

# MINUTES

OF THE  
GENERAL SYNOD  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\* \* \*

CALLED MEETING  
(MARCH 2-3, 2010)

AND

TWO HUNDRED SIXTH STATED MEETING  
(JUNE 8-10, 2010)

BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER  
FLAT ROCK, NC



**CALLED MEETING  
MARCH 2-3, 2010  
BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

**PROCEEDINGS**

The March 2-3, 2010 Called Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held on the call of the Moderator, John R. de Witt, with the concurrence of three of the presbyteries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, (Canadian, Tennessee- Alabama, and Second), at the denominational conference grounds at Bonclarken. The call for the meeting was circulated by Moderator de Witt: "The purpose of the meeting will be to receive and act on the findings and recommendations of the Moderator's Commission on Erskine College and Theological Seminary."

**Tuesday Afternoon, March 2, 2010**

**4:30 p.m.**

The meeting convened in the Bonclarken Chapel at 4:30 p.m. with the call to order by Moderator John R. de Witt, who presented his devotional.

The Moderator read the Statement of Purpose of the Called Meeting, (See introduction.)

Following a ten-minute recess to allow Elders who went to the original announced meeting place to reach the Chapel, the roll was constituted by the Principal Clerk who declared a quorum to be present.

The Quorum for a called meeting is defined in the Form of Government: (see Chapter. XIII, C. 5.) The quorum numbers for this meeting are as follows: 114 Ministers. (One quarter of 455 total ministers, representing three presbyteries), Ruling Elders from 73 congregations representing three presbyteries. (One quarter of the number of churches.) Only Elders representing congregations which were registered at the last annual meeting are qualified. (See Chapter XIII, C.3.)

The roll of those registered:

**Ministers Present:**

**Canadian:** Henry Bartsch, Kevin Carter, Rudy de Vries, David Els, Jeffrey Kingswood, W. Brian Murray, Andrew Savill, John Shearouse

**Catawba:** James Barker, C. Ron Beard, Leland Beaudrot, Roy Beckham, Juan Carlos Bonilla, Heiko Burklin, George Busch, Jr, J. Barry Dagenhart, Clint Davis, John R. de Witt, J. Allen Derrick, Jose J. Diaz, Robert Elliott, Evan English, Sinclair Ferguson, Robert M. Ferguson, Billy Fleming, Lee Charles Hammond, John Hopkins, Brian Howard, Thomas D. James, Douglas Jones, Michael Kelly, Ray King, David Lauten, Neal Mathias, Phillip McCoy, James McLurkin, James Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Scott Moore, Alan Morrow, Brian Peake, Dwight Pearson, Paul Pepin, Andrew Putnam, Peter Rambo, Sr, Robert Robinson, John Rogers, Mark Ross, David Rowe, Jan Sattlem, David Setzer, Kyle Sims, Gregory Slater, Guy Smith, Jr, Andrew Stager, Gary Stiltner, Jr, Frank van Dalen, Glenn Welsford, L. Craig Wilkes, R. Boyce Wilson, Soku Yi

**First:** William Anderson, Robert Arendale, Robert Bell, Robert Cara, James Coad, Jr, Bryan Crotts, John Currid, Benjamin Dowling, III, S. Barry Eller, N. Lanier Ellis, Charles Evans, III, Ed Fleagle, Randy Foster, Larry Frady, Sr, Wayne Frazier, Bryan Gregory, Gregory Hamer, Vaughn Hathaway, James Hunt, Robert Hunter, Morrison Lawing, Jr, Gary Letchworth, Richard Lewis, Jr, C. Earl Linderman, Kenneth Lotze, Matthew Lucas, William Macaulay, William Maier, Leo Markwat, William Marsh, Nathan McCall, Kenneth McMullen, Paul Mulner, Stephen Myers, Duckeun Park, Chris Parnell, Douglas Petersen, Scott Robar, E. Tim Robinson, Gilbert Rowell, Terrence Schultz, Lee Shelnutt, R. Edward Spencer, Mark Tankersley, S. Dean Turbeville, Anthony Ward, Tim Watson, James White, Roger Wiles, Robert Wilson, David Winburne, Ben Wingard

**Florida:** Robert Adams, Jr, Mark Bolhofner, Raymond Cameron, Jr, William Elder, Jr, Robert Hovey, Robert Johnson, Jun Liu, Robert Patrick, III, Kim Payne, Darrell Peer, Charles Reynolds, Jr, Drew Severance, David Walkup

**Mississippi Valley:** Ron Brunson, Meredith Cavin, Conrad Cheatham, Gary Clowers, J. Alex Coblentz, Andy Coburn, Joseph Donahue, William Everett, T. J. Gentry, Richard Hazen, Tim Phillips, David Storment, Charles Todd, Donis Watkins, William Wheeler, Jr.

**Northeast:** Alan Avera, Fredrick Carr, David Johnston, Peter Kemeny, Ronald Pritts, William Sutherland, Jack Van Dyk, Robert Whittet, James Wittke, Curtis Young

**Second:** Robert Anderson, William Barron, Sr, William Blakely, Bryan Bult, J. Rhett Carson, Gregory Conover, John Cook, James Corbitt, John Dorr, Jr, L. Calvin Draffin, William Evans, Jodie Gaston, H. Neely Gaston, Ralph Gore, David Griffin, James Hering, Mark Hornby, Michael Horne, Jeffrey Jacobs, Gary Jones, R. Eldredge Kelley, Stuart Latimer, Jeffrey Lewis, Anthony Locke, James Loughner, Patrick Malphrus, Rob Roy McGregor, James McManus, Matthew Miller, Paul Patrick, Samuel Roper, Randall Ruble, George Schwab, Thomas Shoger, William Slattery, E. Brent Turner, Peter Waid, Craig Wieberdink, Rabun Williams, Charles Wilson, Mark Wright

**Tennessee-Alabama:** Charles Bradley, Charles Edgar, Stephen Jordan, P.J. McClung, Calvin Todd

**Virginia:** David Blugerman, H. Max Bolin, Donald Bowker, L. Paul Burns, Robert Gordon, John Hughes, David Vance, David Warf

#### **Eligible Elders Present:**

##### **Catawba**

Arsenal Hill Presbyterian (Michael Evans), Bethany ARP Church (Tim Thiessen), Bethel ARP Church (Roger Rowe), Calhoun Presbyterian Church (Billy Alexander), Centennial ARP Church (Wyndal Howard), Chester ARP Church (John Lewis), Clover ARP Church (David Jackson), First Presbyterian Columbia (William B. De Pass, Henry Foster, Richard Laughridge, Charlton Law, Hal Stevenson), Ebenezer Presbyterian (Wilfred Aheron), Edwards Memorial ARP (Owens Baston), Good Shepherd Presbyterian (Bill Wolfe), Hopewell ARP Church (Thomas McKeown), Lancaster First ARP Church (T.C.S. Lever), Neely's Creek ARP Church (Steve Southwell), Oak Ridge ARP Church (Jerry Knight), Rock Hill First ARP (Walt Heinsohn, William Vogel), Rowan Presbyterian (John Floyd), Sherwood Forest ARP (Bill Ross), Tirzah ARP Church (Steve Maloney), Union ARP Church (Gerald Locke), Unity ARP Church (Addison Thomas), White Oak ARP Church (Robert Patrick)

##### **First**

All Saints Presbyterian (Charles Smoak), Boyce Memorial ARP Church

(Bill Bush), First ARP Church Burlington (Doug Chism), Christ Community Church (Darryl Andrews), Coddle Creek ARP Church (Jerry Carriker), Covenant of Grace ARP (Phil Williams), Covenant ARP Church (Leon Tinklenberg), Craig Avenue Tabernacle (Bill Deaton), Ebenezer ARP Church (Bruce Bodenstein), Gastonia First ARP Church (Robert Sytz), Huntersville ARP Church (Anthony Navarro), Maupin Avenue Presbyterian (Robert Crawford), New Amity ARP Church (Legrand Payne), New Perth ARP Church (Donnie Poole), New Sterling ARP Church (David Brady), Pinecrest ARP Church (John Gibson), Pisgah ARP Church (Curtis Hopper), Providence ARP Church (Ron France), Reformation Presbyterian (Christopher Hill), Sandy Plains ARP Church (Ray Barnes), Christ Fellowship (Ron McKnight)

#### **Florida**

First Presbyterian Avon Park (Nelson Crews), Bartow ARP Church (W.H. Stuart), Chapel-By-The-Sea (Ray Christian), Faith Presbyterian Church (Michael Gallogly), First Presbyterian Sebring (Frank Erwin)

#### **Mississippi Valley**

Mount Zion ARP Church (Charles Bunner), New Albany Presbyterian (Howard Roberts), Providence Reformed (David Strock), Salem ARP Church (Kerry Regen)

#### **Northeast**

Ballston Center ARP Church (Norman Slagle), Church of the Atonement (Gordon Bell)

#### **Second**

Abbeville-Mt. Carmel ARP (Wes McAllister), Devenger Road Presbyterian (Steven Kern), Due West ARP Church (Jimmy Gettys), Greenville ARP Church (Jimmy Feemster, Phillip Reavis), Greenwood First ARP (Jack Hill), Louisville ARP Church (Phil Prichard), Lower Long Cane ARP (John C. Grier), Newberry ARP Church (William Mark Senn), Oconee ARP Church (Harold Wright), Ora ARP Church (David Craig), Peachtree Corners (Glen Smotherman), Providence ARP Church (Thornton Stewart), Redeemer Presbyterian (Richard Bernath), First Presbyterian Tucker (Scott Hale), Unity ARP Church (Brian Holzberger), White Oak ARP Church (Lisle Bowers), Young Memorial ARP (Dan Yon)

#### **Tennessee-Alabama**

Fayetteville ARP Church (William Kidd), Hopewell ARP Church

(David Rentschler), Pressly Memorial ARP Church (Tirey Bowen)

**Virginia**

Edgemont ARP Church (Berkley Mays), Johnson Creek ARP Church (Lonnie McKinney), Old Providence ARP Church (Dallas Hemp), Wildhurst Presbyterian (David Hayslett)

Following the announcement of the required quorum, Vice-Moderator Steven G. Maye presented the program.

The Moderator called for a vote to consider the report, the response of the Board of Trustees, and a statement of Erskine Alumni. (Such vote was made necessary by the Rules of Procedure of the General Synod due to Synod's requirements for circulation of materials prior to the meeting). The vote carried by the required 2/3 majority of those present.

The Chairman of the Moderator's Commission introduced the members of the Special Commission to the Synod.

Commission member Ken Wingate presented the report.

A point of order resulted in a motion to enter executive session. Following discussion, a motion carried to call the previous question. The motion to enter executive session failed.

Mr. Wingate continued the presentation, including the four recommendations.

**Report of the Moderator's Commission on  
Erskine College and Seminary**

March 2, 2010

The delegates of the 2009 meeting of the General Synod instructed the Moderator 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 commission was further 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."

**ARP Standards and Previously Issued Directives**

The Moderator's Commission finds that over the last thirty-plus years the General Synod has been clear in stating its purposes and objectives for Erskine, has frequently reaffirmed those objectives, and has issued directives to

guide the college in adherence to Synod's standards. We offer the following examples of these directives:

Christian higher education offers "... a unique opportunity to present Christ and the Christian viewpoint and to demonstrate in a tangible way the value of a life which is lived in right relation to God and man."<sup>1</sup>

"The Board of Trustees, through the Administration, must seek faculty members having professional competence, moral sensitivity and genuine Christian commitment."<sup>2</sup>

"As a Christian college, the uniqueness of each individual is a basic premise, but the universality of our human dependence on Jesus Christ as the ultimate Word is equally fundamental, the point of reference for all knowledge and all experience being Biblical revelation and authority."<sup>3</sup>

"The curriculum for Erskine College ... should be broadly based, with the Christian perspective as the positive integrating factor for all of the disciplines."<sup>4</sup>

"In order for the goals and purposes of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Christian higher education to be realized, Erskine College, through its Board of Trustees, administration and faculty, must be in harmony with the principles and goals of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Within this context, the College has a responsibility to bring its theological reflections to bear upon the life of the Church."<sup>5</sup>

"Erskine College and Seminary should intentionally aim to disciple their students with a kingdom perspective and a biblically Reformed world and life view. Both the College and the Seminary should encourage students to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas of life, and they should model the integration of Christian faith and learning."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Manual of Authorities and Duties, *Report of the Special Committee on Christian Education*, "Philosophy of Christian Higher Education," (adopted by General Synod, 1977), 2009 p. 37

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid*, p. 40

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid*, p. 40

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid*, p. 40

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid*, p. 40

<sup>6</sup>Minutes of Synod, *Report of the Vision Committee*, (adopted by General Synod 2007), 2007 p. 24



Further, the mission statements of the College and Seminary indicate the Synod's success in clearly communicating these matters.

