT First Presbytery memorialize the General Synod meeting in June 2009 to adopt like petitions to the governments of North Carolina and of the United States of America.

Attest:

Mr. Tom Patterson

Principal Clerk of First Presbytery

MEMORIAL FROM FIRST PRESBYTERY

RE: ERSKINE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

[ADOPTED]

That First Presbytery encourage the 2009 General Synod to instruct the Moderator of Synod to form a special commission to investigate whether the oversight exercised by the Board of Trustees and the Administration of Erskine College and Seminary is in faithful accordance with the Standards of the ARP Church and the synod's previously issued directives.

The **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended:

1. that Recommendation #1 not be approved.
2. that Recommendation #2 be approved.
3. that Recommendation #3 be approved.

In addition, the Moderator's Committee on Memorials made the following recommendation:

4. Pursuant to the approval of Recommendation #3, the commission is directed to report back to General Synod no later than the 2010 meeting of General Synod with a report and the commission's findings and recommendations.

The Moderator's Committee recommendations were approved.

A motion carried that in light of the 205th Synod's actions to cease fraternal correspondence with the PCUSA and because it is increasingly difficult to find similar theological foundations with the PCUSA, the largest denomination in our current endorsing agency, the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel, this Synod charge the Minister and His Work to investigate a more suitable and theologically sound endorsing agency for ARP Chaplains and to report such findings at the next meeting of General Synod.

The morning session closed with prayer and the blessing by Jeffery J. Kingswood.

Thursday, June 11, 2:00 P.M.

Stephen Maye led the afternoon worship service.

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

**REPORT OF THE BOARD
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES**
“Equipping the Saints”

Thirty years ago, the ARP purposefully reached out to an often forgotten group of people, those with physical and mental disabilities. That ministry has thrived now for decades and it is with great joy that we celebrate the 30th year of Camp Joy in 2009. This camp, a vision of Mrs. Francis Sanders and Mrs. Ann Brice has built lifelong relationships with both students and parents. To this day, Ann still faithfully directs the camp under the supervision of CEM. This year we want to recognize and rejoice in 30 years of God's faithfulness to a camp that has reached hundreds of campers and counselors with the truth of God's profound love for them in Christ.

Christian Education should be a strong focus in every church and it is the goal of Christian Education Ministries (CEM) to be a resource to the churches of the Synod, no matter the size or zip [postal] code. This past year we have taken our Elder/Deacon training to Florida, and we are planning to take this training to Memphis, Tennessee during the coming year. After 30 years at Bonclarken, Camp Joy will also be duplicated “on the road” as we provide a week of Camp Joy to those in Florida. Again, our goal is to be a resource to all the churches of the synod.

We have been called to grow in God's Word and be thoroughly equipped. Just as the local church is dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of its people, CEM is dedicated to doing everything within our ability and scope of authority and resource to provide the local church with the expertise/training to effectively teach the truths of God's word. The Board of Christian Education Ministries is excited about the future of Christian education in the ARP and the role that CEM is going to play in that future.

Organization:

Officers: Chairman – Bob Whittet, Vice-Chairman – Chad Reynolds,
Secretary – Jeanie Alexander

Committees: Executive Committee
Events Committee
Resource Committee

Board Meetings: The Board of Christian Education Ministries held

two meetings since last synod meeting. These meetings were held on September 12-13, 2008 at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock NC and February 10 - 12, 2009 in Greenville, SC.

Authority:

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

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

Duties and Work Underway...

1. To employ such administrators and staff as are necessary for the work of the Board and to supervise the execution of Board policies(*Manual of Authorities and Duties* 2008)
 - The Board held a special dinner during the September meeting to honor Mrs. Marge Malone for here 25 years of service. Marge's family was invited, and past directors and employees were invited. CEM is thankful for Marge's faithful service to CEM.
 - In April, an office manager was hired to fill the gap caused by Marge's retirement. Due to the current economic downturn, this position will be reduced to a part-time position until funds become available.
2. To prepare and recommend to Synod each year, a budget to do the work of the Board and to oversee the use of financial resources designated by the Synod for these purposes. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties* 2008) See budget at end of this report.
3. To initiate, develop, promote, coordinate, and evaluate comprehensive programs of Christian education for Synod, presbyteries, and congregations that will help to equip the saints for their ministries in the world (Ephesians 4:12). (*Manual of Authorities and Duties* 2008)
 - The Board approved the taking over of the ARP bookstore and the responsibility of publications.
 - CEM reprinted the cover of the Shorter Catechism Booklet.

- The board sent the publication of Alvin Sell's Senior High curriculum to a theological editor and is working on its publication.
 - The Board is working on developing a devotional study of the Westminster Confession of Faith utilizing the monthly articles in the *ARP Magazine* by Dr. Wilfred Bellamy.
 - CEM is utilizing the services of Mr. Matt Ross, a licentiate of First Presbytery, in the area of resources.
 - CEM is working on a new booklet based on the seven questions one answers when joining the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
4. To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry (i.e., Sunday School, catechism training, mid-week programming, Vacation Bible School, etc.). (*Manual of Authorities and Duties* 2008)
- CEM produced a new Power Point presentation for the Adult Quarterly (Sunday School Curriculum).
 - The Board moved to remove its endorsement of CRC/Faith Alive curriculum as a result of the removal of CRC by NAPARC.
 - The Board continues to explore a strong relationship with Great Commission Publications.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM RESOURCES

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

1. **The Adult Quarterly of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church** (Order from the ARP Center, Office of Covenant Discipleship, One Cleveland St., Ste. 110, Greenville, SC 29601-3696, (864) 232-8297 ext. 233) Written by Dr. William B. Evans, Associate professor of Bible and Religion at Erskine College.
 2. **Great Commission Publications** (Great Commission Publications, 3640 Windsor Park Dr., Suite 100, Suwanee, GA 30174-1800 (800) 695-3387) Sponsored by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in America, and based on the view that Christian education is for evangelism and personal commitment. Materials are available for preschoolers through adults.
5. To inform Synod, presbyteries, pastors, sessions, DCE's, superintendents, and chairmen of local Christian education

committees concerning trends and developments in Christian Education. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)

- The Board heard reports from all the Presbytery representatives concerning the work that was going on in each Presbytery.
 - The Board also encouraged all Christian Education Presbytery representatives to carry all pertinent Christian Education information back to their presbytery for implementation.
6. To develop and supervise a full program of camps, conferences, retreats, etc., and when requested to assist presbyteries in these areas. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)
- The board requested that the Executive Committee of General Synod give the board wisdom and direction as to whether the sacrament of the Lord's Supper should be administered at selected CEM events.
 - The board looked at its existing camps and conferences and was encouraged by the continued strong attendance patterns
 Horizon Conference (Sr. High Conference) attendance—368
 Quest Conference (Jr. High Conference) attendance—371
 Camp Joy—3 full sessions with 129 campers and 135 counselors and 32 staff members
 Appalachian Mission—456 ARP young people and adults from 41 churches conducted Vacation Bible Schools in 24 locations in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia ministering to more than 600 children,
 Bonsenior (Senior Adult Conference) was held at Bonclarken with 87 in attendance.
 - The board acknowledged that 2009 would mark the 30th year of Camp Joy and moved to establish an Ann Brice Camp Joy fund.
 - The board moved to have a 4th week of Camp Joy in Florida for 2010.
 - The board is pursuing partnering with the presbyteries to hold regional sponsored events for children beginning in 2010.
7. To cooperate with other Christian denominations in carrying out all phases of the teaching ministry. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)
- CEM continues to work with GCP, PCA and OPC and seeks to build relationships with other denominations.
8. To help local congregations plan, promote, and execute the best possible teaching ministry by:
- a. Providing and promoting opportunities for leadership training;
 - b. Developing and promoting Christian education activities for congregations.

- c. Assisting, when requested, in the development of congregational libraries
- d. Making available relevant media resources for loan or purchase from the office of Christian Education Ministries. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)
 - CEM held two Elder/Deacon training sessions this year led by Dr. Mark Ross. On January 17th an Elder/Deacon training was held in the Bartow ARP Church. The total attendance was 167. On January 31st the second part of the Elder/Deacon training was held in Gastonia, NC. The total attendance was 265.
 - CEM will promote Sunday school whenever possible.
 - CEM held several workshops in churches for Sunday school teachers on the topic of "Learning Styles." CEM's Executive Director, E. Brent Turner led these workshops.
 - CEM assisted several churches in improving their youth programs.
- 9. To promote job opportunities for those who may be called into the ministry of Christian Education. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)
 - The board encouraged presbytery representatives to inform presbyteries of the opportunity to support the CEM internship program (a program designed to give ARP students an opportunity to serve in Christian Education for a summer).
 - CEM advertizes Christian Education job opportunities available on its website when churches request them to do so.
- 10. To collect annual reports from congregations on their teaching ministries and to make summary reports available to the General Synod and to presbytery committees on the status of Christian education ministries in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)
 - Reports available upon request.
- 11. To make an annual report to the General Synod. (*Manual of Authorities and Duties 2008*)

Recommendations

- 1. CEM recommends that the 2010 budget be approved.
- 2. CEM recommends that Synod acknowledge Mrs. Ann Brice for thirty years of directing Camp Joy (Special Needs Camp) and pray for God's blessing upon this camp.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Whittet, Chairman

The **Moderator's Committee on Christian Education Ministries** recommended that the recommendations of the board report be adopted. In addition, the Moderator's Committee on Christian Education Ministries

recommended that:

3. We thank the staff of Christian Education Ministries for their faithful and dedicated service to all ages of our denomination.

The Moderator's Committee recommendations were approved.

Christian Education Ministries

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
Revenues		
DM Allocation	\$ 252,192	\$ 257,236
Easter Offering Allocation	11,330	11,557
Contributions for Ministry		
Total Misc Contributions-Operations	4,635	0
Total Local WSU Contributions	<u>4,635</u>	<u>4,300</u>
Total Contributions for Ministry	9,270	4,300
Total Miscellaneous Income	4,635	1,100
Total Registration and Fees	319,155	333,755
Total Sales & Subscriptions	47,380	51,300
CEM Operating Reserve Interest Allocation	550	2,000
Special Endowment Fund Gift	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,250</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 645,762	\$ 662,498
Expenses		
Total Salaries and Benefits	291,951	220,007
Total Support Staff	192,159	119,342
Total Staff Reimbursed Expenses	11,208	44,031
Total Board/Committee Expenses	9,690	12,750
General Office		
Total Promotional Expenses	7,945	4,725
Total CEM Resources Purchased	6,270	4,200
Total Furniture/Equip/Software	2,595	2,684
Total Communications	1,601	638
Total Rent	9,593	9,880
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>13,650</u>	<u>8,400</u>

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
Total General Office	41,654	30,527
Total Facility Management	650	650
CEM Contingency - (Em)	5,000	5,000
Publications Expenses		
Total Adult Quarterly Expenses	22,098	23,203
Total Adult Quarterly Editor	16,883	16,883
Total Book Store Purchases	0	3,090
Total Other Publications Expenses	<u>401</u>	<u>630</u>
Total Publications Expenses	39,382	43,806
Total Ministry Disbursements	117	300
Conferences and Training		
Total Staff Conf Room & Board Exp	209,300	230,700
Total Conference Honorariums/Fees	28,503	21,838
Total Conferences Travel Expenses	7,242	9,610
Total Conference Planning Expenses	5,183	5,589
Total Conference Supplies	29,209	19,442
Total Conference Promotional	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,839</u>
Total Conferences and Training	<u>282,937</u>	<u>290,018</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 682,589	\$ 647,089
Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ 36,827</u>	<u>\$ 15,409</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$ 17,571</u>	<u>\$ 133,629</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 19,254</u>	<u>\$ 149,039</u>

Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10,
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.

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

Report of the Committee on Nominations

The Committee on Nominations met on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC. Following introductions, Tom Shoger gave a devotional message and led in prayer. The Committee met again by telephone conference call on April 15, 2009 and May 21, 2009. Committee members present: John Krieg (Florida Presbytery Representative), Earl Linderman (First Presbytery Representative), Andy Putnam (Catawba Presbytery Representative), Tom Shoger (Second Presbytery Representative), Howard Wheeler (Mississippi Valley Presbytery Representative), Fred Hartin (Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery Representative), Nancy Corbitt (Women's Ministries Representative), and Bill Harris (Virginia Presbytery Representative). The representatives of Canadian, and Pacific Presbyteries

were absent. Also present were Gordon Query (Moderator); Dr. Alan Avera (ONA), who represented Northeast Presbytery in the absence of GJ Gerard (Chairman); and Paul Bell (Central Services). After procedural comments from Vice Chairman Linderman, the nominations process began, working on a consensus basis. Andy Putnam offered to act as Secretary for this meeting. The Committee recessed at noon for lunch, with John Krieg asking the Lord's blessing of the meal. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm with prayer offered by Bill Harris.

Notes:

The nomination process proceeded, working on a consensus basis. At the conclusion, a motion to approve the slate of nominees passed. The Committee presents the following nominees for service on Boards, Committees, the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, and as officers or representatives of the General Synod. The terms of service will begin July 1, 2009, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

Benefits

2015 — Tom Clary, Nat Stewart

Bonclarken

2015 — Windsor Sherrill (Greenville), Bob Mitchell (Richland), Brad Anderson

Christian Education Ministries

2015 — James McManus

Erskine

2015 — Lawrence Nycum, Lisa Robinson Senn, William Cain, Max Bolin (TE), Fred Carr (TE)

Outreach North America

2014 — Charles Bunner (Mt. Zion)

2015 — Wesley Spring, Jr.

Stewardship

2015 — Richard Carter

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian

2015 — Charles Hammond, Melonie Shue

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

2010 — _____(P)*

2011 — Jamie Self

2015 — _____(S)*, _____

World Witness

2013 — Rodney Shands

2015 — Frank Kovacs, Nairy Ohanian

Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs

2013 — Timothy Phillips (TE- Midlane Park, Louisville, KY), Henry Foster

Inter-Church Relations

2015 — Rudy de Vries

Investment Committee

2014 — Jim Crisp

Lay Ministry

2011 — Lee Campbell (Women's Min)

2013 — George Moser (Layman), John Hughes (Layman)

Theological and Social Concerns

2013 — Dean Turbeville, Jack Ryan

Worship

2010 — Kathy Dorr

2012 — Terry Williams (for the term of Jack Heinsohn)

2013 — Kristi Self, Gabriel Statom, Andy Stager

Officers of Synod:

2012 — Principal Clerk: Ron Beard

Bill Clerk: Leland Beaudrot

Treasurer: Guy H. Smith, II

Historian: Bryan McKown

The following presbytery appointees/representatives are reported as information:

Christian Education Ministries

2010 — William B. Everett (M), Robert Whittet (N)

2012 — David Vance (V) Unknown: (P), (A), (FL)

2013 -- Clint Davis (C)

Executive Board of Synod

2010 — Guy Smith (C), Jeff Kingswood (A), Bryan Jurkowski (FL)

2011 — H. Max Bolin (V), Peter Waid (S)

2012 — James S. Kidd (T), _____(P)

2013 — Gary Clowers (M), R. Anderson (NE)

Outreach North America, The Board of Church Extension

2010 — Teddy Ray (T), Hae Soung Kim (P)

2011 — James Wittke (N), Brian Murray (A), Rick Lewis (F)

2012 — David Wharf (V)

2013 -- Martin Taylor (C), Unknown: (P)

Board of Stewardship

2010 — Martha Dees (M), Eldredge Kelley (S), Blake Moore (F)

2011 — H. Paul Matthews (N)

2012 — John Shearouse (A), J. Barry Dagenhart (C)

2013 — Don Hampton (V), Unknown: (P), (A)

Committee on Minister and His Work (Includes Chairmen of Candidates/Students if duties are divided)

2010 — Lee Shelnutt (F), Rick Barnes (A)

2011 — Charles Todd (M)

2012— David Blugerman (V), John Cook (S), Calvin W. Todd (T),
Unknown: (P), (FL)

Committee on Nominations

2010 — Tom Shoger (S), Fred Hartin (T), Howard Wheeler (M), G. J. Gerard(N)

2011 — Bill Harris (V), Henry Bartsch (A) Unknown: (P), Robert Johnson (FL)

2013 – Kyle E. Sims (C), Lee Campbell (WM)

Officers for July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010:

G.J. Gerard, Chairman; Earl Linderman, Vice Chairman; Howard Wheeler, Secretary

The Nominations packets for 2010 will be mailed in September 2009.

The deadline for submission of nominees will be January 4, 2010. The Committee will meet February 8, 2010, 9:30 A.M., at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

Recommendations

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated.
2. That each person or group desiring to submit a nomination review carefully the “Guidelines For The Committee on Nominations” found in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* to be sure the nominee meets the standards established by Synod.
3. That each session, pastor, board and committee make a greater effort to identify qualified persons who are willing to serve on the various boards and committees of Synod, and to submit the names of these individuals to the Committee on Nominations.
4. That each presbytery be reminded to consider appointing an alternate representative to Synod’s Committee on Nominations in the event that the chairman of a presbytery Committee on Nominations is not able to attend Synod’s Committee meeting.
5. That presbyteries consider making Recommendations for Service during their fall meetings.
6. That sessions consider making Recommendations for Service during their November and December meetings.
7. That those making Recommendations for Service to the Committee (by mail or on-line) remember the need to use the proper form, and to provide helpful information concerning the qualifications for each person recommended.
8. That each prospective Erskine Board nominee be furnished with a copy of the 1977 Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education,

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

9. That the General Synod authorize \$6,000 for Committee expenses in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
G. J. Gerard, Chairman

The Report of the Committee on Nominations was adopted.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2010.

Moderator-Elect Maye nominated Rob Patrick. Andrew Putnam seconded the nomination. Mr. Patrick was elected by acclamation and escorted to the podium by the Moderator-Elect. Mr. Patrick addressed the Synod.

The Report of the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* was presented (following the special presentation of the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian* Wednesday evening by Walter Payne, Board Chairman).

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF

THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

The Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* is very thankful for the many blessings of the past year. We are especially thankful for faithful subscribers and club plan churches that make it a priority to make sure each family in the church receives the magazine, either by mail or online.

We added Susan Lever to our staff in August 2008. Her skills as marketing and sales director at Bonclarken, as well as her computer knowledge and organizational skills are a plus in her new role as Assistant Editor.

Appreciation was expressed to Rev. Max Bolin at the September meeting, for his years of service as Board chairman and board member. Walter Payne, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC, was elected to fill the chairman's position, beginning in September, 2008.

Editor's Report

In our effort to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who write monthly articles, the All in Our Family editor, our graphic designer, Web master and proofreaders. This

important work is done by faithful volunteers or by those who receive a minimal payment for excellent services.

But most of all, it's a service given because of their love of God's Word, the church and *The ARP*. Although we have made great strides in the past year implementing an online version of the magazine; online advertising; improving *ARP News Update* and our Web site, as well as new design features for the print version, subscriptions are still hovering around 4,000.

The economy may be a factor in low magazine subscriptions, as churches experience a drop in giving, but it can also be attributed to the lack of participation in promoting the magazine in our churches.

Church participation in the Annual Subscription Campaign and the "every member" church plans has been decreasing at an alarming rate. Out of 266 churches that were mailed campaign information last year, only 124 returned their subscription list, renewing and adding new subscribers.

Because it is so difficult to get ministers or clerks of session to appoint someone to represent the magazine, many churches have no one to promote their denomination's magazine. Therefore, no one is asked to subscribe and no one represents the magazine at budget time, asking to be included to make sure all families receive *The ARP*.

In trying to determine what to do about the low subscription numbers throughout the denomination, the Board voted to try a trial subscription drive in a test market of 12 churches with low subscription percentages.

On March 5, kits were mailed to the 12 churches representing all presbyteries. Each kit contained concise, step-by-step instructions for a successful magazine drive, with a letter from Moderator Gordon Query. If this method proves to be successful, we will apply what we learned to our Annual Fall Subscription Campaign for all churches.

News of our denomination continues to go out online to approximately 700 subscribers weekly in the form of *ARP News Update*. Current ARP information and late, breaking news are now reaching all our ministers and those who subscribe to this free service.

Our online version of the magazine was launched in January. We currently have more than 100 subscribers reading the online version in its entirety by email. This was a very smooth launch, thanks to the expertise of Central Services' IT expert, Leland Beaudrot. We are confident that the popularity of the online magazine will continue as we strive to keep up with ever-changing technologies.

Actions of the Board

In an effort to oversee the publication of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, the Board met in September, 2008, and March, 2009 (conference call).

We report the following actions:

The Board:

- Approved a recommendation from the Publications Committee to create a new member packet program. The packets would be made available to any church at a cost of \$10.00 per packet, plus shipping.
- Approved a recommendation that the editor be authorized to petition the Executive Board to request that *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* be included in the Board of Stewardship's Special Offering one time each year.
- Approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the editor petition the Board of Stewardship to request keeping any excess funds from the 2008 budget, due to three months without assistant editor salary payout.
- Approved a recommendation that Sabrina Cooper be sent a letter of appreciation for her graphic design work.
- Prepared the 2010 budget for submission to the Board of Stewardship.
- Noted the implementation of the online version of *The ARP* in January.
- Noted implementation of test market promotion to 12 churches.
- Noted with great appreciation a full slate of board members, beginning spring 2009, welcoming new members Leslie Milling, Melonie Shue and Rev. Charles Hammond.
- The Board elected the following officers for 2009-2010:
 Chairman: Mr. Walter F. Payne, Jr. (First Gastonia)
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. Oran P. Smith (First Columbia)
 Secretary: Rev. John M. Rogers (Edwards Memorial)

Recommendations

The Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* recommends:

1. That Synod designate one Sunday in November as *ARP Magazine* Sunday, and that in the weeks to follow, special emphasis be given in churches to obtain subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* for the year 2010.
2. That all churches consider the benefits of participating in the Church Club Plan for subscriptions to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
3. That each church Session appoint a representative to promote and handle subscriptions.
4. That the General Synod encourage churches and pastors to promote *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
5. That the General Synod strongly encourages every minister to subscribe to *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*.
6. That the proposed 2010 budget be approved.
7. That the report of the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* be approved.

Respectfully submitted,
 Walter F. Payne, Chairman
 Delores P. McDonald, Editor

The **Moderator's Committee on *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*** recommended that the recommendations of the board report be adopted. In addition, the Moderator's Committee of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* also recommended:

8. That the Editor and Staff of the *ARP Magazine* be commended for their hard work and extraordinary efforts.

The Moderator's Committee recommendations were approved.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian

	Revised 2009 Budget	Proposed 2010 Budget
REVENUES		
Denominational Ministries Alloc	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000
ARP Promotional Income Alloc	645	
Miscellaneous Gifts	0	200
WSU Contributions	3,000	3,000
ARP Subscription Income	60,996	61,840
Online Subscription Income	5,004	5,160
ARP Advertisement Income	11,000	12,500
Misc Income	0	150
Interest Allocation	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,280</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 189,245	\$ 191,130
EXPENSES		
TOTAL SALARIES AND BENEFITS	113,546	118,359
STAFF & BOARD EXPENSES		
Editor Expenses	691	710
Staff Expenses	336	350
Board Meeting & Travel Exp	2,500	2,580
Dues & Membership Fees	140	150
Clerical Help	1,000	1,000
PUBLICITY & PROMOTION		
Publicity & Promotion	4,000	4,120
ARP News Update 800 Charges	40	40
"The ARP" Web Page	828	850
EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	4,500	0
COMMUNICATIONS		
Internet Services	250	260
Long Distance	50	50
MISCELLANEOUS		
Rent	5,757	5,930
Office Supplies & Misc	2,250	2,320
Contingency	500	500

	Revised 2009 Budget	Proposed 2010 Budget
PRODUCTION EXPENSES		
Preparation & Printing	40,440	41,650
Labels and Postage	10,500	10,820
Materials and Supplies	500	520
Photography Expenses	700	720
Design Services	<u>4,944</u>	<u>5,090</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 193,472</u>	<u>\$ 196,019</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>\$ (4,227)</u>	<u>\$ (4,889)</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$ 24,964</u>	<u>\$ 20,739</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 20,739</u>	<u>\$ 15,850</u>

*Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10,
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.*

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

Report of the Board of Outreach North America

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

This report will highlight how we have pursued the main duties assigned to ONA by Synod in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

1. To work with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies for evangelism, including strategies to help our presbyteries and churches reach the increasingly ethnically diverse population in the United States and Canada.

- ONA has continued to provide evangelism resources to each church in the Synod. At Christmas, we sent each pastor two booklets: *Helping Guests Connect with Your Church* and *Your Spiritual Journey*. Then in March, we sent a promotional DVD about *Christianity Explored* to each church, as well as a catalogue of *Christianity Explored* resources. We have also purchased three *Christianity Explored* starter kits that churches can borrow as a way to try out this evangelism tool.

- John Kimmons continues on staff with ONA as Director of Evangelism and Care. Many ARP Churches have invited John to preach or to speak at training events, special services, or retreats.

- ONA is recommending that Synod observe a special emphasis each February on the free offer of the Gospel. This will continually remind us of a vital part of our heritage and will encourage ARPs to be Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:20). ONA will provide churches with materials, prayers, lesson outlines, and possibly even audio and video to help churches in celebrating and applying

the ARP heritage of the free offer of the Gospel.

- ONA continues to work with Erskine Seminary in teaching a required course on evangelism, and with World Witness and Erskine Seminary to teach a missions course called Islam in the West: A Missiological Perspective. Much of this course had to do with relational evangelism in the ethnically diverse population of North America.

- ONA reaffirms our commitment to work together with World Witness in overseeing the ministry of ARPConnect. ARPConnect seeks to help the ARP Church reach people with a Muslim background.

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

- Ken Priddy, as ONA Director of Church Renewal, is currently coaching twenty ARP churches through a church revitalization process. He just completed a two-day training intensive in May for churches in reasonable proximity to Atlanta, GA. On September 14-15, he will be conducting a similar training intensive for churches in reasonable proximity to Charlotte, NC. Ken has produced a 17-minute audio overview of the High M-Pact Revitalization process. We have mailed a copy of this audio to each church, and we will also have copies available at the ONA booth at Synod. Ken has also developed a 59-page book "Teach a Church to Fish: Revitalization Through Outreach and Evangelism." This book, which gives an overview of the revitalization process, is available from the ONA web site: www.outreachnorthamerica.org.

- ONA is exploring whether to use The Church Health Survey developed by the Lawless Group to measure perceptions people in a church have about their church. The Church Health Survey is a 160-item questionnaire that measures a church's perceived health in six purposes of the church: worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, prayer and ministry. A pilot group of churches will be using the survey over the next year.