"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." ("Erskine College Mission Statement")

"...from its inception, Erskine College has been committed to the principle that facts and values—learning and faith—are inseparable." (Mission Statement – "Historical Perspective")

"This environment fosters an educational ethos whose personnel, policies, and teaching are informed and animated by the sovereignty of God over all the created order. Erskine encourages wholesome living and calls the entire community to glorify God and enjoy him forever." (Mission Statement – "Our Commitments")

"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." (Mission Statement – "Our Commitments")

### **The Board of Trustees**

The first hallmark of a well-structured board is that its size and make up are appropriate to effectively safeguard the assets and accomplish the mission with which it has been entrusted. As to size, very large governing boards have a difficult time getting down to business and making decisions. As to make up, successful governing boards include individuals who are knowledgeable (e.g., accounting, business, law, finance, theology, education, ethics), and who are enthusiastically committed to the stated mission of the organization.

The essential qualifications of a good board member are that he or she must be competent, engaged and independent. This is especially true for a non-profit institution of higher education, for which many duties under federal and state law must be satisfied, in addition to the requirements of accrediting agencies and other oversight authorities. We find that the Board of Erskine has not historically and uniformly met these standards of competence, engagement and independence. There are perhaps many reasons for this, but the sheer size of the board and the way it carries out its business figures prominently in the equation. The thirty members of the board, plus four ex-officio

members and its twenty-three advisory members, cannot function effectively and engage in meaningful deliberation and decision-making. The executive committee is delegated most of the substantive work of the board, rendering a majority of board members less engaged than necessary. The Commission finds that the Board is not uniformly competent, engaged and independent, as a consequence of its unwieldy structure. The Commission finds that the requirement of the bylaws that at least fifty percent of the members must be graduates of Erskine College and/or Seminary further adds to the general lack of independence. The Commission finds that the requirements of the bylaws that the many Advisors to the Board "shall have equal seat and voice in all meetings of the Board and are entitled to receive the same minutes and notice of meetings of the Board to which members are entitled" hinder the effectiveness and independence of the Board. If a governing board tolerates a climate of secrecy or neglect, the charitable assets may be diverted to benefit the private interests of insiders and the mission of the organization may be thwarted by those charged with implementation of the mission.

The second hallmark of a strong and effective board is that it is independent from the administration. The Board is to establish policy and set guidelines for the mission of the institution, and then exercise the proper amount of oversight by asking the hard questions. There must be a healthy tension between the Board and the administration, with the Board able and willing to require the administration to account for its performance. The Commission finds that the Board has not exercised adequate oversight over the administration and faculty. The Commission finds that there have been a number of financial irregularities and administrative failures which underscore the lack of oversight by the Board.

The third hallmark of an effective board is that it ensures that the mission of the institution, as set forth in its mission statements and other governing instruments, is accomplished. In the case of Erskine, the guiding principles of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and the similar directives of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, which owns Erskine and appoints its board, constitute its mission. The Commission finds that the ARP's directives have not been satisfied, even though this discussion has taken place regularly over the course of the last thirty years.

The Commission reiterates that any findings related to the views and performance of the administration and faculty are, in the nature of the case, intended to underscore the lack of effective oversight by the Board. The Board sets policy and the administration carries it out; but a consistent and long-term failure to operate in a manner consistent with the mission of the institution ultimately comes back to the Board.

**Findings**

The Moderator's Commission on Erskine finds that the oversight exercised by the Board of trustees and the Administration of Erskine College and Seminary is not in faithful accordance with the standards of the ARP Church and the Synod's previously issued directives.

**Recommendations**

**1. Restructuring the Board:** The bylaws of the Board of Trustees shall be revised by a committee of five members: current Board Chairman Scott Mitchell, current Board vice-chairman Joe Patrick, and Commission members, Bill Marsh, Roger Wiles, and Ken Wingate. These bylaws shall include: that the composition of the board shall be 16 members (five classes of three plus the current Moderator) and more effective policies to prevent further failures regarding financial integrity, conflicts of interest, integration of faith and learning, board training, and other issues identified by the commission. These policies must align with Synod's Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and Erskine's current mission statements. These revised bylaws shall be adopted by the full board at its May 2010 meeting, and subsequently presented to the Synod for adoption at its June 2010 meeting.

**2. Replacement Interim Board:** The current trustees shall be removed and replaced by the following individuals: William Anderson, William L. Barron, John Basie, Adam Bloom, Julia T. Boyd, William S. Cain, Raymond Cameron, Fredrick Carr, James T. Corbitt, Dixon Cunningham, Joseph W. Donahue, Charles B. Evans, William B. Everett, William R. Folks, David R. Johnston, Morrison V. Lawing, Marlo L. McDonald, William C. Marsh, Steven J. Maye, James F. Mitchell, Scott Mitchell, Paul D. Mulner, Deborah Neil, Joseph H. Patrick, Gordon S. Query, Glen Robinson, George S. Robinson, Steven Suits, Roger N. Wiles, R. Boyce Wilson. The interim board will also include the four ex-officio members per the current bylaws. The moderator of the ARP Church shall convene the interim board.

**3. Nominations Process:** The revised bylaws shall strike the second sentence of Article II, paragraph 3 of the current bylaws regarding nominations to Synod's committee on nominations. Likewise, the following portions of the "Guidelines For Committee on Nominations" (Manual of Authorities and Duties, 2008, p. 84-85) shall be changed: guideline 5 shall be amended to read, "Prospective nominees are contacted to confirm their willingness to serve."; guideline 8(h) shall be removed. Nominations for Erskine trustees shall be made annually by a special committee consisting of the then-current moderator and the four immediate past moderators, based on the new criteria for

trustees. The recommendations of this committee shall annually be presented to the General Synod at its stated meeting.

**4. Criteria for Trustees:** The special committee for the nomination of Erskine trustees will adopt the following criteria for potential trustees: The Board must consist of individuals who are competent, engaged, and independent. Trustees shall include individuals who are knowledgeable in different areas such as accounting, business, education, ethics, finance, law, ministry and theology, and who subscribe to the mission of Erskine College and Seminary as set forth in its mission statements. Such individuals should be able and willing to be adequately engaged in the life of the institution to guide and monitor its achievement of the stated mission. Such individuals must be sufficiently independent of the administration and faculty to bring a healthy balance of support and oversight. All trustees must subscribe to Synod's definition of an evangelical Christian.

Respectfully Submitted,

George S. Robinson  
Chairman  
Moderator's Commission on Erskine

The Moderator made several announcements concerning the conduct for the remainder of the meeting.

As Synod recessed for the afternoon, the Moderator noted that Commission member Wingate's prayer served as the closing prayer and blessing for the meal.

### **Tuesday Evening, March 2, 2010**

#### **The Worship Service**

**7:30 p.m.**

Moderator de Witt opened the evening worship with the reading of John 17:1-5.

The Synod rose to sing "Old Hundredth" and was led in prayer by the Moderator.

The Apostles' Creed was recited.

The Gloria Patri was sung.

The Synod joined in a Unison Reading of John 17:6-18.

The evening prayer was offered by Rob Patrick.  
Synod rose again to sing "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken."  
Sinclair Ferguson brought the evening message using as his text John 17: vss. 20-26.  
Bible Songs number 280 was sung.  
Synod recessed for the evening with the Benediction delivered by The Moderator.  
The delegates joined in singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

### **Wednesday Morning, March 3, 2010**

#### **8:30 a.m.**

The morning session began with special thanks to Chip Sherer for all the wonderful work he did to make the meeting possible. Thanks were also expressed to Tom Patterson for providing the organ accompaniment for Synod's worship in song.

Synod opened with a worship service led by Stephen Maye.

The Synod sang "All Christians Rise and Sing." Mr. Maye brought the morning message.

The morning business session began at 9:00 a.m..

The Principal Clerk declared a quorum to be present.

The business session began with the reading of the four recommendations of the special commission. As the recommendations of a commission need no second, the recommendations were before the Synod for consideration.

Joseph Patrick, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, offered prayer and addressed the Synod with regard to the response to the commission report from the Erskine College Board of Trustees.

Ray Cameron spoke to the Synod with regard to the "Resolution" adopted by Erskine Board of Trustees, February 19, 2010.

Mr. Patrick presented the Board of Trustees' response to specific charges made in the commission's presentation.

Bill Patrick, counsel to Erskine College, presented further arguments with regard to the Board's position.

Synod recessed for a morning break.

Upon resuming, the Moderator noted several items needing to be mentioned at this juncture.

As a period of questions and answers began, the Moderator asked Ken Wingate to begin the session by answering questions which came as a result of earlier statements.

Mr. Wingate continued to answer questions from the floor.

The question and answer session was ended.

Statements were then allowed.

Erskine College Board member Lisa Robinson Senn presented her statement.

Randall T. Ruble presented his statement.

Alvin Sell presented his statement.

Erskine Student Body President Jessica Gregg presented her statement.

Synod recessed at noon with the blessing for the meal led by Moderator de Witt.

### **Wednesday afternoon, March 3, 2010**

**1:15 p.m.**

The Afternoon session began with a prayer led by the Reading Clerk Charles Edgar.

The Principal Clerk declared a quorum to be present.

Woody O'Cain presented his statement.

Daisy Smith, President of the Student Christian Association, presented her statement.

William Evans presented his statement.

A motion carried to take the recommendations item by item.

Recommendation #1 with regard to restructuring was opened for debate.

The recommendation passed 204 to 68.

Recommendation #2 with regard to placing an interim board in place of the present board was opened for debate.

Following a failed amendment, another amendment carried.

**Amendment A** (To be added at end of Recommendation #2):  
"The current board shall be commended for their work to date, and assured that dismissal is not based on personal failure, but systemic problems."

The recommendation #2 as amended passed 173 to 96.

An amendment to recommendation #3 was proposed and adopted.

**Amendment B** (last two lines of Recommendation #3 shall read): "Recommendations for Erskine trustees shall be made...The recommendations of this committee shall annually be presented to General Synod's Committee on Nominations."

The recommendation #3 as amended passed on voice vote.

A motion carried to editorially change recommendation #4: Change the wording in line one from "nominations" to "recommendations." In the last sentence, replace "To the General Synod at its stated meeting" to "Synod's Committee on Nominations."

The recommendation #4 as editorially changed was passed by a voice vote.

After a motion to adjourn prevailed and singing of the "Song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133," the closing prayer was offered by John Cook. The Benediction was pronounced by the Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. R. Beard, Principal Clerk





# MINUTES

OF THE  
GENERAL SYNOD  
OF THE  
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\* \* \*

TWO HUNDRED SIXTH STATED MEETING  
(JUNE 8-10, 2010)

BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER  
FLAT ROCK, NC



**STATED MEETING****JUNE 8-10, 2010****BONCLARKEN, FLAT ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

The 206<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Monday Evening, June 7, 2010****The Pre-Synod Conference, "The Spirit-illuminated Word"**

"Dinner 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, Rev. Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson presented the Keynote Address.

The attendees met for fellowship following the address.

**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

At 9:15 a.m., Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Kelly presented the morning address.

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.

**Special Synod Week Activities**

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

The Synod was invited to meet the new President of Erskine College and Seminary on Wednesday from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m.

A Church Planters Breakfast, sponsored by Outreach North America, was held Thursday Morning at 7:00 a.m.

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

A Ladies' Prayer Vigil was held during all sessions of General Synod.

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

A Pastor's Wives Fellowship was held Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

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

**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

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

At 7:30 p.m., the 206th annual meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church began with the Worship Service.

**OPENING WORSHIP**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

|           |   |                    |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 7:00 P.M. | Informal Psalm Sing                             | C. Earl Linderman  |
|           | Accompanist                                     | Harriett Linderman |
|           | Prelude   | Greg Reynolds      |
| 7:30 P.M. | *Call to Worship                                |                    |
|           | *Hymn: "O Worship the King All Glorious Above"  | Lyon               |
|           | *Invocation and Lord's Prayer                   |                    |
|           | Gloria Patri                                    |                    |
|           | *The Constitution of Synod                      |                    |
|           | Memorial Service                                | Stephen J. Maye    |
|           | The Listing of Deceased Teaching Elders         |                    |
|           | The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders           |                    |
|           | Old Testament Reading (II Chron 20:1-13)        | Mark E. Ross       |
|           | *Hymn: "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" | Toulon             |
|           | New Testament Reading (I Peter 5: 1-14)         | Joseph W. Donahue  |
|           | *The Apostle's Creed                            |                    |
|           | *Doxology                                       | Old Hundredth      |
|           | Sermon  | John R. de Witt    |
|           | Prayer for Blessing on the Word of God          |                    |
|           | *Hymn: "God Be Merciful to Me"                  | Redhead            |

The Prayers of the General Synod

\*Hymn: Now Israel May Say

Old 124th

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Greg Reynolds

(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 opening worship speaker was William C. Marsh.