- To address a significant concern of Moderator-Elect de Witt, Ken will be organizing a series of three regional small church conferences to address specifically the health and morale of the many smaller congregations in the ARP Church. We are tentatively aiming to conduct conferences in the following regions over the next year: Mississippi Valley (October); Charlotte (October); and Canada (April). Four main areas will be addressed in these conferences: meet the small church; pray for the small church; explore the small church; and renew the small church.

3. To work with our presbyteries and other agencies to develop and implement strategies for new church development and for ARP expansion in the United States and Canada.

- The following mission congregations have received financial supplements

from Outreach North America during all or part of the period:

Catawba

Indian Land ARP, Indian Land, SC	Rev. Gary Stiltner
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First

Rivertown, Hillsborough, NC	Rev. Stacey Cox
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Hope Chapel, Greensboro, NC	Rev. Todd Jones
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We anticipate First Presbytery opening a mission in the North Davidson area in Charlotte (Rev. Jarvis Ross will be the mission developer) this month with supplemental funding from ONA.

Florida

Christ Community, Apollo Beach, FL	Rev. Charlie Lewis
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SonLife, Jacksonville, FL	Rev. Bob Hovey
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Mississippi Valley

Havana ARP, Havana, AR	Rev. Moises Chan
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Northeast

Christ, Grove City, PA	Dr. Iain Duguid
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TriState, Chester, WV	Rev. Rick Anderson
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Second

Travelers, Travelers Rest, SC	Rev. Bill Barron
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New Millennium, Lithonia, GA	Rev. Stephan Cobbett
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International Community Outreach (Swahili)	Rev. Isaac Gitundu
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Tennessee-Alabama

Connections, Madison, AL	Dr. Bob Illman
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- Outreach North America has also helped presbyteries prepare new mission developer candidates by providing supplements for church planting residencies and internships. The following men have received residency or internship funding during all or part of the period since the last Synod meeting: Rick Anderson, Brian Harrington, Charlie Jones, Jae Park, Jarvis Ross, Gary Stiltner, and Tim Wohlers.

- ONA has provided training for mission developers over the past year through the Mission Developer Retreat in January at Bonclarken, sending people to the Global Church Advancement church planting basic course in Orlando (directed by Dr. Steve Childers of RTS Orlando), and through quarterly New Church Community meetings in Charlotte. John Kimmons oversees these quarterly meetings.

- ONA assessed a total of eight potential church planting candidates/couples in two assessment centers, one in August and one in February.

- ONA has worked with First Presbytery to explore the possibility of church planting in Scotland. At its spring meeting, First Presbytery voted to support church planting in Scotland and requested assistance of Outreach North America and World Witness and gave permission for the treasurer

of First Presbytery to receive funding for this project. The brochure "Why Plant Churches in Scotland" will be available at the ONA booth at Synod for delegates to take back to their churches.

- Concerning national outreach, ONA has worked with other Synod agencies to produce a new promotional brochure "What Is the ARP?" This brochure is now available for churches to order through the ARP bookstore managed by Christian Education Ministries. ONA has also helped fund some exploration of possibilities in Texas.

4. To serve as liaison to the American Bible Society.

- ONA provided a short description of the American Bible Society work for Synod's Thanksgiving special offering insert.

- You can find more information about the American Bible Society at the website: www.americanbible.org.

5. To communicate the importance of financial support for these purposes and to oversee the use of financial resources received from all sources for these purposes.

- Due to the economic recession and the fall of the stock market, ONA has seen its endowment decline considerably over the past year. The endowment is used to send distributions to presbyteries for their church extension work and is also used to provide matching grants for land for a new church or for building the first building. To rebuild the endowment to the original principal level, we are scaling back a little on the distributions from the fund. That means the distributions to presbyteries will be a little smaller, and there will not be as much money to make matching grants. ONA is recommending that Synod approve a change to the ONA Policy book that would specify that a new church can get only one matching grant, either for land or for building, but not for both.

- The ONA board chairman has appointed a task force to study the ONA philosophy of church extension financing.

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

- Please see the budget attached at the end of this report.

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

- Program staff: Alan Avera, Executive Director; John Kimmons, Director of Evangelism and Care; and Ken Priddy, Director of Church Renewal.

- Administration Staff: Jean Piscina, Office Manager; and Tessa Taylor, Administrative Assistant for Publications and Communication.

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

Recommendations

1. That Synod approve revising the Outreach North America Policy Book section VI on Financial Policies. In paragraph VI.B.2, concerning matching

grants, replace "and/or" in the first sentence with "or," and add the sentence indicated in italics: Grants will be given to missions or newly organized churches to assist in the purchase of land ~~and/or~~ the building of their first unit. *Each congregation is eligible to receive only one \$35,000 grant.*

2. That Synod request that each presbytery schedule their spring and fall stated meetings on days other than those of other presbyteries. The rationale for this request is so that information, training, and updates might be disseminated rapidly and personally to each presbytery by Synod moderator, agency directors, or other key personnel.

3. That Synod approve a special emphasis in February each year on the free offer of the Gospel.

4. That the proposed budget be approved.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Sattlem, Chairman

The **Moderator's Committee of Outreach North America** recommended that the recommendations of the board report be adopted. The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee along with the following additions were approved

6. That the content of Recommendation #2 be referred to the Executive Board.

7. That we commend the Board and Staff of Outreach North America for all their labors.

John Carson spoke to the possibilities for a work in Scotland. Brochures were made available to the Synod with regard to the work, and materials with regard to "Christianity Explored" were noted to be placed on the ONA website.

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA BUDGET

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
Revenues		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 716,000	716,000
Misc Contributions for Ministry	88,314	89,900
ARP Women's Ministries Local Churches	15,965	12,000
Interest on Reserves	7,115	8,835
Invested Fund Transfers for Operations		
Hillcrest Fund	6,436	5,490
Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund		
Income	12,703	13,750
Mattie B. Ellis Fund Income	603	530
Permanent Fund Income	6,411	5,580
Ralph Grigsby Fund	1,848	1,610

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
St. Andrew Church Fund	<u>7,606</u>	<u>6,840</u>
Total Invested Fund Transfers for Oper	35,607	33,800
Program Receipts/Sale of Material	<u>708</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Revenues for Operations	\$ 863,709	\$ 860,735
Expenses		
<u>Payroll & Benefits</u>		
Total Salaries & Benefits	308,623	310,313
Staff Expenses	22,000	19,055
<u>Board Expenses</u>		
Travel and Meeting	15,000	15,000
Promotion	24,074	22,315
Professional Services	<u>23,164</u>	<u>14,080</u>
Total Board Expenses	62,237	51,395
General Office	20,000	17,500
<u>Program and Mission</u>		
Recruiting and Assessing	23,000	27,250
Training	198,586	163,100
Placement	<u>9,000</u>	<u>7,500</u>
Total Recruiting - Assessing -		
Training -Placement	230,586	197,850
Mission Supplements	278,433	272,313
<u>Evangelism & Renewal</u>		
Evangelism	5,000	5,000
Muslim Ministry (ARP Connect)	24,333	24,100
Erskine Evangelism Course	0	1,700
Erskine Mission's Conference	750	750
Multi-Ethic Ministries	500	2,000
Church Renewal	<u>5,000</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Total Evangelism & Renewal	35,583	37,050
Total Program and Mission	<u>544,602</u>	<u>507,213</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 957,462	\$ 905,476
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(93,753)</u>	<u>(44,741)</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>237,173</u>	<u>291,730</u>
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 143,420	\$ 246,989

*Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10,
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.*

Prior to the report of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage Inc., a special appeal on behalf of orphans in our communities was made to the Synod.

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

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

The legacy of the Dunlap Board is long and rich, its roots being in the William H. Dunlap Orphanage (Dunlap) which served our denomination in Brighton, Tennessee from 1905 until its closing in 1978. The purpose of the orphanage, founded by Annie Bell Dunlap to honor the memory of her father, William H. Dunlap, and her aunt, Elizabeth Dunlap Spain, was to provide “for the maintenance, support, and education of orphans.” The first residents of Dunlap were children who came from an orphanage that had been opened in 1897 in Hickory Grove, SC by Reverend J. P. Knox.

Since the closing of Dunlap in 1978, the Board has been the instrument of the Synod charged with providing for children who have been made vulnerable by unfortunate circumstances (loss of normal parental care) and whose vulnerability is compounded by their youth. The duties of the Board fall into two specific categories: Ministry and Administration as currently outlined in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* and denoted in this report in bold print.

The Dunlap Board of Trustees (Board) met at Bonclarken November 12 – 13, 2008 and by telephone conference call on March 18, 2009. Minutes of these meetings have been filed at the ARP Center.

Ministry

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

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

The mission of the Collins Home is to “...provide a Christ-centered home for children between the ages of 3 - 18 who are in need of a stronger family support system. Our goal is the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development of our children, and the eventual reunification with their natural families whenever possible.” (www.collinschildrenshome.org) The home is supported through private donations.

“Palmer Home for Children is a ministry to children in need.....children who are growing up as social orphans without the nurture and support of

a loving family.....children who need a place to be and to become.” (www.palmerhome.org) Primarily supported by a number of Presbyterian denominations, the home has been serving children since 1895.

The Board continues to provide \$20,000 annually to Erskine College for scholarships for orphans. In addition to the Erskine Dunlap Scholars program, funds are also available for Associate Reformed Presbyterian orphans who plan to attend college but are unable to attend Erskine. During the 2008 – 2009 academic year, nine (9) students received assistance through the program.

In addition to the Collins and Palmer Homes and Erskine College, the Board has approved funding for a number of years for the Presbyterian Homes and Family Services in Lynchburg, VA. Virginia Presbytery provides input to the Board on an annual basis to determine if there is a need for continued funding to support this ministry.

In 2009, the Board is also providing assistance to French Camp Academy, French Camp, Mississippi and to World Witness for the support of orphans enrolled at the Mabel Lowry Pressly School in Sahiwal, Pakistan.

The Dunlap Board does not request, nor does it receive, funds from the Denominational Ministry Fund of General Synod. Instead, the resources for the work of the Dunlap Board are provided primarily from endowment earnings and income from trusts and restricted endowments which name Dunlap as a beneficiary. The current state of our economy has resulted in greater strains on the budgets of homes and programs for orphans. The Board encourages members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination to be generous in financial support of the work of Dunlap through gifts and to become actively involved in ministries to orphans.

The Board requests the assistance of members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in identifying homes, services, and college students who qualify for funds or scholarships. Further information and applications for grants and scholarships are available from the ARP Center.

Administrative

Administrative support is provided through the Office of Central Services. Paul Bell serves as Administrative Officer for the Board.

Future meeting dates: November 11 - 12, 2009, Bonclarken; March 17, 2010, Conference Call.

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

When Dunlap Orphanage closed, assets and proceeds from the sale of the property were turned over to General Synod and invested in two separate endowments. The Will Ministry Fund endowment exclusively restricts its earnings to the care of orphaned children. The Orphanage Ministry Fund provides for broader purposes of the corporation. Those trusts which

currently have Dunlap as a beneficiary are the B. J. Wade Trust, the Ola B. Hunter Trust, and the Kennedy Annuity.

Budget projections for 2010 are based on anticipated income from the trusts and five percent (5%) of the three-year market value of the endowments. Actual expenditures for 2010 will be approved at the November 2009 meeting of the Board. (See "Available for Allocation – Nov 2009" on proposed budget.) Dunlap funds are audited as part of the annual General Synod audit, and financial reports are presented to the Board.

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

Officers of the Board for 2009 – 2010 are:

Darrell Peer – Chairman

William Harris – Vice-Chairman

Susan Jenkins – Secretary

Synod's Treasurer serves as Treasurer to the Corporation.

The Board expresses grateful appreciation to David Vickery. He is completing his term of service in June 2009.

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

Recommendations

1. That the tentative budget for 2010 be approved.
2. That all other actions of the Board, herein reported, be sustained.

Darrell Peer, Chairman

William H. Dunlap Fund

The **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap Orphanage** recommended that the recommendations of the board report be adopted. In addition, the Moderator's Committee on Dunlap Orphanage recommended:

3. That Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. establish a committee to explore ways to assist financially families in the ARP who desire to adopt children but may need financial assistance to do so.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP FUND

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
Revenues		
B. J. Wade	\$ 55,097	\$ 57,688
Interest Allocation	0	1,000
Ola B. Hunter	1,756	1,756
Orphanage Fund	48,554	43,155
Will Ministry Fund (min bal of \$255,022)	0	0
Total Revenues	\$ 105,407	\$ 103,599

Expenses

Ministry Expenditures		
Collins Home	\$ 30,000	\$ --
Palmer Home	30,000	--
Presbyterian Home	2,500	--
Erskine	20,000	20,000
French Camp Academy	20,000	--
World Witness-MLPS Girls' Hostel	15,000	--
Available for allocation-Nov 2009		<u>76,349</u>
Total Ministry Expenditures	117,500	96,349
Central Services	4,250	4,250
Board	2,500	2,750
General Office	<u>500</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Expenses	124,750	103,599
Income over/under expenditures	<u>\$(19,343)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

*Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10,
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.*

The **Report of the Board of Erskine College** was presented.

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE

Fathers and Brethren:

The Board of Trustees is comprised of thirty members, twelve of whom are Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers, two elected each year. Of the 30 elected members of the current Board, 25 are members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and of these 25, 22 are either ministers or elders. One half of the members are alumni or alumnae of the College and/or Seminary. Ex-officio members include the President of the Erskine Alumni Association, the Moderator of Synod, President of the ARP Women's Ministries and a representative designated by ARP Women's Ministries. Advisory members are the President, all Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, faculty and student representatives, the President of the Parent Advisory Council, the Chairman of the Board of Counselors, the Director of Christian Education Ministries, President of the Flying Fleet Club, the Moderator-Elect of Synod and the Executive Director of Central Services. Members-at-large serve for six years. The Board meets in October, February and May.