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

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

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

Retiring Moderator de Witt presented Moderator-Elect Stephen J. Maye to the Synod. Following brief remarks, Dr. de Witt placed the Moderator's Shield around the neck of Mr. Maye. Moderator Maye presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Dr. de Witt.

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

### **MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE**

*I cannot describe to you what a joy it has been to serve for the last two years alongside Dick de Witt. First of all, I've learned many new vocabulary words - but have forgotten more. He has been gracious enough not to correct my grammar but seems to save that for promising young ministers.*

*With all seriousness, being around Dick is to be connected to many of the greats- the men he met or knew. Men like Herman Ridderbos, A.W. Tozier, the great John Murray of Westminster Seminary, and perhaps the greatest preacher in the twentieth century, Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones. To hear many personal stories about these giants has been quite a treat but to see their impact on Dick and, in turn, his impact on so many of us is truly rich. His theological prowess coupled with his burning zeal for the gospel make him an example to all. Dick's kindness and compassion; his judgment and discern-*

ment; and his convictions and resolve are a gift to the ARP Church. He has become a dear friend.

Brothers of this great church: thank you for privilege to serve you in this capacity. At the conclusion of Synod last June, I received more free advice on that closing Thursday than in all of my life combined. Much of it has been helpful. I want to especially thank the former moderators who have graciously given me counsel and helped me navigate some choppy waters. I am forever indebted to men like Bill Deaton, Jim Corbitt, Allen Derrick, Frank Hunt, Bill Evans, Tom Patterson, Charles Edgar, and Gordon Query. These men, like the aforementioned acquaintances of Dick's, are faithful men who have set the example.

Going back even farther, let us never forget the giants of the faith on whose shoulders we stand. It is an amazing thing to realize that we, as ARPs, are tangentially connected to John Calvin, John Knox and Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine; the Associates and the Reformed Church- those predecessors of ours who had the courage to stand for the gospel no matter the cost; the great Covenanters without whom, I believe, there would have been no victory in the American War for Independence. Many estimate that 50% of the Continental Army was comprised of Presbyterians. Do you realize that by the time General George Washington got to Yorktown in 1781 all but one of his regimental commanders were ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church? Washington was so grateful for the Presbyterians that though he was an Anglican, he donated \$40,000 (an amazing sum at the time) to a Presbyterian college then named Liberty Hall Academy now called Washington & Lee University.

Indeed, our spiritual heritage is significant. But where do we go from here? We must do some self-examination and honestly ask ourselves if we truly subscribe to and live out the beliefs of the apostle Paul, the apostle Peter, the early church fathers and the Westminster Divines. The purpose statement we, as ARPs, adopted in 1990 calls us "To evaluate and change the future while preserving the best of the past." How do we best do that?

It is not enough for us if we only recount how faithful our predecessors were but fail to be imitators of their obedience. We must embrace our rich Covenanter heritage and ask God to help us be equally as faithful. We must focus on that which made their faith and lives so potent; so active; so fruitful. Exactly what was it? Well men, I'll tell you. It was a firm commitment to the Word of God- the holy, inspired, inerrant and infallible Word. In Martin Luther's famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God," he wrote, "That Word above all earthly powers!" It is indeed above every single earthly power. It is our weapon against the enemy- a weapon for which he has no recourse or answer. Incidentally, have you noticed that in the section of Ephe-

*sians chapter six that describes the full armor of God, the Word of God is the only offensive weapon- the sword of the Spirit? And, I find it intriguing that there is no provision for our backs. God has us to be ever moving forward taking territory for the Kingdom of God. Remember that the gates of Hell will not prevail against the Church of Jesus Christ! You have heard this in the last few themes of Synod- "The Indispensable Word;" "The Powerful Word;" and now "The Spirit-illuminated Word." It is the preaching of God's Word, the reading of God's Word, the praying of God's Word, the singing of God's Word and the visible Word in the sacraments. Shallowness, entertainment and carnival prizes will attract a crowd but will not carry the day. The Christian Church must recapture our belief in, confidence in and zeal for God's Holy Word. I would recommend to you the article by the great Charles Spurgeon titled "Feeding Sheep or Amusing Goats?"*

*Many of you heard Dr. Douglas Kelly yesterday. His wife Caroline once told me in his absence that when you poke Doug, scripture comes out. That's it! When we are men of the Book we will live, speak, act and think according to His Word. We will worship God on His terms spelled out in His Word. We will practice law, run businesses, plant churches and teach school according to His Word. We will love our neighbor and conduct business as a Church according to His Word.*

*I also want us as a denomination to pray for revival in our midst. Not the instant, plastic, synthetic kind but genuine revival. We have not had legitimate, large-scale revival in America since the mid-1800s. May it start with the ARP elders and spread through this Synod and then move across the land. Rev. Mark Miller, the pastor of Shiloh ARP in Lancaster, SC mentioned in a fine sermon not long ago a church in the Carolinas that had erected a plaque in the 1800s commemorating a time of true revival where God the Holy Spirit was poured out in large measure in the South and men, women and children were swept into the Kingdom of God by the converting power of the Holy Ghost. Mark said that in the last several years that church was embarrassed by the plaque and removed it. God help us.*

*Brothers of the ARP, let us not hunger and thirst for moralism, or hunger and thirst for pietism, or hunger and thirst for therapeutic deism. Pray that God would save us and grant us a hunger and thirst for righteousness.*

*Men of the Covenant, let us be frank. Our denomination has had its challenges and many of our current debates are over symptoms and not causes. The future of the ARP is only as bright as our willingness to commit ourselves to God's Word. May God have mercy on His people and shower this denomination with His favor. Thank you.*

-Stephen J. Maye

Moderator Maye introduced the Vice-Moderator, Robert E. Patrick, III to the Synod.

Vice-Moderator Patrick presented the proposed program for the 2010 meeting of the General Synod. Rev. Patrick noted two amendments to the printed program. The program as amended was adopted.

Old Business:

Following a two-thirds vote to receive a Moderator's Commission on Erskine report, commission member Marsh announced that a printed report would be distributed following his oral presentation. Commission member Wingate addressed the Synod with regard to the commission's view of the status of the suit and the activity of the commission.

A motion carried to set aside fifteen minutes for discussion of corrections to the paper and additional information following the morning break.

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

Three Memorials were read and by a two-thirds vote of the Synod, two were referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Synod recessed for the morning break.

The Moderator expresses the thanks of the Synod to Chip Sherer, Wanda Neal, Earl Linderman, Paul Bell, Cindy Scott, and the entire ARP Center Staff for their hard work and support for the Synod meeting.

Moderator Maye made the following introductions to the Synod:

**Pages:** Garrison Taylor (Second), Robin Seaton (Tenn-Ala), Will Hunter (First), Josiah Jones (First), Mackay Smith (First)

**Musician:** Greg Reynolds

**Ministers who have been received or ordained 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. Synod rose in a round of applause for our two retirees of 2010, Tim Robinson and David Rockness.

John Cook, representing the Minister and His Work Committee of General Synod, introduced the presentation from the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel by Chaplain Colonel Ed Brogan. Following Chaplain Brogan's address, Synod rose in a round of applause for our Chaplains present at this meeting of the General Synod.

The previously adopted time slot of a fifteen minute discussion of the corrections and additional information was held. A motion to dismiss the commission was tabled. Robert B. Elliott presented the **Recommended 2010 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was adopted.

| <b>Stewardship Committee</b>   |                |                      |                       |                         |
|--|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>2011 Denominational Ministries Allocations</b>                                |                |                      |                       |                         |
| Amounts shown in \$000 (thousands)   |                |                      |                       |                         |
| AGENCY   | Actual<br>2009 | Approved<br>for 2010 | Requested<br>for 2011 | Recommended<br>for 2011 |
| <b>Boards and Agencies</b>   |                |                      |                       |                         |
| Central Services   | \$ 294         | \$ 287               | \$ 296                | \$ 291                  |
| Utilization of Reserve (1)   | (6)            |                      |                       |                         |
| Benefits   | 7              | 6                    | 6                     | 6                       |
| ARP Center Facility  | 15             | 15                   | 15                    | 15                      |
| Executive Board & Contingency  | 72             | 99                   | 93                    | 92                      |
| The ARP  | 102            | 99                   | 99                    | 98                      |
| Stewardship  | 20             | 17                   | 15                    | 15                      |
| <b>Commission &amp; Committees</b>   |                |                      |                       |                         |
| Inter-Church Relations   | 4              | 16                   | 12                    | 12                      |
| Lay Ministry   | 18             | 19                   | 19                    | 19                      |
| Worship  | 25             | 19                   | 34                    | 33                      |
| Other Committees (2)   | 18             | 21                   | 21                    | 20                      |
| <b>Sub-Total for Non-Program</b>   | \$ 569         | \$ 599               | \$ 610                | \$ 601                  |
| Bonclarken   | \$ 144         | \$ 137               | \$ 129                | \$ 123                  |
| Christian Education Ministries   | 240            | 228                  | 228                   | 217                     |
| Erskine  | 586            | 557                  | 575                   | 531                     |
| ARP Student Union  | 0.5            | 0.5                  | 0.5                   | 0.5                     |
| ONA Operations   | 681            | 646                  | 646                   | 616                     |
| World Witness  | 681            | 646                  | 800                   | 616                     |
| <b>Program Sub-Total</b>   | \$ 2,333       | \$ 2,214             | \$ 2,378              | \$ 2,104                |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | \$ 2,902       | \$ 2,813             | \$ 2,989              | \$ 2,705                |
| (1) - 2009 allocations anticipated the use of a reserve which decreased in value |                |                      |                       |                         |
| (2) - Other Committees include: Investment, Minister & His Work, Nominations     |                |                      |                       |                         |

The report of the Special Committee on Strategic Planning was presented.

**REPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Planning Committee has met on three occasions since the June 2009 meeting of Synod. One of the meetings was with the Synod Committee on Minister and His Work and another with the agency directors. In both cases, useful exchanges of information and ideas took place which will assist us as we continue to work toward proposing a new mission statement and strategic plan for the ARP Church.

We request that the Committee be extended for another year.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Petersen, Chairman

The report was adopted.

Andrew K. Putnam presented an oral report with regard to the work of the Special Committee to Revise the *Form of Government*.

Following announcements, the morning business session closed with prayer and the Benediction pronounced by Evan B. English.

**Wednesday, June 9, 1:45 P.M.**

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

**Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 P.M.**

Following an organ prelude at 6:30 P.M. by Tom Patterson, the evening worship service was led by Robert E. Patrick III.

The Treble Makers of Palmer Children's Home brought to the Synod their musical witness.

Kathy Barron, President of the ARP Women's Ministries, presented her President's Address to the General Synod. A motion carried to print the address in the *Minutes*.

*Mr. Moderator, Gentlemen of the Court, and Guests,*

*It is my honor to bring you greetings and news from ARP Women's Ministries.*

*By the grace of God, ARP Women's Ministries is alive and well. That statement permeates all that I am about to say. We are in our fifth year as a reorganized body. Yet, it is a year that has brought some unique challenges. We have resolved those issues to the best of our abilities and moved forward to examine the underlying causes by evaluating more closely our governing documents, evaluating the vision set before us, and, ultimately, evaluating what women's ministries means to the women who worship, learn, and serve in each of the churches you lead.*

*Let's begin, briefly, with our governance: After careful review by a diligent Constitution and Bylaws Committee, we are presenting extensively revised documents to our membership this summer. Most notably, unlike Synod, the Women's Ministries Board had no clear authority for dealing with business that should be but was not resolved at our annual meeting. We believe our new documents clarify this. Also, in trying to simplify our organization, we had eliminated the cumbersome WSU Handbook detailing every aspect of women's ministries. Yet, we do need some authoritative guidelines to move forward in an orderly fashion. As a result, our Executive Committee spent much of Monday reviewing the initial draft of a set of Standing Rules.*

*In addition, in 2009, we asked that Synod help us more clearly define our role within our denomination and, last June, you approved the formation of a committee to examine this issue. We continue to look to you for this clarification, which will also help us manage the challenges before us.*

*The evaluation of our vision and purposes and the evaluation of what we mean by women's ministries quickly flowed into one process as we sought clarity and unity of direction. It seems clear that ARP Women's Ministries places its emphasis more on "being" and less on "doing"—for our "doing" clearly must come out of our "being."*

*"Being," first and foremost, children of the Father through Spirit-inspired faith in Jesus Christ. In churches where there are vibrant women's ministries, you can be sure the women are studying God's Word faithfully and spending time in prayer together. ARP Women's Ministries seeks to encourage and promote this foundation of women's ministries in every church. While probably overused, the scriptures that always come to mind are Titus 2's unique call for woman to woman ministry and Proverbs 31—that passage that ignites fear and feelings of inadequacy in Christian women everywhere—or, I suppose I should say: that passage that challenges Christian women to the best of Biblical womanhood. Just on the surface, encouraging women to live out these passages in today's world—consumed with youth, beauty, and "me-*

first”—is a humanly insurmountable task. Titus 2 opens by addressing “older women” and our worldly first thought is “Surely this doesn’t apply to me.” And Proverbs 31, along with our Genesis “helper design,” wreaks havoc with the feminist agenda. Obviously, it takes more—it takes diligent study of the entirety of the Spirit-illuminated Word and trust in the strength and grace of God to live out these teachings. In records since 1927, only once have we chosen something other than specific books of the Bible or segments of Scripture as our study focus. That year we studied ARP doctrine using the book, We Believe and Teach. In other words, ARP women faithfully study God’s Word! This year, women across the denomination are studying Jonah —examining God’s sovereignty, striving to follow God’s call and rejoicing in the truth: “Salvation comes from the Lord.” And in the coming year, Hebrews will encourage and challenge us to “run with perseverance the race set before us”—a race ever more difficult in today’s mobile, secularly- driven culture than it was in the tightly-knit Christian communities where ARP women first came together to support missionaries.

And this brings us to point #2 in “being”—ARP Women’s Ministries seeks to affirm and support every woman “being” an active part of the local body of Christ. This is the heart of women’s ministries. Across the ARP Church, women ministering faithfully to other women yield women devoted to serving Christ in their local churches and communities and the world.

ARP Women’s Ministries’ goal in these initial five years has been to educate and support without defining each local group’s structure. Just as Synod does not define each Session’s organizational structure; women’s ministries in Neely’s Creek ARP Church in South Carolina is not meant to look exactly like women’s ministries at Church of the Atonement in Maryland or at Bartow ARP in Florida. We have available resources and devoted personnel to assist women to develop programs that help fulfill the mission of their church. We also remind each group of its responsibility to work with the local Session to ensure harmony with the church’s mission. I respectfully request that you, also, encourage this dialogue as you shepherd your church family, including the women.

When asked “What if ARP Women’s Ministries didn’t exist?”— One board member stated, “There will always be women’s ministries.” Yes, there always has been, at least since Exodus 1 where the Hebrew midwives united for a cause. And there always will be women’s ministries within the local church. You know the lists of things the women in your church are doing. For, there always has been and always will be a lot of “doing” in our “being.” Yet, without the organizational definition of the past, some of these local groups are losing their connectedness and commitment to women across our denomination, and, possibly, to the denomination’s work. ARP Women’s

*Ministries experiences this loss in an absence of the commitment to presbytery and denominational leadership roles. We are nonetheless blessed with the faithful commitment of many talented women—A commitment which comes from each woman's response to God's miracle in her own life and an understanding of God's desires for the church beyond the doors of our local building.*

*That naturally draws us to point number 3 in "being"—ARP Women's Ministries is concerned with "being" ARP women. We, "older women" know the value of the friendships we have formed and maintained through conferences, retreats, annual meetings, and leadership training events. Therefore, we continue our support of these activities, financially and through developing resource lists of speakers and materials. And we are examining the possibility of partnering more closely with CEM to offer more leadership training. Our denomination is growing geographically. One of the delights of serving as President has been meeting women who understand the joy in Christian sisterhood shared across many miles. We continue to enjoy sharing news and ideas through the ARP magazine. Elizabeth Burns, our Administrator—a position soon to be renamed "Coordinator"—travels throughout the denomination and spends hours on e-mail and phone calls encouraging our women in leadership and service to God. We recently heard from our presbytery representatives the incredible impact she is having in unifying our women. While Northeast has had active women's ministries in its churches for a long time, Joanne Hamilton, our Vice President, is also a witness to the growth and desired connectedness of our denomination. She is ARP Women's Ministries' first officer from Northeast Presbytery.*

*In March, Elizabeth, Joanne, and I traveled to Ontario, Canada for a four church women's retreat. We went to meet and encourage them, and, as is always the case, came away with wonderful new friendships and more encouragement from them than we ever could have given. Their godly commitment to one another's churches was evident in all that took place. It is clear that strong, vibrant presbytery leadership can draw church groups together and can support local leadership. And, in turn, together they are stronger to support the work of the ARP Church in God's Kingdom. ARP women serve this denomination.*

*Gentlemen, as we are here tonight, women across our denomination are praying for this meeting of Synod. I have not visited with a single group who is not concerned about the work you do and the state of our denomination. And, more specifically, this week women are meeting and praying during your meetings.*

*In addition, women recommended by ARP Women's Ministries serve the Synod on its boards and committees. They assist the work of these ministries*

*in service to their denomination and, also, to be able to educate our women more clearly on these ministries. I hope we never lose this privileged avenue of service.*

*ARP Women's Ministries continues to provide specific financial support to world missions through the Retired Missionaries Fund and, of course, our two Jubilee Birthday ladies, Judi Hodges and Judy Buis. Just think, without this project you might miss out on your chance to indulge in birthday cake—and its frosting—an additional time each year. The unique ministry of Camp JOY also remains part of our on-going support.*

*When developing our financial plans five years ago, selection of an annual project was recommended. Since then we have completed a five year pledge to Erskine for a music room and supported two of the chaplain's female interns. This year we have, again, provided gift bags for the Treblemakers and will provide gift baskets for those attending the Joni and Friends camps here at Bonclarken.*

*During this year's evaluation, we have more fully discussed this idea of an annual project. The result—plans for a rotational “annual focus” on Synod's agencies. We will ask the women of each presbytery to spend a year intentionally focused on one of Synod's agencies—learning about the work and their part in it, supporting the needs, praying for the concerns, the staff, and the leadership. We believe this will also increase understanding and ongoing giving throughout the membership of local churches in support of these agencies.*

*ARP Women's Ministries sees that ARP women—studying, praying, growing, and working together—serve and support our local churches and the ministry of this denomination well. They serve a unique, God-given role within the ARP Church just as they do in each family and each church they serve.*

*So, we thank you for the godly wisdom, patience, and encouragement of your members who have provided counsel! And we seek your support in encouraging the women of your churches to connect with women across the denomination in “being” ARP women while “being” active in the local church, as a result of the grace of God drawing us into “being” in a ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*Thank you for allowing me the privilege of addressing you tonight. Know that you continue always in the prayers of ARP women.*

*Thanks be to God!*

*-Kathy Barron*

Kyle Sims, on behalf of the Committee on Inter-Church Relations chaired the presentations of Fraternal Delegates.

Gary Letchworth introduced Rev. Dr. Shamshad John from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Pakistan.

A motion carried to print the address in the *Minutes*.

*I bring you greetings from the ARP Synod in Pakistan. Over one hundred years ago, the ARP Synod of America sent missionaries to my country to share the good news of Eternal Life to our people. My family came to know Jesus Christ as a result of ARP missionaries in Pakistan, including my great grandfather and the rest of my family. My grandfather was one of the first ARP elders in Pakistan, and so was my father. I and two of my brothers are ministers of the Gospel as a result of the influence of the ARP Mission and Church. We are very grateful to you for your Godly love, prayers, vision and financial support for the Christians in Pakistan. As a result of your ministry we are now over 100,000 ARP believers in Pakistan.*

Though **ARP** stands for **Associate Reformed Presbyterian**, I would like to add additional meaning to the letters, "ARP:"

"**A**" stands for "**Appreciation**"- Appreciation for the work of the ARP Synod in America for planting the ARP Church in Pakistan. Thank you for all the support you have shown for the past years.

"**R**" stands for "**Reproduction!**" Pakistani ARP Church not only has effect on the Christian community but also the Muslim community. Through our ARP Churches, the ARP Christian Hospital, Bible Correspondence School, and now our de-nationalized ARP Mission Schools, the ministry spreads far and wide.

"**P**" stands for "**Purpose!**" We share your purpose to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

In 2006, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ARP Mission work in Pakistan. During the last 100 years there have been 100 ARP church buildings planted in Pakistan. An average of one new ARP church a year has been planted in Pakistan. In the past four years seven more ARP churches have been planted.

In addition, there are many Christians living in scattered village areas, where no church buildings exist. Those Christians are living in Muslim villages where Christians are working as laborers. Because Christians have no agriculture land of their own, they work under Muslim land owners in their agriculture farms, similar to the Israelites who worked under Egyptian bondage. These Christians hardly make their living.

*I will give you one example: **Village 13**, a large Muslim village with a huge mosque, and over 300 Christians with no church building. Rev. Gary Letchworth, Mrs. Gary and I visited that congregation on one Sunday in March 2007 and conducted worship service under a **tent**, in the **courtyard** of one home. After the worship I asked the Pastor what they do when they worship on Sunday and there is rain or dust storm. He answered, "We don't conduct a worship service every Sunday but only twice a year on Easter Sunday and Christmas. It is against Pakistani culture to worship in house churches.*

*I told Rev. Gary and Mrs. Gary about this and we prayed for this need of those Christians. After serving us a meal, one senior elder brought some money, that was equivalent to \$300, and he said, "We have been collecting money for a church building and could raise this much. Please help us to build a church so that we could worship our Lord God and have Sunday School classes to equip our children with Christian Education." We all prayed with the elders and assured them we will continue praying for this, but they must also pray. God will provide. They also requested Mrs. Gary to be their treasurer.*

*So, you dear brothers and sisters in Christ, provided funds for that congregation and now there is a large beautiful church. Children get together, not only on Sundays but every day in the evening they come to the church and learn about Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. They pray together and sing Christian songs they have learned from the pastor and volunteer Sunday School teachers.*

*We have been working on planting churches in other villages, and with **God's provision** through you dear ones, during the past four years we have bought land for church buildings in five (5) more villages, and now we need money to help build churches on those lands. In addition God has provided money through individuals and churches in America to put roofs, windows and doors on other churches, plus building two new pastor houses and renovating another.*

***\*16 Churches renovation.** There are many Church buildings which were built at the dawn of ARP Church in Pakistan some 80 years ago. Those churches needed renovation, so I negotiated with Pakistan Government and requested funds for 16 ARP churches renovation, and the total amount I requested was \$200,000. The project was approved by the Governor of the Punjab Province. They provided about \$40,000 to renovate five (5) churches, and the job is done. Praise the Lord.*

*I am negotiating for more funds from the government, but there is not enough money available with the finance department.*

*\*There are some villages where a church wall is built but no roof, no doors and windows.*



*\* There are five (5) churches in Karachi which need renovation.*

**\* Motorcycles**

*Besides providing funds for Churches I am very grateful to you for providing money for buying 14 Motorcycles for Pakistani Pastors who used to go to different village in scattered area on their bicycle. They are also very happy in the LORD and grateful to you for your financial support. I am one of those Pastors who got one motorcycle to come to my office go back for lunch break and come again. My house is 3 kilometer from my office. Beside this also use that motorcycle if I need to go to some Government offices in the town*

**\* ARP Mission Schools**

*The most difficult task during recent years was getting ARP Mission Schools back from the government of Pakistan. These Schools were nationalized in 1972 and Christian children going to Government schools were asked to take part in their Muslim religious activities.*

*When I was in grade 8 in 1970, studying in a government school, I was asked to recite Muslim creed. This means that if I say that creed from my lips I will be declaring myself as Muslim or my Muslim class fellow will say to me, "You are Muslim now because you recited the Muslim creed." Therefore, I refused to recite Muslim creed. The teacher asked me, "Do you know the creed?" I replied, "Yes", and then he said, "Why you don't say from your lips?" I replied, "I am Christian, therefore I will not recite the Muslim creed." He slapped me on my face with anger. I was happy in the Lord.*

*When Schools in Pakistan, including ARP Mission Schools, were nationalized in 1972, there was a protest by Christian community; I was right in front of the procession holding banner against nationalization of schools. I am grateful to the Lord that he chose me with Rev. Gary to get those schools back from the Pakistan Government, and now Christian students are given Christian Education in addition to their routine school education. Praise the Lord. There were threats to my life from the Muslim teachers who were working in those Mission schools. Once three men stopped me on my way to the office and told me to stop working on getting schools back. I was shocked, thinking that they could shoot me dead if they wanted to, but God soften the heart and let me go. I cried before God, thinking that my life on earth was going to end today and dying like this on the road side. I was in tears. Rev. Gary saw me, prayed with me, and LORD comforted me.*

*In all these project Rev. Gary and I worked like hand and glove.*

*Lord says in the Bible that, "Make the most of your chances to tell others the Good News."*

*Imagine the joy of greeting people in heaven whom you helped get there.*

*Brothers and sisters, you are using your treasures to bring many people to eternal salvation. I thank you again for your Godly love for the people of Pakistan, your financial support and your prayers.*

-Rev. Shamshad John

Rev. Jack Sawyer addressed the Synod on behalf of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America, addressed the Synod.