Officers of the Board for 2009-2010 are Chairman Scott Mitchell, Vice Chairman Joe Patrick, Secretary William L. Barron, and Treasurer Gregory W. Haselden. The Board has the following committees: Executive, Academic, Enrollment, Finance and Facilities, Development, Student Services and Athletics, and Seminary.

The Board of Trustees exercises direct control of the operations of Erskine

College and Erskine Theological Seminary and establishes policies and educational programs and manages all properties and funds.

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

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

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

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

While the Board establishes policies dealing with admission and graduation requirements and the approval of diplomas for graduating seniors, the actual implementation of Board policies is carried out by the faculties. Both the College and Seminary have Admission Committees made up of faculty and staff, and through faculty structures, all candidates for degrees are approved by the College or Seminary faculty.

3. To determine all financial charges made to students.

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

charges for the coming year. The budget is adopted by the Board, normally at its February meeting.

4. To establish curriculum.

In institutions of higher learning, the curriculum is primarily shaped by the faculty and submitted to the Board for approval. At Erskine the Board approves all new academic programs and degrees. The College offers a liberal arts education (see page 6) and awards the A.B. and B.S. degrees. The Seminary awards the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Christian Education, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry, Master of Church Music, Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, Master of Theology and the Doctor of Ministry degrees.

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

a. Religious programs

Every effort is made by the Board and administration to make Erskine a "Christ-centered" institution. This is a major feature of the College Mission Statement recently produced by a special Board committee. To implement that mission, the administration has in place a variety of Christian programs: worship services at The Barn, Bible studies, retreats, required chapels, a Baccalaureate service, student organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Christian counseling, the Gospel Choir, and a full-time chaplain and male and female chaplain interns. A major campus organization is the Student Christian Association. Denominational groups meeting regularly include the Associate Reformed Presbyterian and Baptist. Efforts to enhance the Christ-centered environment at Erskine have been led by Chaplain Paul Patrick and his staff. During spring break a group of students repaired homes for widows. Other students took trips to ARP mission fields in Wales and Mexico, worked as interns in churches, and traveled to Appalachia to do Christian outreach. The employment of a Director of Campus Life and the replacement of a Director of Career Placement have strengthened a sense of community at Erskine and provided better services to the student population. Many wholesome campus activities have increasingly kept students on campus during weekends. Erskine is one of the few campuses in S.C. which requires student attendance at chapel/convocation events. And some college students attend worship services in the Seminary. Students are exposed to leading Christian speakers and every year the Moderator of Synod addresses the student body. More and more students are coming to Erskine from

Christian schools, thereby creating a stronger sense of Christian commitment. The Erskine administration believes that living in community and coping with all of its challenges is crucial to a good Christian liberal arts college.

A few students have publicly criticized Erskine for failure to live up to its Christian profession and some of those criticisms are valid and are being addressed. Because Erskine does not require a profession of Christian faith for admission, there will always be some students who do not embrace our mission statement or live by Christian values. Some of those students, like the late Jack Heinsohn, find Christ as their Lord and Saviour and leave Erskine with a Christian worldview and make significant contributions to the church and society. We are thankful that God uses the Erskine faculty and staff to transform lives. Every year Erskine hires some new faculty and their appointment is probationary for the first year. In their application and during interviews, they subscribe to our mission statement and to Synod's document on the Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. They also affirm Synod's view of the inspiration and authority of Scripture. New faculty are carefully evaluated by the Academic Dean and some of those professors who do not embrace or practice our mission are not invited to return. One or two senior professors have been singled out for criticism and the administration has investigated those criticisms and taken appropriate action. Erskine has sought to faithfully measure up to the expectations of Synod to be a Christ-centered institution. We, like many ARP churches, have not always succeeded but we sincerely strive to please Christ in all that we do.

b. Athletic programs

Currently, Erskine has thirteen intercollegiate sports: men's and women's cross country, tennis, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, golf and women's lacrosse. Plans are to begin volleyball next year.

Collegiate competition is carried out in Conference Carolinas, which includes institutions from North and South Carolina. During the past year women's tennis finished first, softball finished second and baseball ended its season in second place in the conference. The women's tennis team made it to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament again and the baseball team was in the NCAA playoffs for the first time since we moved to the NCAA. In addition to these official National Collegiate Athletic Association sports, Erskine provides opportunities for students to play intramural sports. Excellent athletic facilities are also available.

c. Social programs

Many social programs for men and women are offered both on and

off-campus. Concerts, plays, musical recitals, dances, parades and games are just a few of those activities. Student organizations include the Student Government Association, the Student Christian Association, and numerous other clubs. Student publications, such as the newspaper and yearbook, and choral groups provide social interaction for many of the students at Erskine. The Hanger in the basement of the Erskine Building is an informal place for students to gather and talk. The chaplain offers religious programs which include Bible studies, marriage counseling, and worship services at the Barn. One student organization, "Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)," under the leadership of our Business Department, has won national recognition as they have helped struggling small businesses.

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

a. Annual operational budget

See section 3 for the budget process.

Erskine has sought to exercise Christian stewardship over the funds committed to it by the ARP Church and other benefactors. Despite the recent downturn in the US economy, Erskine has balanced its operating budget for the past two years and anticipates a third consecutive balanced budget at the end of June 2009. A current-year balanced budget will be achieved only by controlling/ freezing spending. The operating budget for the 2009-2010 year is balanced at a considerable sacrifice of those who work at Erskine.

Replacements of faculty and staff not returning will take place as needed, but the hiring of new positions has been frozen. There will be no salary increases, and senior administrators will take a 3% salary reduction. Only necessary travel will be approved. We thank God that we have not had to lay off employees like so many other colleges and universities.

b. Increasing funds, resources and properties

A development staff of nine works in the area of Development and Alumni Affairs and raises more than \$2 million in the annual fund and secures many other gifts through estate planning. The acquisition of the Due West Oil Mill and the former Robinson and McWhite houses have added to the campus more than seven acres and several buildings. The Gold Campaign has been completed with more than \$40 million paid or pledged, exceeding the goal of \$36,800,000.

c. Maintain and secure physical facilities.

A staff of 30 workers maintains the physical facilities and the 96-acre

campus. Twenty-four hour security is maintained by two full-time campus security officials as well as local law enforcement officials. Erskine has been ranked among the safest campuses in South Carolina. Recently, \$2.1 million was devoted to deferred maintenance projects in Belk Hall, the Erskine Building, and the Watkins Student Center. The renovated Erskine Building includes a state-of-the art graphics center. A music-math complex has been completed along with the renovation of Memorial Hall. Following a fire last July, Moffatt Dining Hall has been completely restored. Parking areas have been enlarged around the campus. An updated campus master plan was also completed in the current year.

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

The Investment Committee of the Board oversees the endowment and makes decisions about how funds are invested. Smith Barney serves as investment consultant and assists the Investment Committee with its oversight and monitoring of the investment managers implementing the approved Investment Policy Statement. The Board Investment Committee meets quarterly with representatives from Smith Barney to review the market and our investments. In the current economy these meetings have been held monthly. To guarantee that funds are used for the purposes for which they were given, Erskine creates agreements with the donor, signed by the donor and the President. These agreements control the use of funds restricted for designated purposes, such as scholarships and professorships.

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

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

New Faculty for 2008-2009

Newly named College faculty for the 2008-09 academic year are as

follows: Dr. Anna Blenda, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology; Dr. Dan Candler, Assistant Professor of Physical Education; Mr. Scott DeCiantis, Athletic Training Program Director/Instructor; Ms. Eva-Marie Gamble, Visiting Instructor of Modern Languages; Dr. John Macaulay, Assistant Professor of History; Ms. Nicole Matuseski, Assistant Athletic Trainer/Instructor; Dr. Monique Michel, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages (French); Dr. Al Mina, Visiting Associate Professor of Biology; Dr. Naoma Nelsen, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology; Dr. Brad Parker, Assistant Professor of Music; and Dr. Tiffany Turner, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics. The Seminary had no new professors for the 2008-09 academic year.

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

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

Currently elected Board members are as follows:

<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2011</u>
Mr. W.S. Cain	The Rev. W.L. Barron	The Rev. C.B. Evans
The Rev. W.B. Everett	The Rev. Dr. D.L. Pearson	Mr. R.S. Galloway III
The Rev. D.W. Petersen	Mr. G.S. Query	Dr. R.G. Gordon
Mr. G.H. "Chip" Smith III	Dr. D.P. Young	Mr. D.S. Mitchell
Dr. E. Kate Stewart	Mr. Craig White	The Rev. Dr. R.B. Wilson
<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
The Rev. R.W. Cameron, Jr.	Mr. J.D. Basie	Mrs. Julia T. Boyd
Mr. W.R. Folks, Jr.	Dr. J.M. Clemons	The Rev. J.W. Donahue
Mr. S.J. Maye	The Rev. Dr. J.T. Corbitt	The Rev. Dr. D.R. Johnston
Mr. J.H. Patrick III	The Rev. J.C. Dorr, Jr.	Dr. R.G. Taylor, Jr.
The Rev. R.E. Spencer	Miss L. Crosland Stuart	Dr. D.B. Whitesides

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

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

Christian Higher Education is that faculty and administrators affirm that they are evangelical Christians according to the definition set forth in that document. A written affirmation is required of all new College and Seminary faculty and of all administrators at the director level and above as part of the application process. This affirmation includes the statement on Holy Scripture adopted by the 2008 General Synod. Each new Board member goes through an orientation process and receives a copy of the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education along with the related report and the *Manual of Authorities of Duties* section related to Erskine.

Erskine College Mission Statement

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

Historical Perspective

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

Our Commitments

Erskine College is committed to excellent liberal arts education.

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

Erskine College is committed to a Christ-centered environment.

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

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

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

At Erskine the integration of learning and biblical truth is an ongoing process of seeking to discern and develop the integral relationships between reason and revelation. In this process human learning informs the development of a Christian worldview, and biblical revelation informs the content and practice of human learning.

Within this framework, faculty and students are free to engage in a genuine pursuit of truth and understanding and to strive to develop the highest and best use of their abilities.

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

Miscellaneous Items

Following the recommendations is a summary of the 2009-2010 budget approved by the Board of Trustees. A copy of the Report of the Seminary Committee to the Board of Trustees on Allegations about the Leith Chair and Certain Seminary Faculty Members, dated October 16, 2008, follows the Report of Erskine Theological Seminary.

Erskine appreciates the \$50,000 allocated by the General Synod in June 2007 to assist with the renovation of an Alumni Guest House on campus. Raising funds for this project are underway and significant pledges are already in hand. In the current year, Erskine completed a new Campus Master Plan to guide future development.

Recommendation

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

1. That its budget request presented through the Board of Stewardship be approved as follows:
 - \$630,000 operating funds and \$500 ARP Student Union.
2. That special days be designated when the work of Erskine College and Seminary can be presented to the congregations of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and when special offerings to support the ministries of this institution can be received.
3. That the educational opportunities at Erskine College and Erskine Seminary be promoted in local churches, presbyteries and denominational events such as conferences, retreats and other occasions. Special attention should be given the Presidential Scholarship Program

in the College and the lecture series offered by the Seminary.

4. That the amended Bylaws be approved. (Note: the changes in these Bylaws are primarily to reflect correct titles and other general updates.)

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

Randall T. Ruble
President

REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fathers and Brethren:

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

Our Mission

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

Our Commitments

Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to love and serve God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that the Father has given Jesus Christ as head over all things for the Church, and by his grace and Spirit we seek to serve him faithfully by making disciples and equipping saints for the work of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up. At Erskine, we seek to serve God as part of the Protestant evangelical tradition, and all faculty members subscribe *ex animo* to the following definition of an evangelical Christian, adopted by our host denomination, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church:

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

1. The Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God.*

* All new faculty and management level staff are required to affirm the new statement on the inerrancy of the scriptures which was adopted by the 2008 meeting of the General Synod.

2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His Virgin Birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through the shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. That for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. *In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.*
6. *In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; that they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.*
7. In the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Erskine Theological Seminar is committed to the truthfulness, authority, and centrality of the Bible. We affirm "the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the written Word of God, the only perfect rule of faith and practice." (This statement comes from the ARP *Form of Government* [V.C.1: a (3)]. The ARP Church issued a more extensive statement about Scripture in 1979, which included the following assertions: "The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God without error in all that it teaches" [Minutes of the General Synod, 1979, p. 23]. "We believe that the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us through the Holy Scripture which is the Word of God written. While we do not have the original autographs as evidence, we believe on faith that God's Word in its entirety was accurately recorded by the original writers through divine inspiration and reliably transmitted to us" [Minutes of the General Synod, 1979, p. 76].) We seek to be faithful to the Bible by examining the Scriptures in the original languages, interpreting the Biblical texts faithfully, and applying the teachings of Scripture to all aspects of human life and to all people, both inside and outside the Church. The Bible holds the preeminent and central place in all facets of Erskine Seminary's scholarship, teaching, and worship.

Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to the Reformed Tradition. We believe that the tradition of Biblical interpretation, theology, and Christian practice stemming from the Calvinistic wing of the Protestant Reformation is faithful to Scripture, and that this tradition can speak truthfully and powerfully to the contemporary world. As a part of this commitment, Erskine Seminary seeks to be faithful to the doctrinal standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, as set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. Two-thirds of all faculty members are required to be members of denominations that subscribe to the Westminster Confession of Faith or some other Reformed Confession, and half of all faculty are required to be Associate Reformed Presbyterians.

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

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

Erskine Theological Seminary is committed to its role as a resource for the whole Christian Church. We seek to minister to the broader Church by providing a program of continuing education (conferences, seminars, and special lectures) addressing the needs of both clergy and laity in the Church. Our faculty and staff members seek to be engaged fully in the Church's life and activities through teaching and serving ministries in their own and other churches, denominations, and missions agencies. Our faculty members also seek to advance the Gospel by contributing at a scholarly level to the Church's discussions about theology, history, culture, and ministry.

- Enrollment exceeded 450 students for the 2008-09 academic year with more than 30 different denominations represented. We were blessed to have the second highest enrollment of ARP students in the Seminary's history. This academic year maintained 65 ARP students, with 10 of those being first-year MDiv students. The highest year of ARP enrollment was in 2006 with 71 students.
- Our May 2009 commencement promoted 60 graduates. The breakdown

by degree was as follows: 25 Master of Divinity, 5 Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry, 4 Master of Arts in Christian Education, 3 Master of Church Music, 4 Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, 5 Master of Theology, and 14 Doctor of Ministry. The commencement speaker was Dr. Daniel O. Aleshire, Executive Director of The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS).

- The Seminary gives thanks to God for the strong financial support received from the church, friends, and alumni.

- Permanent teaching faculty members for the year included Bible professors Terry Eves, James Hering, Loyd Melton, Max Rogland, and George Schwab; Theology and Church History professors Richard Burnett, Don Fairbairn, R. J. Gore, Dale Johnson, and Mark Ross; and Ministry professors Robby Bell, Jerdone Davis, Robert Glick, Steve Lowe, “Scoti” Old, Toney Parks, Gareth Scott, and Doug White. Part time faculty members included Robert Alexander, Alan Avera, John Blumenstein, Joyce Coggins, James Cokley, Chris Crain, Jennifer Fairbairn, David Gobel, Leslie Holmes, Kitty Holtzclaw, Randy Kowalski, Robert Powell, Keith Ray, Alice Ridgill, George Robertson, Eddie Soto, Robert Todd, Nancy Walker, and Michael Wolfe.

- In appreciation of the support our churches have given us, we are offering one free audit course per semester for teaching and ruling elders and deacons for up to four people per church, pending available classroom space. Please contact the Admissions Office (800-770-6936) for more information.

- Erskine Seminary continues to teach D.Min. classes at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. We continue to operate extension sites in Augusta, Georgia and in Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston, South Carolina as well as a new site in Florence, South Carolina. The Florence Extension Site opened during the fall semester at New Ebenezer Baptist Church on South Ravenel Street in Florence.

- The Erskine Distance Education Network (EDEN) and Dr. Steve Lowe, Associate Dean of Christian Education, reported six consecutive semesters of record enrollment last fall, which includes 95 students taking 25 different courses at both the master’s and Doctor of Ministry degree levels along with 118 students enrolled in 15 EDEN Hybrid courses. Hybrid classes incorporate online interaction in conjunction with traditional classroom experience. Go online at www.eden.erskine.edu for more information.

- Erskine Seminary continues to offer the M Div degree in a modular schedule in addition to our current offerings of the degree on campus and at the extension centers. The modular schedule consists of six periods for intensive seminars (two weeks in January and two weeks in June over

a three-year period). This scheme offers 12 core courses (36 hours) in intensive seminar form on campus during that period.

- The Master of Church Music program—currently including eight students—is poised to offer state-of-the-art educational opportunities with the completion of the Memorial Hall Music Building and the installation of the associated musical equipment. The Seminary's music facilities are among the very best in the state with a new organ, a host of new pianos, and outstanding audio-visual equipment.

- The Institute for Reformed Worship is sponsoring conferences in connection to course offerings in order to raise the Institute's level of exposure. The Institute recently hosted the *Preach the Word* Conference in Columbia and the *Architectural Setting of Christian Worship* Conference in Savannah, with over 175 in attendance at both events. The Institute will host two more conferences next year.

- The Navy has approved the Seminary as a DMin Partner Institution, allowing the Seminary to be listed on an internal Navy website that serves as the Navy's central source of information for military DMin programs.

- Erskine Seminary is seeking approval for degree-granting status at the Columbia Campus for the MDiv, MAPM, and DMin programs.

- The Columbia Campus library officially opened during February in conjunction with the start of the spring 2009 semester. This library provides local access to a Reformed book collection, electronic resources, library assistance, study space, computers, a copier/printer, and wireless Internet access.

- McCain Library has begun providing Erskine Seminary alumni with access to two premier databases in religious and theological studies, *ATLA Religion Database* and *ATLA Serials*. These two electronic resources are the same high-quality resources provided to students currently enrolled at Erskine Seminary. Previously, these resources were no longer available to students upon graduation due to licensing restrictions. For the first three years of this program, the cost of providing the databases to alumni will be subsidized fully by McCain Library and a grant from the Lilly Endowment secured through the American Theological Library Association (ATLA). This program provides Erskine Seminary graduates continuing access to resources of direct relevance to their ministries. In addition, students are using PASCAL Delivers, a rapid book delivery program that allows students, faculty, and staff at any of South Carolina's college and university libraries to borrow books from any academic library in the state through a patron-initiated online request. PASCAL Delivers is a program of PASCAL, the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (<http://pascalsc.org>).

- The online campus bookstore, eCampus, continues to provides students

with another venue for purchasing textbooks.

- The CF Foundation has approved a grant for the *2009 Holy Land Pastoral Renewal Program*, a spiritual renewal program targeted for mid-career pastors. The grant covers an all-expense-paid trip that includes a multi-day orientation, the pilgrimage itself (two weeks in Israel), and a multi-day reflection session. The annually renewable grant hosts 20 pastors of diverse denominations, with this year's trip targeted for the last two weeks in August. The Rev. John C. Dorr, Jr. will serve as Program Director while Dr. James P. Hering will serve as Spiritual Director. The Seminary's participation will help to fulfill the Strategic Plan by ministering to ARP ministers as well as to the Seminary's constituents.

- Dr. Richard Burnett was selected to serve on the Presidential Council of the Calvin Quincentenary. Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old and Dr. Burnett will present papers in Geneva, Switzerland this summer.

- 2008-09 Erskine Lecture Series sponsored *Fall Missions Emphasis Week* with Dr. Alan Avera, Executive Director of Outreach North America; *Christianity and Public Morality* with Terry Eastland, publisher of *The Weekly Standard*; *The Bible and Archaeology* with Dr. Steven Collins, Executive Curator of the Museum of Archaeology; *Christianity and Public Service* with Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity; Dr. Craig Evans, Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College; *Spring Missions Emphasis Week* with Frank Van Dalen, Executive Director of World Witness; the *Sermon on the Resurrection* with Dr. Craig Barnes, Senior Pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church and Meneilly Professor of Leadership and Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and the *Annual Spring Conference* with Dr. David S. Dockery, President of Union University, and Dr. Darrell Guder, Princeton Theological Seminary's Dean of Academic Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,
H. Neely Gaston, D.D.
Executive Vice President

Report of the Seminary Committee on Allegations about the Leith Chair and Certain Seminary Faculty Members

October 16, 2008

The Seminary Committee was asked by the Board to "conduct a thorough review of matters related to recent allegations about the John Leith Chair and certain Erskine Seminary Faculty members and to report our findings and recommendations to the Board."

The Committee faced a challenge in accomplishing its task in that most of the "allegations" took the form of rumors, innuendo, and proposed memorials to presbyteries that were never passed. Nevertheless, the Committee met on

two occasions, conducted extensive interviews with two faculty members whose names had been mentioned in the allegations, and reviewed other related matters.

At the request of the administration, Dr. Michael Bush and Dr. Richard Burnett were interviewed at length by the Committee. Both men appeared voluntarily and cooperated fully with the Committee. They submitted written statements of their position and responded in writing to questions from the Committee. The Committee met with them both at great length on two occasions. A full and detailed discussion on numerous aspects of the issues involved was held. Both men expressed certain scruples about the use of the term 'inerrancy' to describe their positions on Scripture. Not all Committee members were fully satisfied with some of the answers provided. However, both men did affirm that the Bible is the Word of God and that "the Bible is without error in all that it teaches." They affirmed the verbal and plenary inspiration of Scripture. They affirmed that the Bible is infallible in its authority in keeping with the Westminster Standards. The Committee was in unanimous agreement that both men are in full accord with the terms under which they were called and affirms their continued ministry at the seminary.

With regard to the complaint by Rev. Wright about Dr. Burnett's over emphasis on Karl Barth in the Theological Hermeneutics course, the Committee found that the Seminary had followed its established policies in dealing with the complaint. The Seminary grievance process found that Dr. Burnett acted appropriately, and Rev. Wright has not appealed the decision. After reviewing the documents in the case, the Committee found no basis for further action on the matter. It should be noted that this is the only complaint that has been received about the content of Dr. Burnett's teaching, and no such complaints have been received about Dr. Bush's teaching.

With regard to allegations about the John Leith Chair and the possibility of it being used to introduce neo-orthodoxy into the Seminary, the Committee reports that the Chair is currently held by the respected orthodox reformed scholar, Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old, and that the terms of the John Leith Chair and Seminary policy require that any future faculty member to be called to fill the Chair will have to meet all requirements for faculty appointment in the Seminary, including those in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties of the ARP Church*.

The **Moderator's Committee on Erskine College and Seminary** recommended that recommendations #1-4 of the board report be adopted.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

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

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

The Executive Board of the General Synod is the agency empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of Synod. It provides oversight for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, Central Services, and the promotional work of the General Synod. The Board met twice since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its actions and activities and presents the recommendations of the Executive Board to the General Synod.

In its duty to implement directives of the General Synod, coordinate the work of the Synod and supervise Central Services and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, the Executive Board reports the following actions:

Central Services Director Paul Bell was authorized to continue his study concerning the feasibility of all matters concerning printing costs.

Following recommendations and discussion, the Executive Board determined that the work with regard to the copyright of the denominational seal be suspended at this point.

Referrals:

A motion carried that a recommendation to General Synod 2009 regarding the use of church/denominational property be referred to the Ecclesiastical Commission for study and recommendation.

A motion carried that the request of First Presbytery to the Executive Board regarding a proposed letter from the Moderator be referred to the Inter-Church Relations Committee for counsel on the matter.

Representatives of Women's Ministries requested clarification of the status of Womens' Ministries and consideration of requesting Women's Ministries support from the Denominational Ministry funds. The Executive Board moved to refer the matter to the General Synod with the recommendation that the Moderator appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to address the concerns.

Actions with regard to an emergency matter:

With regard to a matter brought to the Executive Board from Northeast Presbytery concerning Korean Congregations within Northeast Presbytery, the Executive Board voted to consider the matter an emergency, and acted as follows:

A motion carried that the preceding actions of General Synod with regard to Korean Churches within the bounds of Northeast Presbytery be reaffirmed, and the Immediate Past Moderator and the Moderator be commissioned to implement actions in support of the previous actions of General Synod and the Presbyteries. Following a trip to California by the Moderator and the Immediate Past Moderator to discuss the matter with members of Pacific Presbytery and extended discussion at the meeting of the Executive Board, a recommendation to General Synod was adopted:

That the Executive Board recommend to the General Synod that the Pacific

Presbytery churches located in the bounds of Northeast Presbytery be administratively transferred to Northeast Presbytery.

A motion carried that the Executive Board recommend to the General Synod that the salaries of the executive directors of the agencies of Synod be reported individually in agency reports to the Synod, but not recorded in the Minutes of Synod.

A motion carried that the *ARP Magazine* be recommended for addition to the special offerings list of agencies.

The budgets of the ARP Center Facility, Central Services and the Executive Board were adopted for recommendation to the General Synod.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed budgets for ARP Center Facility, Central Services and the Executive Board be approved.
2. That the Emphasis for 2009-2010 be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination.
3. That the ARP Magazine be recommended for addition to the special offerings list of agencies.
4. That the salaries of the Executive Directors of the agencies of Synod be reported individually in agency reports to the Synod, but not recorded in the Minutes of Synod.
5. That the Moderator appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to address the concerns with regard to clarification of the status of Womens' Ministries and consideration of requesting Women's Ministries support from the Denominational Ministry funds.
6. That the Executive Board recommend to the General Synod that the Pacific Presbytery churches located in the bounds of Northeast Presbytery be administratively transferred to Northeast Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Query, Moderator
C.R. Beard, Principal Clerk

The **Moderator's Committee on the Executive Board** made the following recommendations:

1. That recommendation #1 be approved.
2. That recommendation #2 not be approved due to lack of information.
3. That recommendation #3 not be approved.
4. That Recommendations #4, #5 and #6 be approved. .

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were adopted.