Mr. Drew Gordon, Elder in the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, addressed the Synod.

Rev. Jack Whytock offered prayer on behalf of our sister denominations.

Tom Patterson, chairman of the **Special Committee on Multi-Cultural Ministry** addressed the Synod. The report of the committee was received as information.

#### **REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRY**

The number of multi-cultural congregations in our denomination has increased over the past year. The Korean congregations continue to be the dominant group. Other multi-cultural groups represented in our presbyteries include Hispanic, Iranian, Chinese, Hungarian, and Swahili. We also have several congregations who are multi-cultural and multi-racial.

We have added members to our committee who represent the Korean, Hispanic, and Chinese churches. This is enabling us to gain insight on how we can promote communication and fellowship among us and address the needs and concerns our multi-cultural brethren have. The insights gained from their participation greatly enhanced our understanding of the task before us and enriched our discussions. It is our intention to rotate the multi-cultural members who serve on this committee to allow others to have input into these discussions and plans.

It is very evident the multi-cultural pastors have a ministry and a schedule that is far different from their English-speaking counterparts. A great deal of their time is devoted to bridging the language barriers of the cultures. This involves working through legal matters, immigration issues, providing transportation to and from appointments, and even providing translation services when their people speak little

or no English.

There have been some ongoing issues among the Korean ministers. We are hoping to address these matters through dialogue and times of fellowship. The Meeting of the General Synod provides the one opportunity each year for most of these brothers to be in the same place at the same time. This gives us opportunity to work towards resolving the conflicts face-to-face. There is a desire among the Koreans to work together and achieve greater unity. In past years, the Koreans have held a joint worship service to promote fellowship and harmony. They have left Bonclarken and either rented a facility or traveled a long distance to a Korean ARP Church for this service.

Progress has been made in several areas over the past year to increase fellowship and improve communication. Some of these accomplishments include:

- the Statistical Report Form has been translated into Korean;
- the Koreans in the West and the Koreans in the East have held separate meetings for fellowship and communication;
- Brent Turner from Christian Education Ministries has met with the Koreans in Northeast Presbytery and in First Presbytery to network with these ministers and communicate ways in which Christian Education Ministries can help facilitate ministry, fellowship, and communication;
- We have arranged with Bonclarken for the Koreans to have their meetings in the Bonclarken facilities during the Synod Meeting; each morning the Bonclarken Chapel will be open at 6:00 AM for their early morning prayer service; on Tuesday evening after the business is concluded, the Koreans will meet in the Chapel to be addressed by one or more agency heads; on Wednesday evening at the conclusion of business, the Koreans will meet in the Chapel for a worship service (these meetings and services are open to others who may want to attend);
- multi-cultural pastors have been nominated/elected to serve on Presbytery and Synod's boards and committees;
- the planning of a Korean Pastor's Retreat at Bonclarken in 2011.

There are other matters and issues that need to be addressed. We can't do them all at one time. Some of them will be ongoing. There are ways you can become involved on your own. A few of these items include:

- the updating of the Korean language version of the Standards

and our FOG;

- the making available of additional copies of the translated version of the Standards and FOG we currently have; our supply is exhausted and most of the Koreans do not have a copy;
- the need to recruit English-speaking pastors and elders who will volunteer their time to work with/mentor and fellowship with our multi-cultural pastors one-on-one;
- to encourage English-speaking congregations in close proximity to the multi-cultural congregations to arrange special joint worship services;
- to encourage our English-speaking churches in close proximity to the multi-cultural congregations to provide assistance in such areas as Christian Education (particularly Vacation Bible Schools and youth work) targeting their children who all speak English;
- identify English-speakers in the multi-cultural congregations who can assist with the translations of necessary documents and communications;
- translate the Denominational Ministry Fund information into the language of the multi-cultural congregations;
- offer English-as-a-Second-Language classes to members of the multi-cultural congregations.

The Committee is grateful for the progress that has been made and desires to see even greater results in the future. As was indicated in our report last year, the process is ongoing. Addressing concerns only once or twice will not achieve the desired results. There has to be an intentional effort on our part to address matters and improve communications and fellowship with these our Christian brothers. It will require time and patience.

Tom Patterson, Chairman

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

#### **REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

Fathers and brothers,

There were two issues referred to the committee this year. The first issue came by way of the Executive Board. The question re-

ferred to us relates to legal issues surrounding the use of church property for weddings by couples who are pursuing lifestyles out of harmony with the Scripture. The question is before us as there have been several court cases where other evangelical denominations have lost congregational or camp properties resulting from lawsuits from couples being denied use of the facilities. The committee has referred this matter for legal counsel and pending a response, we hope to report our findings to a future meeting of Synod.

The second item of business before the committee relates to the question of the propriety of serving Communion at events sponsored by Synod boards and agencies. The committee met several times by telephone conference and communicated with each other via e-mail. The paper which follows is your committee's reply to the question placed before us.

**The Question of Where and When in Observing Holy Communion**  
(For the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns)

Submitted respectfully by Rev. Henry Bartsch

**Introduction**

In February 2009, the issue of "where" and "when" the Lord's Supper could be celebrated was raised. Consequently the issue was referred to the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns with the express purpose to study the "appropriateness of serving the Lord's Supper at certain summer camping events held at Bonclarken." Obviously, to address this particular situation is to address also the larger question of the appropriateness of celebrating Communion in group settings outside the local visible church, or at any of our Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) agency-sponsored events. The focus of this study is to discern whether it is scripturally and confessionally appropriate to celebrate Communion in these situations, and whether such observances are in conformity with the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

This study will seek to be as thorough and streamlined as possible. To serve these purposes, five points will be discussed: 1. Definitions and reminders. 2. The "Who" of Communion; 3. The "What" of Communion; 4. The "Where" of Communion and 5. Are there exceptions?

**1. Definitions and reminders**

*The term "church"*

This section will seek to clarify how the term church is used in this paper.

The term “church” is used throughout this study. In God’s economy of grace there is the reality of the invisible and visible church. The *invisible church* consists of all human beings which have been, are, or ever will be redeemed. It is the body of Christ of which all the elect in Jesus Christ are predestined according to the purpose of God to be members (Eph 1:4, 10-11, 22-23; Heb 12:12; Jn10:16; 11:52). This is the congregation of the Lord that will dwell together for all eternity. It is “invisible” only to us; it is not “invisible” to God however. He knows all who are his (2 Tim 2:13). The Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) and Larger Catechism affirm the reality of the “invisible church” (WCF 25.1; LC Q.64-65).

The *visible church* is the earthly manifestation of the people of God on earth who are joined together in a society for the worship of God and communion of the saints. There are two aspects to this visible church. First, it is catholic or universal. In all nations there are a people, together with their children, who assemble as one in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to worship God and fellowship together (Matt 28:19-20; Rev:7:9; Acts 2:39). Secondly, it is local. The New Testament speaks of particular congregations, of churches in a city or region (1 Cor 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:1-2; Col 1:1-2; Col 4:15; Philem 2; Acts 15). These particular churches of Christ are given their own elders and pastors who are to care for the members. God has established the church in this way so that each individual member can receive the pastoral care of Christ through his ordained servants (Eph 4). The WCF and Larger Catechism, and the Standards of the ARP Church also affirm the reality of the visible church (WCF 25.2-6; LC Q.61-63; FOG I.B, 1,2,3).

It is this visible church that is the house of God, the pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim 3:15), and is now the body of Christ on earth. In history the invisible church is now expressed in the local visible churches found universally all over the world. As will be shown below it is to this visible church that the sacraments of Christ are given; and as the New Testament testifies, it is under the authority and care of this visible church that the sacraments are observed and practiced. In this study the term “church” in the visible local sense as described immediately above is used.

*The term "ARP Agency"*

According to the ARP Church *Manual of Authorities and Duties* (MAD) an agency of the ARP Church "refers to boards, committees, and ecclesiastical commissions necessary in the general work of the church." "Drawing their authorities and responsibilities from the Form of Government of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, these officers, boards, ecclesiastical commission, and committees implement the work approved by the General Synod." General Synod, being the highest court of the denomination, delegates to the particular agencies with various tasks to facilitate and enable the ARP Church as a whole to carry out "the mission of God in Christ's church by word and deed in the General Synod, the congregation, the presbytery, and the whole world." Therefore, the agencies are not "churches" but servants of the Synod. This paper purports that the agencies of a church is not the church and consequently does not have the authority to administer the sacraments.

*A reminder from the Directory of Public Worship*

For further clarification it would be advantageous to remind the denomination of the provisions made for the celebration of Communion in the Directory of Public Worship (DPW) of the ARP Church. The DPW V.8.c.(8) reads:

While the sacrament, being an act of the whole Church, is ordinarily to be celebrated in public worship with the participation of the full congregation, there may be occasions when the session or other church courts are persuaded of sufficient reason for its celebration at other services of worship. Such celebrations should be understood, not as private ceremonies, but as belonging to the public worship of the whole people of God.

This paragraph explicitly explains that all "extraordinary" Communion celebrations must be authorized by a session or a church court. Thus the Synod, Presbytery, and local church, being the church gathered have the authority of Christ to administer Communion at various worship services. This is in full harmony with DPW V.8.a.5: The offering and administration of the sacraments shall **at all times be under the authority of the minister and the session**, in conformity with the Holy Scriptures and *The Standards of the*

*Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.*" (Emphasis added.)

These definitions and reminders have been given to serve clarification to the argument of the paper. We now come to point two.

## 2. The "Who" of Communion

This point seeks to establish who instituted Communion and to whom it was given. The conclusions will reinforce the question of the ownership of this sacrament.

Holy Communion is a celebration instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ. As God the Father instituted the Passover meal at the time of the Exodus <sup>(Ex 12)</sup>, so God the Son as the promise and fulfillment of that Passover meal ordained that this sacrament be celebrated by the people of God. The synoptic gospels make this clear Matt 26:26-29, Mk 14:22-25, and Lk 22:19-20. The commands "*take, eat,*" "*take, drink,*", "*take this and divide it,*" and "*do this in remembrance of me,*" were given by our Lord. Paul also records Communion as an institution ordained and commanded by Christ. In 1 Corinthians 11 Paul instructs the Corinthian believers regarding the nature of Holy Communion. He repeats the Lord's command, "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" Paul also quotes the Lord Jesus as saying, "*As often as you eat and drink*" <sup>(v.25, 26)</sup>, implying we must observe Communion because Jesus Christ has given us this command.

Our Confession of Faith affirms Scripture's testimony.

**WCF 27:1** Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, immediately instituted by God, to represent Christ, and His benefits; and to confirm our interest in Him; as also, to put a visible difference between those that belong unto the Church, and the rest of the world; and solemnly to engage them to the service of God in Christ, according to His Word.

**WCF 29:1** Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His Church, unto the end of the world for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death, the sealing all benefits thereof unto true believers....

**(NB:** The Phrase "in His Church" refers to the visible church.)



Our DPW affirms who instituted and owns this sacrament. See DPW V.8.a.4, but notice especially V.8.c.4:

The Table is none other than Christ's Table. The words of institution set forth the sacrament as originating in Christ's command. They make plain that those worshipping have been invited and called by Christ Himself, and therefore come in obedience to His will. He calls to Himself all who labor and are heavy laden, saying He will give them rest.

Having reminded ourselves of who instituted Communion the question comes up, "To whom did he give this institution?" Was it to any organization or organized group? The biblical answer is "no." Communion was instituted by Jesus Christ to "be observed in his church unto the end of the world." When Jesus said to the apostles, "*This do in remembrance of me*," he was giving an order to the visible church on earth as represented by the apostles. Individuals in the visible church are to "*do this in remembrance of me*." Consequently, in the New Testament the church was the place where individuals observed communion (Acts 2:42-46; 20:7; 1 Cor 11:18, 20, 23-34). Jesus did not give this command to individuals, but to the church.