**CENTRAL SERVICES
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
REVENUES		
<u>Current Funds</u>		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$271,933	\$311,692
Allocation of Invested Reserve	0	0
AS Expense Reimbursement	37,750	37,280
Miscellaneous Sales & Services	3,979	0
Operating Fund Interest	0	0
Total Current Funds	\$313,662	\$348,972
<u>Agency Support</u>		
Board of Benefits	\$120,124	\$118,990
ARP Foundation	3,750	3,750
W. H. Dunlap Fund	4,250	4,250
Other Agencies	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Agency Support	<u>\$129,124</u>	<u>\$126,990</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$442,786	\$475,962
EXPENSES		
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$405,431	\$395,219
Staff & Program		
Workman's Compensation	\$ 2,136	\$ 2,063
Director Travel & Expenses	750	1,800
Staff Travel & Expenses	1,000	1,800
Training	1,750	1,850
Contract Employees		1,800
Former Admin Assis Consulting	1,000	0
Former Director Consulting	<u>1,700</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Staff & Program	\$ 8,336	\$ 9,313
Equipment		
Lease		
Copiers	\$ 19,780	\$ 21,120
Postage Meter/Scales	2,575	2,710
Equipment Purchase	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Total Equipment	\$ 24,855	\$ 26,830
General Office		
Software Maintenance	\$ 2,186	\$ 4,120
Internet	674	1,030
Online payment service fees	865	150
Basic Telephone	3,658	3,090
Long Distance	100	100

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

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	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
ARP Synod Web Page design & maint	742	770
Office Supplies	7,474	10,920
Advance Purchase for Services		
Postage	19,309	18,540
UPS	3,969	2,580
Paper	<u>2,895</u>	<u>3,300</u>
Total General Office	\$ 41,872	\$ 44,600
Total Expenses	\$480,494	\$475,962
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$37,708)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$37,708</u>	
Ending Fund Balance	<u>(\$0)</u>	

ARP CENTER FACILITY BUDGET PROJECTIONS

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
REVENUES		
General Synod Allocation	\$16,000	\$16,000
Rent		
CEM	9,513	9,798
Outreach North America	8,880	9,147
The ARP	5,709	5,880
World Witness	18,774	19,336
Non-Synod Agencies		
201	1,587	1,635
202	5,706	5,877
203	823	0
204	3,077	3,170
Interest and Miscellaneous		
Interest	<u>738</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$70,806	\$70,943
EXPENSES		
Facility Management		
Staff & General Office	\$1,000	\$2,000
Expendable Supplies	500	750
Repairs & Maintenance	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total Facility Management	\$6,500	\$7,750
Facility Maintenance		
Garbage Pick-Up	\$1,000	\$1,000
Yard Maintenance	5,100	5,400
Heating & Air Conditioning	2,750	7,000
Janitorial Services	12,000	13,000
Facility Non-Contract Labor	150	0
Security Monitoring Fees	250	300
Taxes	850	0
Pest Control	<u>310</u>	<u>310</u>
Total Facility Maintenance	\$22,410	\$27,010

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
Utilities		
Electricity	\$21,000	\$20,500
Gas	14,000	13,000
Water & Sewer	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Total Utilities	\$36,000	\$34,800
Building, Equipment & Furniture	\$0	\$1,500
Contingency	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
TOTAL Expenses	\$64,910	\$73,060
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$5,896</u>	<u>(\$2,117)</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$10,416</u>	<u>\$2,371</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$16,313</u>	<u>\$254</u>

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD
BUDGET PROJECTIONS**

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
Revenues		
General Synod Allocation	\$81,680	\$88,690
GS Contingency Allocation	25,000	25,000
Minutes & Plan Book Sales	750	750
General Synod Registration	3,675	14,805
Reimbursement for ARPWM		
Admin Salary & Tax		<u>\$18,220</u>
Total Revenues	\$111,105	\$147,465
Expenses		
Total General Synod Officers	\$16,919	\$ 34,645
Synod Coordinator		
Consulting Fees	\$52,844	\$ 0
Reimbursed Expenses	6,366	0
Miscellaneous Office Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Synod Coordinator	\$59,210	\$ 500
General Synod Meeting		
Program & Preparation	\$ 6,500	\$ 9,270
Honorariums	1,000	2,000
Pre-Synod Conf Honorariums	4,500	3,000
Staff Expenses	1,000	1,500
Service Fee-Bonclarken	<u>—</u>	<u>16,480</u>
Total General Synod Meeting	\$13,000	\$ 32,250
Executive Board Mtg & Office		
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 5,513	\$ 13,500
Strategic Planning Committee	8,000	5,000
General Office & Miscellaneous	500	1,600
Committee to Plan Emphases	<u>1,500</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Executive Board	\$15,513	\$ 20,600
General Synod Contingency Unallocated	\$25,000	\$ 25,000

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 20
Promotion & Services		
Insurance		
Workers Compensation	\$ 0	\$ 150
Umbrella Liability	1,700	1,700
Multi-Peril Insurance	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,300</u>
Total Insurance	\$ 6,200	\$ 6,150
Orientation Program	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,000
Historical Concerns		
Historian Honorarium	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Historian Reimbursements	1,000	200
Curator of ARP Materials	500	500
General Office Expenses	500	200
Presbyterian Study Center -materials preservation	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total Historical Concerns	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,400
New Member Subscriptions-THE ARP	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Total Promotion & Services	\$ 18,700	\$ 20,550
Minutes of Synod		
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 1,494	\$ 1,550
Printing	<u>13,037</u>	<u>8,760</u>
Total Minutes of Synod	\$ 14,531	\$ 10,310
Plan Book		
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 1,122	\$ 1,440
Printing	<u>2,110</u>	<u>2,170</u>
Total Plan Book	<u>\$ 3,232</u>	<u>\$ 3,610</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 166,105</u>	<u>\$147,465</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (55,000)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

*Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10,
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.*

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

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Stewardship, the product of a merger of the Board of Stewardship and the ARP Foundation, Inc. in 2004, is charged by General Synod with responsibility for working cooperatively with the congregations and agencies of the General Synod to develop and administer programs and ministries to secure financial resources to meet the operating needs of the General Synod; to present to the General Synod a recommended allocation of those resources; 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.

The ARP Foundation continues to exist as the legal entity for holding assets contributed to General Synod. Members of the Board of Stewardship serve as the directors of the foundation, and members of Synod's Investment

Committee serve as investment advisors to the Board.

Duties and responsibilities as delineated in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties (MAD)* are numerous and will be treated in this report with respect to the impact of issues on the denomination rather than in numerical order as they are listed in the *MAD*.

Authorities and Duties

Duty 1. Promote the general ministries and programs of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Board continues to advocate for the ministries and programs approved by General Synod and strives to work alongside those ministries and programs in an impartial manner to assist them in achieving their goals.

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

Easter Offering	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Stewardship Foundation	9,643	10,711	10,167	9,570	12,599
Bonclarken	13,640	14,346	13,574	12,578	15,705
Christian Ed. Ministries	10,458	11,727	9,553	8,680	11,120
Erskine College	12,604	13,290	13,120	12,132	15,194
World Witness	<u>24,562</u>	<u>25,734</u>	<u>23,063</u>	<u>19,905</u>	<u>24,597</u>
Sub Total	70,907	75,808	69,476	62,865	79,215

Thanksgiving Offering

Erskine Seminary	9,037	13,577	10,569	8,166	11,355
American Bible Society	5,178	7,292	7,947	5,329	8,143
Outreach North America	11,910	18,077	14,603	10,686	15,828
Christmas Benev. Fund	<u>64,170</u>	<u>65,695</u>	<u>58,172</u>	<u>29,687</u>	<u>43,593</u>
Sub-Total	90,295	104,641	91,291	53,868	78,919

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

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

Duty 4. develop and implement programs for securing the funds required to meet the operating needs of the General Synod;

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

The primary program by which funds are secured is the Denominational Ministry Fund. In the late 1960's, Synod approved the fund as a voluntary commitment and encouraged congregations to contribute 20% of their general operating receipts to it on an annual basis. Churches who could not meet that goal have been encouraged to give 10% and to increase their

giving by 1% annually until they reach the 20% level.

The amount of money contributed to the fund has typically increased each year (until 2009), but the percentage of funds contributed compared to funds available to the congregations has steadily declined in the past 40 years. Payments on 2009 pledges are running behind expected levels. This situation, coupled with 2008 deficits, has resulted in a projected shortfall of \$246,000 in 2009 contributions and a shortfall of \$82,000 in the target reserve for General Synod.

Synod's committees and agencies must absorb these shortfalls in funds which directly impact their funds for operations. The agency directors and their boards have been proactive in dealing with the shortage and have reduced expenses wherever feasible. In December 2008, the directors of *The ARP*, Central Services, Christian Education Ministries, Outreach North America, and World Witness agreed to suspend salary increases for all staff members in 2009 until such time as funds became available for increases. Early in this year, World Witness reduced salaries of all employees—both administrative and missionary—by 5%. Erskine College and Theological Seminary froze salaries at their 2008 levels and reduced by 3% the salaries of its senior administrators. Bonclarken's revenues are produced primarily in the months of June and July each year. Therefore, while our conference center began the year on solid financial ground, the administration is carefully monitoring expenses and revenues through these crucial months. The shortfalls projected for 2009 will result in cuts to programs and/or services offered by Synod's agencies and perhaps further reductions in compensation for staff of some of our agencies.

Your Board of Stewardship has prayerfully grappled with the issues presented here and understands that the current state of our economy directly affects the availability of funds. Many of the members of our denomination have lost employment or have had their own compensations reduced, and therefore, have less to give than in previous years. These matters lie within the powerful grip of our Sovereign Lord, and so we continue to look to Him for provision.

The Board of Stewardship recognizes that the vast majority of our church members—and many of our pastors—do not understand what the Denominational Ministry Fund is, nor its purpose. That this fund provides for the ministries of *The ARP*, Christian Education Ministries, Outreach North America, Bonclarken, Erskine College and Theological Seminary, and Central Services, as well as funds for the expenses of Synod's boards and committees, is not widely known. Many do not understand the connectional nature of the denomination, and therefore, see no compelling reason to support our own ministries. The board has determined, then, to communicate to the denomination the importance of giving and the need for

the Denominational Ministry Fund.

The issue of the Stewardship Counselor has been before this board and before General Synod for a number of years. Your board was directed by General Synod in 2008 to review a specific job description that ensures that the functions intended to be accomplished by the Stewardship Counselor position are in fact accomplished. At its October 2008 meeting and again in April 2009, the board considered the job description which had previously been approved by Synod and finds the following:

Responsibilities of Stewardship Counselor (See Job Description, page 61, Manual of Authorities and Duties, 2008):

1. *Encourage total biblical stewardship.* The board has partnered with Christian Education Ministries to develop educational materials and resources that provide practical information and instruction in total biblical stewardship. The first of these publications will be available to pastors and elders at the 2009 meeting of General Synod and will be distributed to congregations in Fall 2009.

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.* Tithing is a central theme in the publications referenced in item number 1 above.

3. *Develop resources for and work with Presbytery Stewardship Chairmen to encourage and stimulate biblical stewardship within the presbyteries.* In addition to the resources already mentioned, Christian Education Ministries and the Board of Stewardship will work to include stewardship instruction in an upcoming Elder/Deacon leadership training workshop.

4. *Provide resources for and work with individual churches to develop/expand a biblical stewardship emphasis.* The board is compiling a list of such resources for use by pastors and congregations.

5. *Develop communications with presbyteries and churches regarding the use of denominational resources.* Presbyteries have stewardship committees whose chairmen serve on the Board of Stewardship. The Education and Communication Committee of the board is working to strengthen communications with presbyteries and churches through written resources, face-to-face meetings, and consultations.

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.* The Office of Central Services, through its Director of Finance, can provide such counsel and assistance to congregations.

b. *Assisting in the development of deferred gift programs.* The board is in the process of identifying an individual or small group of individuals with the necessary training and credentials to serve in this capacity.

7. *Work with Erskine College and Seminary to develop curriculum and training in*

Christian stewardship for all students. The chairman of the board will write to Erskine Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, and American Theological Seminary encouraging them to include total biblical stewardship as part of their theological training.

In summary, the Board of Stewardship believes that these duties can best be met through existing avenues of service and education. **The steps outlined above, while helpful, do not replace the need for sound biblical teaching on stewardship from our pulpits.** The board encourages all pastors to provide such instruction, reminding them that they are called upon to teach the full counsel of God.

Pastors who do not themselves practice tithing and who are, therefore, hesitant to teach on the subject are encouraged to begin tithing and so set an example for members of their spiritual flocks. In such cases, the board would challenge pastors to begin tithing and "'Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty,' and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'" Malachi 3:10

Given the pressing financial needs of the Synod, the various means identified to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, and believing that we have been providentially hindered from filling the Stewardship Counselor position on more than one occasion, the board believes that pursuing the position is not the best use of Synod's resources for teaching stewardship and recommends that General Synod not fill the position.

The board also recommends that \$142,000 of funds initially designated for the position be returned to the 2009 funds for allocation with the remaining \$25,000 to be used for the purpose of stewardship education efforts by the board. Use of this \$142,000 will bring the present shortfall to approximately \$152,000. *Without these funds, the ministries of General Synod will be further reduced.* Even with the approval of these measures, the agencies and committees of General Synod are facing an additional 4.5% reduction in 2010 allocations over the reduced amounts allocated in 2009.

The recommended allocations of Denominational Ministry Funds are presented separately as "Allocations for Synod's Unrestricted Income."

Duty 7. 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;

Duty 8. 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;

Duty 9. 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; The ARP Foundation has recently received three (3) bequests. Proceeds from these estates will be invested according to policy in the holdings of the Foundation. The Foundation is also seeking an individual or group of individuals, as indicated above, to renew and strengthen existing programs for development of such gifts.

Duty 10. refrain from engaging, either directly or indirectly, in any activity that would

(1) prevent it from obtaining exemption from federal income taxation as a corporation described in section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or

(2) cause it to lose such exempt status; and

Duty 11. invest endowment-type funds and other long term investments of the General Synod and of those agencies of Synod which commit funds to the Foundation, in accordance with guidelines approved by the General Synod.

Duty 12. serve as the Audit Committee for the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church:

a. To receive and review audit reports and management letters for all entities audited. (Synod 2007)

b. To select the audit firm to recommend for use by all agencies, (2006)

The Office of Central Services, operating under the oversight of the Executive Board of Synod, serves as an accounting and finance resource for all agencies of the denomination, particularly *The ARP*, Christian Education Ministries, and Outreach North America. Procedures are in place for expenditures of funds. All requests for expenditures must be approved by the agency director, and either the Treasurer of Synod or the Executive Director of Central Services approves checks before payments are issued. Restricted and designated fund descriptions are maintained, and the Executive Director of Central Services is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that funds are made available for expenditure in accordance with the governing documentation.

The Board of Stewardship sets investment allocations for endowment-type funds belonging to General Synod and funds given to the Foundation. When specific directives by the donor are lacking, the board establishes distribution guidelines for these funds. General Synod's Investment Committee monitors the investment programs and has been given the authority by the board to make decisions on investment managers.

The funds of General Synod and funds administered on behalf of its agencies are audited annually by a firm selected by the board. The board receives and reviews the audit and submits it to General Synod with its official report, makes it available to Synod agencies, and makes it available

online at www.arpchurch.org.

The Finance Committee of the board serves as the Audit Committee and is authorized 1) to receive and review audit reports for all entities audited, and 2) to select the audit firm to recommend for use by all agencies. At present, the Audit Committee sees no need to change the audit relationships established by Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness. Each of these agencies is expected to submit a copy of its audit to General Synod with its official report to Synod. These audits and any management letter and other related information should be submitted for review by the Finance Committee.

The independent firm of Millard & Moore is conducting the December 31, 2008 audit, the scope of which includes the books of the Treasurer of Synod, the ARP Foundation's custodial funds, the ARP Foundation's gift annuity funds, and Outreach North America's revolving loan fund.

Administrative Information

- The board expresses gratitude to retiring members Mike Foster and David Walkup for their six (6) years of service.
- Officers for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010:
 Bob Elliott, Chairman
 Jeff Lipscomb, Vice Chairman
 Barry Dagenhart, Secretary
- Next meeting date: September 24 – 25, 2009

Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund

June 2009

Category	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Churches meeting goal of 20%	11	17	17	16	17
Churches giving 10% - 19%	34	45	48	NA	NA
Giving percentage not determined	14	35	7	15	10
Remaining at same percentage	101	56	2	2	3
Increased percentage level	81	56	66	48	43
Increased by at least 1%	49	22	44	35	29
Decreased percentage level	92	36	46	69	73
Decreased giving but at 10% or above	12	13	20	19	25
Churches submitting report but no pledge recorded	41	42	41		
Churches who have not submitted reports as of April 30, 2009	45	58			

The figures for 2009, as compared to the previous year, are based on information recorded in Statistical Reports from individual congregations. Total churches = 288.

The Board of Stewardship expresses gratitude to every congregation contributing to the Denominational Ministry Fund.

Recommendations

1. That General Synod pause for prayer, thanking God for His provision for our denomination and asking that all ministry needs be met.
2. That the position of Stewardship Counselor not be filled.
3. That \$142,000 of funds currently held in reserve for the Stewardship Counselor position be released for allocation in 2009, and that an additional \$25,000 of funds held for the position be retained by the Board of Stewardship.
4. That all ARP pastors and congregations be urged to implement stewardship training, with special emphasis given to the practice of tithing as an act of worship and thanksgiving.
5. That all ARP congregations be encouraged to participate in the work and ministry of the Church by contributing to the Denominational Ministry Fund.
6. That the proposed 2010 budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved.
7. That the Easter and Thanksgiving offerings be continued for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Elliott, Chairman

The **Moderator's Committee on Stewardship** recommended that Recommendation #1 be adopted.

Jim Barker led the Synod in prayer.

Recommendations #2-7 were adopted.

In addition, the Moderator's Committee on Stewardship recommended:

8. That the Board of Stewardship be commended for its work and labor.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

	Approved Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
<u>Revenue</u>		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 17,575	\$ 17,500
Special Offering	10,000	9,331
Transfers for Ministry	36,925	36,925
Interest and Dividends	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 64,500	\$ 63,756
<u>Expenses</u>		
Board Travel & Expenses	\$ 13,650	\$ 14,330
Staff Expense		
Administrative Support	3,750	3,750
General Synod Audit & Legal	6,888	7,000
Other	2,500	1,000
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	36,925	36,925
General Office	<u>787</u>	<u>751</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 64,500	\$ 63,756
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Beginning Fund Reserve	<u>\$ 167,127</u>	<u>\$ 167,127</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ 167,127</u>	<u>\$ 167,127</u>

**Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10,
Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.**

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

REPORT OF BOARD OF BENEFITS

The Board of Benefits (Board) is the agency of General Synod charged with providing opportunities for security to the individuals and families it serves in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement, and with providing assistance to ministers and churches in the areas of compensation planning and tax reporting (Synod, 1995). The Board is comprised of, and seeks, members who have experience in the areas of service noted above and who regard it as a ministry to use their experience to serve members of our denomination. Helpful perspectives from those who participate in Synod's benefit programs are provided by advisory members from presbytery committees on Minister and His Work, Erskine College, Bonclarken, World Witness, and Covenant Way (formerly Due West Retirement Center).

The Board met in November 2008 and in April 2009 and held additional meetings of its retirement and insurance committees throughout the 2008 – 2009 year.

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

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

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

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

Benevolence

Funding for benevolence is derived through contributions from Associate Reformed Presbyterians to the annual Thanksgiving Offering, income from the J. C. Lott Endowment, interest on the Benevolent Fund Endowment, the Helen W. Carson Fund, and special gifts. One hundred percent (100%) of all funds collected are distributed to qualified recipients; no funds are received through allocations from General Synod.

The collected funds are used:

- To continue support for widows who had been receiving support from the Widow Benefit fund which was exhausted in 2000. Income from the Helen W. Carson Fund is used to provide financial support for widows of ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church who have dependent, unmarried children who are full-time elementary, secondary, college, or graduate students and are between the ages of 16 and 25. If funds are not needed for this purpose, a portion equal to the Consumer Price Index is added to the corpus, and the balance of the unused income is allocated for widows in the Widow Benefit Fund as long as funds are needed for that purpose.

- To provide support to qualified retired individuals or surviving spouses who demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Information regarding qualifications is mailed to retirees each year.

- To provide Christmas love gifts to retired individuals (or surviving spouses) who served as ministers, missionaries, or Synod agency employees and who were eligible for Synod's retirement benefits.

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

Christmas Benevolent gifts. The Carson Fund may be used both to support dependent children of deceased ARP ministers and for widows.

2008 Christmas distributions and 2009 ongoing support are summarized below:

Widows Benevolent Fund	\$ 6,276 (2 recipients)
Christmas Benevolent need-based support	15,300 (3 recipients)
Carson Fund	100 (1 recipient)
Christmas gifts to retirees	<u>49,985</u> (96 recipients)
Total distributed	\$ 71,661

One recipient of support from the benevolent funds expressed her gratitude in this way after receiving a check in December 2008: Thank you for the tremendous blessing just received! God has promised to supply all of our needs and just when the way ahead looks impossible, this blessing has arrived, and I shall be forever grateful. God bless you and yours and those who serve in Jesus Name.

Insurance

The Board strives to provide meaningful security in the area of insurance at a cost churches and Synod agencies can afford without causing undue hardship on participating employees. Corporate Benefits, Inc. of Greenville, SC serves as the consultant and broker for our insurance programs, reviewing our insurance coverage and carriers on an on-going basis, advising the Board on recommended plan design changes, and seeking competitive bids at least annually in an effort to control costs and provide adequate services.

The group insurance benefit provides the following coverage. Non-ordained employees of local churches, employees of General Synod agencies, and Covenant Way must be considered full-time (30 hours/week) to be eligible.

Coverage & Eligibility	Medical	Dental	Life	AD& D	LTD
ARP Minister Serving					
Under a Call	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-ordained Employees					
Of Churches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employees of General Synod					
Agencies*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employees of Covenant Way	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retired Employees	Yes**	Yes**			
ARP Seminary Students	Yes***	Yes***			

- * World Witness missionaries stationed outside the United States have a separate medical and dental benefit program. Erskine employees have a separate Long Term Disability Program.
- ** Retired employees (and dependents if the employee had dependent coverage at the time of retirement) may continue dental insurance for a maximum of 18 months or to the date they reach the Medicare eligibility age, whichever occurs first. Medical coverage for retired employees may be continued to Medicare eligibility age provided:
 - The retiree has been a participant during the five-year period preceding retirement; and
 - The retiree is at least age 55 and the years of continuous service and age are equal to or greater than 65; and
 - The retiree is not eligible for other coverage as an employee.

If the retiree has dependent coverage at the time of retirement and the employee reaches Medicare eligibility age before a covered dependent, the dependent may continue coverage at the employee rate until the dependent reaches Medicare eligibility age. If the retiree does not meet the eligibility requirement above, coverage may be continued for a maximum of 18 months.
- *** ARP Seminary students will have a second eligibility period at the time they qualify as an employee.

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

Medical Plan

The denomination continues to be blessed by the Lord with good claims experience. Premiums have exceeded medical costs for a number of years, allowing the medical and dental premiums to remain stable since October 2003, and permitting a premium holiday for medical coverage in December 2006, December 2007, and January 2009. In addition, our insurance claim reserves have been sufficient to absorb premium increases for the past five (5) years, meaning that there has been no increase in costs to churches and agencies during that time. The Board does not anticipate any increases in

costs prior to January 2010.

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

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

HealthStat, a Health Risk Management program, was launched at Erskine College in January 2004. Open to all participants in the insurance plan, the program's primary objective is early detection and management of serious health risks. An initial health risk assessment (HRA) is conducted by HealthStat personnel, with the cost of the assessment covered by our insurance plan. The board is studying the financial viability of the HealthStat program and may propose changes after its November 2009 meeting.

The medical insurance plan is renewed annually in August, and it has been the practice of the board to delay implementation of cost increases, if any, as long as possible. The projected costs for 2010 will be submitted to churches and agencies as soon as possible after the August 1, 2009 renewal date.

Dental Plan

Synod's dental program is a self-insured plan with Kanawha serving as the Third Party Administrator for claim payment. No change in dental coverage or premiums is expected for 2010.

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

These programs are fully insured and cover all eligible employees. Additional information regarding the group insurance plan is available through our website: www.arpchurch.org/benefits.html.

HIPAA Privacy

Because ours is a self-insured plan, our primary focus pertains to the protection of Personal Health Information (PHI). The Plan Document has been amended to reflect privacy issues, all Health Plan participants have been given a Privacy Notice and Plan Document, and security policies and procedures are in place. Business Associate Agreements conforming to HIPAA requirements are in effect.

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is a qualified, non-contributory, defined benefit plan. The plan covers salaried, ordained ARP ministers serving in the pastoral ministry of the Church under the terms of a Call approved by a presbytery of the Church, career missionaries appointed by World Witness, and salaried employees of General Synod or a Synod

agency serving in a supervisory capacity. The Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits serves as Administrator of the plan.

Eligible employees are required to complete an enrollment form for formal entry into the plan. Under the provisions of the plan, the employees listed above are Participants in the plan during their first year of service, even if the church or agency fails to make contributions or if the employee does not enroll. If an eligible employee fails to enroll within the first year of service, participation is suspended with the following implications:

- the employee ceases to accrue credit for Service and Earnings, and
- in the event of death, the surviving spouse would not receive the lump-sum death benefit nor the survivor income benefit payable to age 65. (Survivor benefit is equal to 20% of monthly Earnings to a maximum of \$800/month. An additional 10% of monthly earnings is available while there is a dependent child or children in the home, for a maximum total monthly benefit of \$1200.)

Employees of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are not included in the ARP Retirement Plan as Erskine has a separate plan for its employees. Effective January 1, 2004, employees serving in a pastoral ministry outside the United States are not eligible for enrollment in the plan. Those persons serving outside the United States who were previously enrolled in the plan and have not been terminated from it continue to accrue Service for vesting purposes. Calls to minister 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. **Any eligible employees who have not yet enrolled in the plan should contact the Office of Central Services.**

The Board reminds churches and presbyteries within the United States that the *Form of Government* (Chapter X. E. 11) requires a Call to have provisions for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan. The *Form of Government*, Chapter X. E. 12, requires the plan to place a participant on Leave of Absence status if the terms of the Call with respect to Retirement Plan contributions are not being met. If a church or agency fails to make contributions for a period of one (1) year, notice will be given to the participant, to the Clerk of Session, to the Clerk of Presbytery, and to the Chairman of the Presbytery Committee/Commission on Minister and His Work. The failure to meet the terms of the Call within a one-year period from the date of notice will result in the placement of the participant on Leave of Absence status until the terms of the Call have been met. On Leave of Absence status, the participant does not accrue credit for Service or Earnings, is not covered for the Death Benefit, and is not covered for the Survivor Income Benefit.