To summarize, Communion is the Lord's ordinance to be observed in the church to whom he gave this sacrament. Therefore, the *what* and the *where* of Communion must be directed by his will as he has given it to us through the inspired Scriptures. Remodelling Communion to be practiced outside the context of the visible church where the minister and session preside has no New Testament warrant.

### 3. The "what" of Communion

What is Communion for and what is it *not* for will be the subject of this section.

Morton Smith summarized what Communion is for in these words, "It is a divinely ordained act portraying to all our senses both his (Jesus Christ's) saving work upon the Cross, and the benefit of the Gospel in our spiritual communion with him." Commenting on Matt 26:26-29, Mk 14:22-25, and Lk 22:19-20 Keith A. Mathison defines what Communion is for: "Just as the original Passover was both a sacrificial meal and a memorial feast, so too is the Lord's Supper. It is a feast in

which Christ's act of redemption is proclaimed and memorialized until he comes again." Passages such as 1 Cor 11:17-34; 10:16-17, and John 6 affirm what Communion is for.

Our Confession of Faith clearly delineates what this holy sacrament is for.

**WCF 29:2** In this sacrament, Christ is not offered up to His Father; not any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the quick or dead;(1) but only a commemoration of that one offering up of Himself, by Himself, upon the cross, once for all: and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God, for the same.... (Heb.

9:22,25,26,28; 1 Cor. 11:24,25,26; Matt. 26:26,27

**WCF 29:7** Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements, in this sacrament, do then also, inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally but spiritually, receive, and feed upon, Christ crucified, and all benefits of His death: the body and blood of Christ being then, not corporally or carnally, in, with, or under the bread and wine; yet, as really, but spiritually, present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses. (1 Cor. 11:28; 1 Cor. 10:16)

Our DPW also outlines the grace giving nature of Communion. See DPW V.8.c.1,2,3. To summarize, Communion is the gift of Christ to his people for their ongoing nourishment. The church would do well to remember that the sacrament of Baptism is the initiatory sacrament into the body of Christ (Gal 3:23-29), and Holy Communion is the sacrament of continuation in the life of Christ (1 Cor 10:16-17). No group or Synod agency would practice Baptism, for that is the Church of Christ's mandate. However, the churches mandate is also to administer the sacrament of Communion to her members for their good and continued life with Christ. As Communion is administered by the duly ordained officers of Christ's church, believers partake of Christ by faith and commune with him. Christ is truly present by his word and Spirit.

But Communion is also for Christian fellowship. To quote the DPW, "It is the bond and pledge of their union with Christ, and with

each other, as members of His mystical body. It should therefore be administered as part of the public worship of God, and only by an ordained minister of the Word. It should be preceded by the reading and preaching of the Word that the sacramental Word may be shown forth in full unity with the written and preached Word of the Covenant Lord." To live out this "bond and pledge with Christ and fellow Christians" in a service of Holy Communion all the elements of worship must be observed under the leadership and direction of the church and her court. (DPW V.8.a.5; V.8.c.(8).

This has direct bearing on the question of practicing Communion outside the context of the visible church. Communion is a fellowship meal where members of Christ's one body fellowship together around their King and Saviour. This whole church focuses on their Lord who is their prize in public worship as the Word of God is preached and read, and as the ordained minister distributes the elements. This was the practice of the Passover celebration in the OT and it carried over into the New Testament Church. (Exod. 24, Neh. 8-10, Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:17-34).

Paul speaking in terms of the visible church explains that the partaking of the bread and wine is "a sharing" in the blood and body of Christ; but notice he includes the word "we" (1 Cor 10:16). The word "sharing" means fellowship or participation, and the word "we" refers to the Christian community. Christians join themselves in a local church, and partake of the Lord's Supper because of a "common union" with the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby they participate and fellowship and share together in the remembrance of the Lord and *their* union with him. When Christians "come together" (1 Cor. 11:18, 20) to observe the Lord's Supper, they must put aside all ideas of selfish individualism. Recognizing our common union with Christ in the Body of Christ, the Church, we participate together in the remembrance of Christ's having united us and made us "one body by one Spirit" (Eph. 4:4).

Communion is not for "me," or for "my group"; rather it is a participatory act of sharing and fellowshiping together with other believers in the glory of Christ. The community where Jesus Christ ordains this celebration and fellowship to be observed is the church, for

the church is his body after all!

**4. The “where” of Communion.**

Communion was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ and given to the church through his Apostles. Communion is a Christ- focused, God-giving-grace event. It is for the Lord’s glory, for our spiritual blessing and for the church’s fellowship. This leads us to the questions of where.

Where is Communion, and for that matter Baptism, to be observed? Simply, under the authority and leadership of the visible Church of Jesus Christ on earth. She, through the Apostles, has been entrusted with the truth of Scripture, the preaching of Christ and the sacraments; therefore, she has the duty and responsibility to guard and administer the sacraments even as she has the duty to administer and guard Scripture and the preaching of Christ. The power to exercise the sacraments as well as the Word of God is given by Jesus Christ through his ordained pastors and elders in the local visible assembly of the Lord Jesus. Jesus Christ himself instituted the Word and sacrament and charged the disciples, who became the foundation of the church, to teach all that Jesus commanded which included observing Communion in the congregation of the Lord (Matt 26:26; Lk 22:29; Mk 14:22-24; 1 Cor 11; Matt 28:18-20).

The minister and elder have a responsibility that Communion be administered according to the New Testament pattern, and that those partaking come with understanding, humility, unity with the church, and repentance. The DPW V.8.c.3 & 6 direct our church as to what is to be included in the celebration of Communion:

The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is an act of covenant renewal for the people of God. It is the bond and pledge of their union with Christ, and with each other, as members of His mystical body. It should therefore be administered as part of the public worship of God, and only by an ordained minister of the Word. It should be preceded by the reading and preaching of the Word that the sacramental Word may be shown forth in full unity with the written and preached Word of the Covenant Lord.

The words of institution are to be read and the service

shall follow the New Testament pattern. There should be a prayer of consecration and thanksgiving, asking that God set apart these common elements of bread and wine for the holy purpose for which He has appointed them, and thanking Him for the gracious revelation of His love in Christ and the full provision made for so rich a salvation. The minister shall take and break the bread, and afterwards take the cup, and distribute both to the congregation. Normally, ruling elders assist the minister in the distribution, for they share with him the keys of the kingdom. The congregation may partake of the elements as each is distributed; or wait until all have been served, that all might commune together. A prayer of thanksgiving may be offered when all have partaken. Reverent disposition shall be made of the elements following the service. (Matt. 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-32, COF XXIX.III, LC Q. 169, COF XXX).

There are three elements necessary in the proper observance of Holy Communion.

*The Word of God must be read and preached at Communion.*

Rev. Rudy de Vries wrote, "The Word of God read and preached is fundamental and necessary for any spiritual benefit to be received from the sacraments. When the participant takes hold of the promises declared in the gospel then he will be able to profit from the sacrament." John Calvin wrote, "Scripture, when preached, make us understand what the visible sign means."

Here we should remind ourselves of the WCF 29:3 & 4

**WCF 29:3** The Lord Jesus hath, in his ordinance, appointed His ministers to declare His word of institution to the people; to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to an holy use; and to take and break bread, to take the cup and (they communicating also themselves) to give both to the communicants; *but to none who are not then present in the congregation.* (Matt. 26:26,27,28 and Mark 14:22-24 and Luke 22:19,20 with 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20). (Emphasis added.)

**WCF 29:4** *Private masses, or receiving this sacrament by a priest, or any other, alone, as likewise,* the denial of the cup to the people, worshipping the elements, the

lifting them up, or carrying them about, for adoration, and the reserving them for any pretended religious use; are all contrary to the nature of this sacrament, and to the institution of Christ. (1 Cor. 10:6; Mark 14:23; 1 Cor. 11:25-29; Matt. 15:9). (Emphasis added.)

Our confession forbids group communion because those not present in a public worship service will not hear the Word of God read and preached by God's ordained minister, and those practicing "private Mass," or receiving the sacrament from a Roman Catholic priest or any other person will also not hear the Word of God read or preached by a minister lawfully ordained. The Word and sacrament are inseparable in the proper observance of Communion.

*Christian fellowship in the community of the church is necessary.*

It should be understood that the nature of the sacraments deeply signifies the unity of believers in one faith, joined together as one body in union with Jesus Christ. This point was made under point two.

*Discerning the Body of Christ is necessary in the observance of Communion.*

This discerning must take place on two fronts. **First**, the elders and pastors must encourage, disciple, warn, and bring the comfort of the gospel to Christians under their care to equip them to discern the Lord's Body and partake in a worthy manner (1 Cor 11:27-30). This is clearly the work of the church's ordained elders and ministers. In Communion observed in non-church contexts there is little or no pastoral oversight or accountability to those present. Notice the directives in our DPW V.8.c.5.(a,b,s,d). **Secondly**, those partaking of this sacrament are called to examine themselves (1 Cor 11:27-30). This call to self examination is done by the presiding minister as is indicated in DPW V.8.c.5.(a,b,s,d), and DPW V.8.a.(3)....

Sacraments are the Word made visible.<sup>157</sup> They are to be administered only by ministers of the Word lawfully ordained.<sup>158</sup> Their administration should always be accompanied by the proclamation of the Word, inasmuch as the Word sets forth the promises and obligations of the Gospel which the sacraments signify and seal. (WCF XXVII.3.158; XXVII.4; XXVIII.2, and XXIX.3; FOG X.B.1.a, X.C.11).

To practice Communion without the reading and preaching of the

Word of God, to practice Communion without the fellowship of the saints in the visible church, and to practice Communion without the presence of ministers or elders, and consequently without the carefully prescribed oversight present is a violation of our standards DPW V.8.a.5.

The offering and administration of the sacraments shall at all times be under the authority of the minister and the session, in conformity with the Holy Scriptures and *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. (WCF XXVII.4; FOG X.B.1.a, XI.B.2.k.)

Administering Communion in a camp setting or at an ARP agency-sponsored event in accordance with the above directive requires the oversight of a pastor and the elders of a local church. Our standards make this a requirement for the sake of maintaining a balance between the oversight of souls and the fencing of the Lord's Table. This pastoral care of communicant members would be missing in a non-congregational worship service. Thus our standards specifically state that the "offering and administration of the sacraments shall at all times be under the authority of the minister and the session" to facilitate this oversight. The extraordinary occasions when this is not followed is discussed below.

#### **5. Are there exceptions?**

As intimated above our DPW and FOG give us two exceptions. Below are the pertinent paragraphs.

**DPW V.8 c. (8)** While the sacrament, being an act of the whole Church, is ordinarily to be celebrated in public worship with the participation of the full congregation, there may be occasions when the session or other church courts are persuaded of sufficient reason for its celebration at other services of worship. Such celebrations should be understood, not as private ceremonies, but as belonging to the public worship of the whole people of God

**DPW V.8 c. (9)** In the case of those who are physically unable to attend public worship, the sacrament may be taken to them. If possible, there should be present at the celebration officers and other members of the congregation in addition to the minister, to show forth the com-

munal nature of the sacrament.

**FOG X.B.3.c.** A presbytery may give an evangelist authority to preach the Word and administer the sacraments without the oversight of a session or provisional session.

From these paragraphs we conclude there are three exceptions.

1. The session of a local church or the court of Presbytery or Synod may call a public worship service in which the sacrament of Communion is celebrated. These special services are under the oversight and authority of a particular session or church court. Christian camps and other gatherings, though a great need and blessing to the ARP Church, have not been given the authority of a session or other church courts to determine if there exists "sufficient reason" for the celebration of Communion. This is a responsibility restricted to church courts.
2. Those who belong to a local church who have the blessing of pastoral oversight, but cannot attend a public worship service due to physical inability may have Communion taken to them. To maintain the above three mentioned elements of a service of Communion, and to make this a blessing to the whole church these steps may be implemented.
  - a. That Communion is taken to the shut-ins at the next most convenient time. It is perhaps best to take Communion to the shut-in on the same calendar that the local church celebrates Communion so that it be, as far as possible, a direct extension of the worship service of the church. The minister would convene.
  - b. That Scripture is read, a sermon given, prayers be made, praise given and the words of institution and fencing be given.
  - c. That (an) elder(s) attend with church members willing to come in participation of fellowship.
3. A presbytery may give an ordained evangelist the authority to administer Communion where there are not pastors or elders available. However, notice these exceptions remain under the court of the church.