While the plan defines Normal Retirement Age as 65, participants may

retire as early as age 60. Participants who are at least age 64 and have at least 25 years of Credited Service may retire at age 64 without an actuarially reduced benefit. The Normal Form of Retirement is an annual benefit equal to 3.1% of total career Earnings paid to the participant on a monthly basis for his/her lifetime. Survivor benefits ("joint and survivor annuity") may be paid at one-half continuation rate, 2/3, 3/4, or full continuation rate. Policies regarding the election of survivor benefits are outlined in the Retirement Plan document which is available from the Office of Central Services or online at www.arpchurch.org. It is also possible for the spouse to reject the joint and survivor annuity, with the participant receiving a lifetime annuity. The Board urges great caution in the election of this type of benefit.

All benefits are taxable, but for ordained participants, 100% of the benefit is designated as a housing allowance and is non-taxable to the extent that it is utilized for that purpose. The Board has established procedures for third-party verification of ministerial status at the time of retirement for former Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers.

Actuarial Valuation

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

SHDR conducted a valuation of the plan in January 2009 and reviewed the results with the Board of Benefits at its April 2009 meeting. The valuation indicates that the plan is well-funded relative to current liabilities. Costs have increased due to recent market performance, and the cost of benefits currently exceeds the 8.5% contribution rate. The Board continues to monitor the contribution rate and will consider adjustments should that trend persist.

While sufficiently funded for its current liabilities, the plan is unable to bear a Cost of Living Adjustment for those persons receiving benefits payments at present. The Board wishes the situation were otherwise but is indeed grateful that benefits can remain at their present levels while so many other plans have actually had to reduce benefits.

The Board has instructed the Investment Committee to adjust the expected annual earnings on investments from 8.0% to 7.5%.

The Retirement Committee has also reviewed the plan text document and has made a number of recommendations to simplify the administrative language and bring the text into compliance with federal regulations. A summary of proposed changes, "Board of Benefits Report Appendix," will

be available for review at the meeting of General Synod in June.

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

On behalf of the Board, the Office of Central Services assists persons who are preparing for retirement by maintaining records of Service and Earnings; providing retirement plan income projections for planning purposes; and at the time of retirement, providing calculations of actual retirement plan payments. The staff of Central Services is working with SHDR to provide an on-line program by which participants may generate their own retirement income projections.

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

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

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

A minister who plans to file for exemption must inform “the ordaining...body of the church...that he is opposed” prior to the time the exemption is filed. The apparent rationale for this requirement is to offer the ordaining body and the denomination the opportunity to counsel applicants regarding the implications of such a decision. In the ARP Church, ministers planning to opt out of Social Security must notify the ordaining presbytery.

Post-Retirement Medical Coverage

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

plans well before retirement.

Duty 8. To assist ministers and churches in the areas of compensation

and tax planning/reporting by providing: (a) on an annual basis, a tax guide; (b) on a periodic basis, a request form for Social Security estimates of earnings and benefits.

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

The board annually provides information to churches for budgeting and financial planning.

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

Insurance

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

The following chart shows insurance premiums collected, fees disbursed, and the claim reserve balance for calendar year 2008.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Medical/Dental premiums collected	\$3,561,495	\$3,614,777	\$3,445,043	\$3,901,149
Fees paid to Medical/Dental providers	340,757	378,764	402,710	445,354
Paid Medical and Dental				
Claims	2,185,020	2,822,978	2,993,789	3,329,906
HealthSTAT fees	40,018	38,368	39,477	48,735
Administrative Costs *	35,303	45,311	47,079	45,984
Balance of claim reserve	\$2,693,412	\$2,999,062	\$3,052,779	\$2,574,776

*General Office plus Insurance portion of Central Services budget.

Retirement

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

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

The Retirement Committee and Synod’s Investment Committee have

developed a Memorandum of Understanding delineating the duties of each committee with respect to investment of retirement funds and administration of the program.

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

Audit

The independent certified public accounting firm of Millard and Moore, CPA, PA audits the financial activities of the Board. The auditor's report for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is issued to each member of the board, is submitted with the official report of the board to the General Synod, and is available for review at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. All financial activities of the board are included in the General Synod audit.

Administrative

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

The proposed 2010 Operating Budget for the board is attached and reflects allocations recommended by the Board of Stewardship to cover board and meeting expenses and general office expenses of the board. Administrative support for the board is provided by Central Services, and the board's practice for a number of years has been to provide 25% of Central Services' operating funds as approved by the Executive Board of Synod. The Board of Benefits has approved funding 50% of its commitment from resources for the insurance program and 50% from contributions for the retirement program. The balance of the budget is an estimation of funds received and disbursed or added to fund balances for future use.

6. To make an Annual Report.

7. To appoint such administrators as are necessary for the work of the board.

The board has appointed the executive director of Central Services as its administrative officer.

Miscellaneous

Officers for 2009 – 2010

Chairman: Guy H. Smith, Jr.

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

Secretary: John M. Hill

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

Administrative Officer: J. Paul Bell

Meeting Dates

November 5-6, 2009, Bonclarken

April 15-16, 2010, Bonclarken

November 4-5, 2010, Bonclarken

Recommendations

1. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering continue and that it be taken during the Thanksgiving Season and that all churches provide opportunity for members to make contributions for this ministry.
2. That, through the adoption of this recommendation, pastors and clerks, where there is no pastor, be encouraged to be attentive to the special needs of retired employees and widows of former employees and seek to assist the Board of Benefits in its ministry to these faithful servants.
3. That presbyteries direct all congregations (except for congregations that have been excluded by action of the Board of Benefits) to enroll and pay premiums for all employees eligible to participate in the life, dependent life (if applicable), accidental death and dismemberment, and long term disability plans.
4. That the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be amended as follows:
 Duty 8. To assist ministers and churches in the areas of compensation and tax planning/reporting. ~~by providing: (a) on an annual basis, a tax guide; (b) on a periodic basis, a request form for Social Security estimates of earnings and benefits.~~
5. That the proposed changes to the ARP Retirement Plan Text be approved and that implementation of these changes be effective January 1, 2010.
6. That the proposed budge for 2010 be approved.
7. That all other actions of the Board as reported herein be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Benefits

Guy H. Smith, Jr., Chairman

The **Moderator's Committee on Benefits** recommended that recommendations #1-7 of the board report be adopted. In addition, the Moderator's Committee on Benefits recommended:

8. That the Board of Benefits be publicly commended before Synod for their arduous work and efforts in keeping insurance premium costs down and benefits stable, all of which benefit ministers and staff.
- Guy Smith made an oral report with regard to all aspects of the benefits program.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.

BOARD OF BENEFITS

	Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
<u>Revenues</u>		
General Synod Allocation	6,795	9,000
Designated Estimates for Benevolence		
Benevolent Fund Special Offering	65,695	60,000
Benevolent Fund Interest	3,404	2,100
J. C. Lott Trust	7,378	7,835
Total Benevolent	76,477	69,935
Group Insurance Resources		
Group Insurance Premiums,	3,445,043	3,972,982
Group Insurance Interest	61,186	90,000
Total Group Insurance	3,506,229	4,062,982
Retirement Plan Resources		
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement	1,849	1,849
ARP Retirement Plan	1,003,360	1,097,721
Total Retirement Plan	<u>1,005,209</u>	<u>1,099,570</u>
Total Revenues	\$4,594,710	\$5,241,487
<u>Expenses</u>		
Board and General		
Board Travel and Meeting	3,040	8,000
Office and Miscellaneous	<u>3,755</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Board and General	<u>6,795</u>	<u>9,000</u>
Benevolence	76,477	69,935
Group Insurance		
Group Insurance Premiums		
Claims, Reserve	3,460,488	4,000,000
Group Insurance Administrative		
Support	45,741	45,982
Fees-A&R Claim Reserve	<u>0</u>	<u>17,000</u>
Total Group Insurance	<u>3,506,229</u>	<u>4,062,982</u>

	Budget 2009	Proposed Budget 2010
ARP Retirement Plan		
Audit	2,000	2,400
Actuarial Fees	0	2,700
Administrative Support	45,741	44,370
Miscellaneous Expenses	150	100
Transfer to Trustee	957,318	1,050,000
Total ARP Retirement Plan	<u>1,005,209</u>	<u>1,099,570</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 4,594,710</u>	<u>\$ 5,241,487</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Note: To see the allocations approved by 2009 General Synod, see pg 10, Recommended Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds.

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

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ:

The year 2008 marked Bonclarken's 87th year of service as the conference center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Approximately 15,000 guests honored us with their decision to attend a camp, conference, or retreat, or to simply spend time in this place of serenity.

Major highlights of 2008 include the opening of The Lodge, a 25,000 square foot facility which includes 35 guest rooms and the Mike and Lib Patrick Conference Room; an increase in both adult and youth attendance during 2008 which provided more operational revenue than expense; and approval by the Board of Trustees to create a Master Plan—a plan that will identify Bonclarken's immediate, intermediate, and long-range needs over the next twenty-five years.

More importantly, Bonclarken remains true to its mission of "providing and promoting a Christian environment for inspiration and renewal."

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

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

These duties are:

Duty #1:

To be responsible for carrying out the PURPOSE of Bonclarken:
 "To serve God through the ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian

Synod by providing for the denomination opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship; by assuring a wholesome atmosphere for Christian development; and by making facilities available to the agencies and institutions of Synod, its Presbyteries and local congregations to fulfill their missions and goals.” In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits.

Response to this duty:

- Opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship are provided by Bonclarken through wonderful facilities that God has blessed us to have. The Board of Trustees reviews needs and creates plans for keeping these facilities in condition to maximize these opportunities.

- Assuring a wholesome atmosphere for Christian development is the primary duty of the staff of Bonclarken. The staff seeks to remove obstacles so our guests will be prepared to receive the call of the Holy Spirit. This duty is accomplished through work in areas of Guest Services, Food Service, Maintenance, and Recreation.

- Bonclarken is open year-round, thereby making facilities available to the agencies and institutions of Synod, its Presbyteries and local congregations to fulfill their missions and goals. In 2008, Bonclarken hosted 91 ARP events, which included General Synod, Family Bible Conference, Bonsenior, Horizon, Quest, Music Conference, two sessions of Camp Bonclarken, three sessions of Camp Joy, Presbytery youth retreats, individual ARP church weekends, and some type of event from almost every agency of Synod.

- In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits. Over 200 non-ARP events were hosted in 2008.

Duty #2:

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

Response to this duty:

- The following officers were elected to serve in 2008-2009: Calvin Draffin, Chairman; Floy Jumper, Vice Chairman; Sarah Dagenhart, Secretary; Welch Bostick, Treasurer. Committee Chairs for this year are: Jim Ashburn—Administration, Jimmy Matthews—Buildings and Grounds, and Lou Ann Aheron—Promotion and Services.

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

Duty #3:

To make such rules and regulations for its own government as may be

consistent with the Constitution of Bonclarken Conference Center and the policies of Synod.

Response to this duty:

- See list of actions set forth below.

Duty #4:

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

Response to this duty:

- The Board continued to assure that all property owned by Bonclarken was appropriately managed and took the following significant actions from April 2008 through February 2009.

Administrative Information

Action taken at the May 10, 2008 Board meeting:

- Approved obtaining water line designs for the cabins and investigate requirements for water lines and fire hydrants, in coordination with the Fire Marshall, for the whole campus.
- Authorized the Bonclarken staff, in coordination with Dick Weisner, to finish painting the outside and inside and soffit and trims on the outside of the Old Gym to the extent that funds are available from the \$25,000 budget.
- Approved in principle to a shared recycle program.

Action taken at the November 1, 2008 Board meeting:

- Authorized that \$36,000 from the Property Acquisition Fund be internally borrowed at 3% compound annual interest to complete projects for 2008. Repayment of the funds will come from future endowment income.
- Approved a 2009 Operating Budget.
- Approved an increase in the budget for The Lodge of \$88,430 be approved for items identified as needed during the 2008 summer.
- Authorized the President to accept an offer to purchase the northernmost Bonclarken Court lot.
- Approved that the Reach and AIM Camps be suspended for the summer 2009 season and that their future status be revisited at the October 2009 Board meeting.
- Approved moving forward with the Trehel Corp. Master Plan proposal.
- Approved that section of Kirkmoor from Synodical Hall to Pine Drive remain temporarily closed until the long range Master Plan is complete.

Action taken at the January 17, 2009 Board meeting:

- Approved a 2009 Non-Operational Budget.
- Approved internally borrowing up to \$40,000 (at 3% compound annual interest) from our Property Acquisition Fund to fund the anticipated 2009 expenses related to Trehel's Master Plan work.
- Approved update to Personnel Policy that will bring Bonclarken in full

compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

- Approved Carl Shaw, PLLC, as new auditor for Bonclarken, replacing Dixon Hughes.
- Approved the “Receipt and Management of Charitable Gifts” policy.

Recommendations

We make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That General Synod continue to support Bonclarken in the allocation of Synod funds and in the annual Easter offering.
2. That General Synod continue to encourage all presbyteries, boards, and church organizations to choose Bonclarken for their meetings, retreats and conferences.
3. That the meetings of General Synod for 2010 and 2011 be held at Bonclarken beginning on June 8, 2010 and June 7, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Calvin Draffin, Chairman
Board of Trustees
Bonclarken Conference Center

The **Moderator’s Committee on Bonclarken** recommended that recommendations #1-3 of the board report be adopted. In addition, the Moderator’s Committee on Bonclarken recommended:

4. that the General Synod commend the Board, the President, and the Staff of Bonclarken for their diligent labors in the service of our Lord. We are especially grateful for the servant leadership demonstrated by Chip Sherer, the President, noting how this has fostered a growing servant spirit among staff as they extend hospitality to Bonclarken’s guests.

The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.