### **Conclusions**

It is the conclusion of this study that it is not appropriate to serve Communion at certain summer camping events held at Bonclarken,



nor in group settings outside the church, or at any of our ARP agency-sponsored events as defined above.

Why? **One**, Communion was instituted by Christ Jesus and given to his church. It is an event of Christ thus an event of the church. **Two**, Communion is a means of grace, a time of corporate Christian fellowship, and an event of worship for the gathered congregation of the Lord. **Three**, the *where* is the context of the church. This is Christ's body. Only the church has been given this privilege. Yes, there are exceptions, but those exceptions are under the auspices and leadership of the church.

**Recommendation:**

- 1) That the report as a whole be received.

Respectfully submitte

James F. Wittke, Chairman

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

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

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP**

The Committee on Worship continues to operate under the new purposes and duties it received from the General Synod in 2005.

*Duty 1 and Duty 4 – Worship Issues and Materials; Practical Resources for Clergy, Congregations and Individuals*

- We are nearing completion on the publication of a new ARP Psalter. We are now in the final stages of layout and design and look forward to bringing a finished product to the 2011 meeting of Synod. We are also working on ways to reduce the cost of this new volume for churches that would like to purchase editions from the initial run of copies.
- The Committee is in the early stages of preparing a resource for family worship that would include a study of the Psalms. The booklet will include a CD with recordings of some Psalms to aid

families in singing together. We continue to seek ways to promote the practice of family worship among our congregations.

- The Committee has updated its list of helpful resources on various worship-related topics on its Web site: <http://www.arpworship.org>. We continue our efforts to find the best books, booklets, and articles dealing with the practices of worship for individuals, families, and churches.

*Duty 2 – Guidance on Book of Worship Topics*

- The Committee continues to study ways to help ARP churches and their officers learn about Synod's Directory for Public Worship. We are now beginning to create educational booklets and Sunday School materials that may help churches incorporate the Directory into their curriculum. We have also made efforts to offer teaching sessions at denominational and presbytery conferences explaining the Directory and giving ideas for its implementation at the local church level.

*Duty 3 – Music Conference*

- The Music Conference at Bonclarken continues to serve as a useful event for our denomination. Discussions are underway about how we can make this conference an even more valuable event for ARP congregations. The Committee is tremendously thankful to God for Mr. Trip McGill and Miss Lynne Grimsley for their oversight of this conference. Preparations are already underway for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in 2011, and a piece of music has been commissioned for performance at the event.
- The Committee provided another "Mid-Winter Music Workshop," held again this year in Lake Wales, Florida. Preparations are underway to offer more of these conferences in other presbyteries to enable more congregations to benefit.

It is with great sadness that the Committee accepted the resignation of one of its beloved members, Mrs. Eleanor Richardson, due to health concerns. The Committee commends Mrs. Richardson for her long

and faithful service to the Synod through its Worship Committee and in many other ways. Our Committee has several vacancies at this time, and we encourage individuals and sessions to make nominations through Synod's Nominations Committee.

**Recommendations:**

1. That Mrs. Eleanor Richardson be thanked for her service to the ARP Church and Synod's Worship Committee.
2. That Mr. Trip McGill and Miss Lynne Grimsley be thanked for their continued leadership of the ARP Music Conference.
3. That the General Synod encourage individuals and sessions to submit nominations of individuals qualified and willing to serve on the Worship Committee to Synod's Nominations committee.
4. That the 2011 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.

For the Committee,  
Rev. Paul Mulner, Chairman

| <b>COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP</b>     |                        |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
|                                 | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011<br>Proposed |
| <u>Worship Committee</u>        |                        |                  |
| <u>Revenues</u>                 |                        |                  |
| Worship Committee DM Allocation | \$ 2,000               | \$ 5,000         |
| Total Revenues                  | \$ 2,000               | \$ 5,000         |
| <u>Expenses</u>                 |                        |                  |
| Worship Committee Meeting Exp   | \$ 600                 | \$ 2,000         |
| Worship Comm Travel             | 1,400                  | 1,000            |
| Worship Comm Misc Expenses      | 0                      | 2,000            |
| Total Expenses                  | \$ 2,000               | \$ 5,000         |
| Net income (Loss)               | \$ -                   | \$ -             |

|                                       | 2010<br>Synod<br>Approved | 2011<br>Proposed |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| BONCLARKEN MUSIC CONFERENCE           |                           |                  |
| <u>Revenues</u>                       |                           |                  |
| Worship Committee DM Allocation       | \$ 19,000                 | \$ 16,700        |
| Music Conf Special Offering           | 1,200                     | 1,200            |
| Music Conf T-Shirt Sales              | 1,300                     | 1,300            |
| Music Conference Registration         | 46,958                    | 52,500           |
| Music Conf Registration Refund        | 0                         | 0                |
| Music Conference Reserve Interest     | 0                         | 0                |
| Music Conf Scholarship Interest Alloc | 0                         | 0                |
| Mid-Winter Workshop                   | 0                         | 0                |
| Total Revenues                        | \$ 68,458                 | \$ 71,700        |
| <u>Expenses</u>                       |                           |                  |
| Music Conf Room & Board-See below     | \$ 15,208                 | \$ 18,900        |
| Music Conf Honorariums/Fees-see below | 20,700                    | 22,850           |
| Workshop Honorariums                  | 0                         | 0                |
| Music Conference Travel               | 2,500                     | 0                |
| Workshop Travel                       | 0                         | 0                |
| Music Conference Planning             | 3,000                     | 3,000            |
| Music Conference Supplies-see below   | 10,350                    | 10,950           |
| Workshop Supplies                     | 0                         | 0                |
| Music Conference Service Fees         | 15,500                    | 16,000           |
| MC Special Offering Expense           | 0                         | 0                |
| Total Expenses                        | \$ 67,258                 | \$ 71,700        |
| Net income (Loss)                     | \$ 1,200                  | \$ -             |

The recommendations of the Committee on Worship were adopted.

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

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS**

The Committee met via conference call on February 2, 2010 and April 29, 2010.

#### **Ecumenical Organizations**

The ARP has membership in three ecumenical organizations:

(1) *The International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC)*. The committee has some serious concerns about the financial requirements of this organization. We have discussed this issue several times over the last few years. We pay \$3,600 a year to the ICRC. The ICRC hosts a conference every four years. What concerns the committee is that we are paying \$14,400, plus travel expense for a conference every four years. We question if this is good stewardship of the church resources, especially in difficult economic conditions. The committee is continuing to work on this issue and possibly will have an additional recommendation by Synod 2010.

(2) *The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC)* which met November 17-18, 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan at Puritan Reformed Seminary. Rev. Kyle Sims, Rev. Rob Patrick, Henry Foster, and Rev. Jeff Kingswood represented the ARP. At this meeting the RPCNA expressed a strong interest in deepening their relationship with the ARP. Because our churches are often unaware of the details of the NAPARC Comity Agreement and Agreement on Transfer of Members and Congregations, these documents are included in the appendix of this report.

(3) *The World Reformed Fellowship (WRF)* met April 12-15, 2010 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Jack Whytock and Rev. Tom Shoger represented the ARP at this meeting. Information on the WRF can be found at [www.wrfnet.org](http://www.wrfnet.org). The report from our delegates is provided at the conclusion of this report.

The committee approved a motion requesting Jack Whytock to provide to the Inter-Church Relations Committee an analysis of the strengths, advantages, and perceived disadvantages, if any, of membership in the ICRC, WRF and NAPARC.

### **Churches in Fraternal Fellowship**

North American Churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARP 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).

Kyle Sims is seeking to foster a relationship with the Korean American Presbyterian Church through Dr. Steve Parks of Westminster Seminary. There is a need for us to explore other means to developing a relationship with the KAPC.

The ARP sent the following delegates to the general assemblies/synods of our sister denominations: Rob Patrick (PCA); Ben Dowling (OPC), Kyle Sims (RPCNA).

At our 2009 General Synod meeting we received greetings from delegates representing the RPCNA, CRC, and the EPC.

The RPCNA and ARP are seeking to develop a road map to fostering stronger ties between our communions. A couple of the steps under consideration include inviting an RPCNA speaker to our Family Bible Conference and having a joint Synod meeting with the RPCNA at Bonclarken. Kyle Sims has been tasked with generating ideas on how to deepen our connection to the RPCNA.

### **Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Sent in 2010**

The following ARP delegates are scheduled to be sent to fraternal synod/general assembly meetings: United Reformed Church (Rev. Jeff Kingswood); Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Rev. Tom Shoger); Reformed Presbyterian Church North America (Henry Foster).

### **Fraternal Delegates/Representatives to be Invited in 2010**

We have invited delegates from the following denominations to attend our 2010 General Synod meeting: the OPC, PCA, and RPCNA.

### **Corresponding Synods**

The committee approved a motion to encourage our Synod members to work with World Witness in developing mentoring relationships with Mexican and Pakistani ARP pastors.

### **Churches in Fraternal Correspondence**

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

**Officers for 2010-2011**

Chairman – R.J. Gore  
 Vice-Chairman – Tom Shoger  
 Secretary – Rudy de Vries

**Proposed Budget for 2011**

|   | <u>2010</u>     | <u>2011</u>     |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Office expense                          | \$ 100          | \$ 100          |
| Committee travel / conference calls     | \$3,000         | \$3,000         |
| ARP fraternal delegates/representatives | \$7,250         | \$7,250         |
| Hosting fraternal delegates             | \$1,000         | \$1,000         |
| NAPARC dues                             | \$ 500          | \$ 500          |
| ICRC dues                               | \$3,600         | \$3,600         |
| WRF dues                                | \$ 500          | \$ 500          |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$15,950</b> | <b>\$15,950</b> |

**Report on World Reformed Fellowship General Assembly Meeting  
 April 12-15, 2010 in Edinburgh, Scotland**

In June 2007, the General Synod voted to apply for membership in the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF). The WRF holds a General Assembly meeting every four years, and the ICRC sent two delegates to represent the ARP Synod at this year's Third General Assembly held in Edinburgh, Scotland from April 12-15. Those delegates were Dr. Jack Whytock and Rev. Tom Shoger.

The basic purpose of WRF can be summarized in the statement, "That the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Christ." The WRF seeks to link those in the historic evangelical Reformed tradition of Christ's church in order to facilitate communication, collaboration and cooperation for mutual encouragement, support and advancement of Kingdom concerns. More information about WRF can be found at [www.wrfnet.org](http://www.wrfnet.org).

The General Assembly in Edinburgh provided a forum for meeting Reformed believers from around the world to hear reports on what God has been, and is, doing in and through His church.

In addition to good worship and teaching, one of the clearest impressions made throughout the assembly was that though the church of Jesus Christ is in many respects struggling in the northern hemisphere, it is indeed thriving in the southern hemisphere. This was evident from both plenary session speakers and specific reports from members ministering in those regions. The WRF assembly helped correct the

tendency to view the world from one's own limited perspective, and instead to see our amazing God at work in His church and His world. To borrow a line from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, "Aslan is on the move." Another benefit of the assembly was the networking that took place as one interacted with other Reformed believers. Indeed specific ministry cooperation and support came out of that interaction, which is a significant focus of the WRF.

The WRF Theology Commission presented a draft Statement of Faith for a review and comment period, and then revisions will be made before it is presented at the Fourth General Assembly in 2014. The Missions and Evangelism Commission met on the 15<sup>th</sup> as did the Theological Education Commission.

In total there were 37 speakers at the third General Assembly speaking at the plenary sessions and the workshops. It is hoped that these addresses and workshops will be published as a book, as were those from the second General Assembly, by Crossway Publishers of Wheaton, Illinois. The International Director of WRF is Dr. Samuel T. Logan.

#### APPENDIX

##### NAPARC Golden Rule Comity Agreement

Comity has meant different things to different people. The representatives of the home missions agencies and committees or boards of our denominations resist territorial statements on comity in light of the social and cultural complexity of North American society and the great spiritual need of our many countrymen who are apart from Jesus Christ. Out of a concern to build a Church of Jesus Christ rather than our own denominations and to avoid the appearance of competition, we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America.

1. We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and missions ministries of other NAPARC churches and will refrain from enlisting members and take great care in receiving members of those existing ministries.
2. We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a community where NAPARC Churches or missions ministries exist.
3. We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans.



4. We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships.

RP-November 2008

**NAPARC Agreement on Transfer of Members and Congregations**

*(From the Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Adopted November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1987.)*

Recognizing that the churches of NAPARC have on occasion unintentionally received members or ordained officers who were under various states of discipline in another NAPARC church, thus creating tension between the churches, and at the same time recognizing the need for mutual freedom and openness on the part of the churches, we agree to respect the procedures of discipline and pastoral concern of the other denominations as follows:

1. Regular Transfer of membership.  
That in the regular transfer of membership between NAPARC churches, the session/consistory or presbytery/classis not receive a member until appropriate document of transfer is in the hands of the receiving church.
2. Transfer with Irregularities.
  - a. That upon request for a transfer of membership by a person under discipline, the sending session/consistory or presbytery/classis inform the receiving body of the nature and extent of the disciplinary procedure before implementing the requested transfer, thus enabling informal consultation between the pastors and elders of both churches.
  - b. That such a person not be received officially until the judicatory/assembly of the receiving church has taken into serious account the discipline of and the information supplied by the sending church.
  - c. That such a person not be received officially until the judicatory/assembly of the receiving church is satisfied that proper restitution has been made and/or reconciliation has been seriously attempted.
  - d. That a "fugitive from discipline" who is no longer a member of a church or who is no longer on the roll of a presbytery shall not be received until the former judicatory/assembly has

been contacted to determine if proper restitution has been made and/or reconciliation has been attempted.

3. Recourse and Appeal.

Where communication or action regarding the sending/receiving of a member or ordained officer/office bearer does not satisfy either the dismissing or receiving judiciary/assembly, communication may be submitted to the interchurch relation committees of the denominations involved with a view to mediation of the problem. If this proves unsatisfactory, the session/consistory or presbytery/classis may register its concern to the appropriate judicatory/assembly of the other denomination.

4. Congregational Transfer.

That a congregation seeking to leave a NAPARC church to become affiliated with another NAPARC denomination be received only after it has complied with the requirements of the form of government of the church from which it is separating, and the receiving church shall be responsible to see that this is done.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the proposed Committee 2011 budget be approved.
2. That the members of Synod be encouraged to work with World Witness in developing mentor relationships with pastors in Mexico and Pakistan.
3. That all other actions of the committee, as herein reported, be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted

Kyle E. Sims, Chairman

An amendment to add a recommendation Number four carried:

4. That the Inter-Church Relations Committee, in consultation with the leadership of World Witness, investigate establishing inter-church relations with at least one national church in each of the countries of the world where World Witness is engaged in missions activity, and present recommendations to the 2011 meeting of General Synod.

The amended Committee on Inter-Church Relations report was 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 met quarterly in 2009-2010 via conference call except for the annual review meeting in February which was held at Bonclarken. In 2010-2011 the committee will meet quarterly, with the August and February meetings being in person.

Duties as prescribed in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* are addressed in this report.

a. Developing guidelines for the work of the committee.

The committee developed operating procedures in 2008.

b. Management of all investment funds under the oversight of the ARP Foundation/Stewardship (including the funds of the General Synod) and the Board of Benefits.

These funds represent three distinct types of investments:

(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 12/31/09 was \$37,250,239. A member 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 12/31/09, these funds were valued at \$9,134,936. 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 Manage-

ment, Inc. Each charitable trust is a separately invested entity and the five (5) trusts totaled \$472,852 in value at 12/31/09. The balance in the Gift Annuity Fund was \$87,190 at 12/31/09, which is a part of the larger total.

(4) The committee notes that the climate for investments in 2008 and early 2009 was stormy, with investment returns being historically negative and unsettling. With the advice of our consultants and investment managers in the three above areas, investment strategies were fine-tuned as values fell to reduce the losses being incurred. However, investments rebounded strongly through the end of 2009, and funds had substantial positive returns. Investment strategies were likewise fine-tuned to take advantage of gain opportunities and to enhance returns, through the work of said managers, with concurrence from the investment committee.

c. Reviewing all current investment relationships for funds currently invested under the oversight of the ARP Foundation/Stewardship and funds of the Board of Benefits. The committee 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 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney on the endowment type funds.

With the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney relationship, a pooled account management approach with individual accounts tracked via allocation and reporting subcontractor, CTAC, 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). A goal of the committee is to achieve above average returns for our invested funds in the investment industry of mutual funds, in order to grow resources, principle and returns, over the long-term. The combined investment approach and value also allows us to have lower investment expense rates. Each account receives monthly statements and quarterly performance reports along with online access.

The Investment Committee believes that this arrangement will provide greater 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, Paul Bell, of Central Services.

d. 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 offer boards and agencies the option to offload investment management duties and thus allow 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 Stewart Hurst for his service in helping to set up the Investment Committee and serving as chairman this past year.

**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,  
Stewart Hurst, 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 Lay Ministry Committee is seeking ways to encourage and develop lay ministry within the local church. For many years, our efforts have been concentrated on conferences. We will continue to do that, but we want to take a more active role in assisting and promoting lay ministry within our congregations.

Two bulletin inserts are being scheduled for the coming year. One will take the form of an article written to encourage laymen to engage in ministry within and without the local church. The second one will report on ministry being conducted in churches by laymen. The concept will be to provide ideas for laymen in other churches to expand

their ministry. There are many worthy ministries conducted outside the church by community groups such as food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and pregnancy centers. These are all worthy endeavors, and laymen should be involved. However, we are seeking to identify ministry opportunities that can be developed and carried out within the local church that will enhance and expand the ministry of the local church. These are the items we seek to promote in the second bulletin insert. If you have such ministries in your church, please share them with Tom Patterson for inclusion in this upcoming insert.

The Family Bible Conference will be held on July 26-29 at Bonclarken. The Rev. John W. P. Oliver, Professor of Practical Theology at Reformed Seminary, Charlotte, NC, and the Rev. Joe Novenson, senior pastor of the Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church, Lookout Mountain, TN, will be the keynote speakers. The theme for the conference is "The Christian Life: Our Faith in Our Faithful God." The Annual Meeting of ARP Women's Ministries will be held on July 26.

Rev. Greg Hamer serves as the Synod appointed Director of the Family Bible Conference through 2010. Rev. Tim Watson is the Assistant Director. Mr. John Barron serves as Treasurer of the Conference. Mrs. Dot Hutelmyer serves as the ARPWM Director, and Ann Aheron serves as the Assistant Director.

The Laity in Action Conference will be held at Bonclarken on September 17 & 18. Co-sponsored by the Committee on Lay Ministry and the Alliance of Loyal Laity, this conference is a family event and includes childcare and a children's program. Rev. Richard Phillips of Second Presbyterian Church (PCA), Greenville, SC, will be the keynote speaker for the second year in a row. Dr. Phillips will present four messages utilizing the theme "On This Rock: Biblically Defining the Church." 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. We anticipated having to change our format as it was thought that the fall schedule would eliminate the attendance of young families with children. We are delighted to report we had more children this past fall than we have been having during the summer. We will seek ways to improve this segment of the conference and seek to attract more young families with children to the conference.

Something new is being tried at the Laity in Action Conference this year. We are designating Friday evening as "Church Night."

Churches within a one to two hour driving distance will be contacted and asked to participate in the conference by bringing a group up for the Friday evening session. Please take this assignment seriously and help us make a success of this new effort.

Two awards are presented annually by the Committee at the Laity in Action Conference to those who have exhibited unique leadership within the church. 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 Mrs. Martha McKenzie of the Bartow, FL, Church. Martha is well-known in the ARP Church as she has led the music at both the Family Bible Conference and the Laity in Action Conference for many years as well as being active in the Bonclarken Music Conference. The Barnabas Award is given to a church which shows itself to be an encourager to other churches through its unique ministry. The 2009 Barnabas Award was given to the First Church, Gastonia, NC. In particular, First Church initiated a third worship service in an off-campus location which then developed into a daughter congregation, Gaston Community Church. Within two years the Gaston Community Church became an organized congregation.

As this report is being written, we still have not filled the position of Director for the Cornerstone (Young Adult) Conference. We solicit the assistance of the members of the General Synod in finding someone who will organize and re-develop this important conference. Give your suggestions of a possible Director to Ron McKnight or Tom Patterson.

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.

We would call your attention to the Wade Center in Bluefield, WV. The Wade Center ministers to families and children in Appalachia, particularly in the area surrounding Bluefield. A variety of ministries

exist. There are opportunities for service in churches throughout the area much like the ministry Christian Education Ministries conducts in Appalachia during July. These activities are carried out year-round. There is also the need for work groups to come up and have a work-week in various churches and communities in the area. The Wade Center Campus (community outreach center) has several renovation projects in process and needs volunteer labor to assist in these endeavors. Rev. Tanner Cline, an ARP minister, is now on staff at the Wade Center. His wife, Jennifer, is the coordinator for work groups. They would be happy to talk to you about scheduling individuals and groups from your church to participate in this ministry. The contact information is as follows: The Wade Center, 1400 Highland Avenue, P. O. Box 777, Bluefield, WV 24701; 304-323-3777; [www.wadecenter.com](http://www.wadecenter.com); Tanner Cline <[tanner.cline@wadecenter.com](mailto:tanner.cline@wadecenter.com)>.

Officers for the coming year are Ronald McKnight – Chairman; George Moser – 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 and the Family Bible Conference.
2. That sessions call on their people to pray daily for the work and ministry of the local congregation, the presbyteries, and the General Synod and challenge the laymen to have a systematic study of the Scripture and also to set aside a time for daily devotions.
3. That laymen be challenged to familiarize themselves with our doctrinal standards as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.
4. That opportunities to prepare and equip lay people for effective Christian service and opportunities to involve laymen in ministries be provided through the local congregations and also through the work teams provided through this committee and that encouragement to participate in community-based ministries be given through the local congregation.
5. That the retreat and conference ministries of the ARP Church be given proper promotion within each congregation.
6. That sessions be encouraged to designate one Sunday in the month of October as a day to celebrate and emphasize the role of laymen in the church.
7. That the Budget for 2011 be approved as follows:



|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Laity in Action Conference   | \$ 5,000        |
| Family Bible Conference      | \$12,000        |
| Bulletin Inserts             | \$ 500          |
| Area Laity Workshops         | \$ 1,000        |
| Cornerstone Conference       | \$ 2,000        |
| Director of Lay Ministry     | \$ 4,000        |
| Cooperative Work with A.L.L. | \$ 3,000        |
| Committee Expense            | <u>\$ 6,000</u> |
| Total                        | \$33,500        |

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron McKnight, Chairman

The recommendations of the Committee on Lay Ministry were adopted.

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

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK**

The Committee on Minister and His Work serves Synod "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*)

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 2009 but cancelled its April 2010 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 but does not prescribe the manner in which this requirement will be carried out. It is

essential, therefore, that every presbyter and denominational official 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. 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.arpchurch.org](http://www.arpchurch.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 congregation's pastoral search committee chairman. In order for this information to be current and useful, 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, providing pastoral care and guidance for those chaplains. Representatives on the Council are Reverend Ronald Beard (as Principal Clerk), Reverend Ralph J. Gore (2011); Reverend James Ryan (2012), and Col. Terry Wallace (2010).

Col. Wallace is serving as the Council Chairman in 2010. The Committee recommends the appointment of Col. Wallace to another term on the Council.

In June 2009, General Synod passed a motion "...that in light of the 205<sup>th</sup> 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 charged 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." (Minutes of General Synod, 2009, page 44)

Should a change of endorsing agencies be deemed appropriate, the Committee believes the process of research should be careful and deliberate and requests an extension of time for completion of the task. The Committee met with Col. Wallace at its November 2009 meeting to discuss the services provided to our chaplains by the PCCMP. Further, the Committee has surveyed our chaplains to receive their thoughts on endorsing agencies, and it plans to meet with a representative on the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRJC) in November of this year.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 S. Banks  
 L. Paul Burns  
 Thomas E. Braithwaite  
 Meredith L. Cavin  
 William Nale Falls  
 Douglas O. Jones  
 William A. Macaulay  
 C. Stephen Rimmer  
 Robert Washington, Jr.  
 Hershel D. Yancey

Paul G. Patrick serves as Chaplain at Erskine College.

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

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

#### **Ministerial Assistance (Duty 6)**

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

##### **A. Preventive Maintenance**

The Committee presented a document entitled "Pastoral Care for Pastors" at the 2008 meeting of Synod and continues to urge 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.

The Committee also met in November with members of the Committee on Strategic Planning to discuss the planning process and ways to revitalize preaching and ministry in the ARP Church. The committee believes that preaching should be a strong and distinctive trait of the ARP Synod and of ARP ministers, but for this to be true of us, Christ-centered and Gospel-focused preaching must become the passion of our ministers. While an effort to accomplish this goal will need to be denominational in its scope, a number of resources were identified that can be readily utilized by pastors:

- *Christless Christianity*, by Michael Horton
- *No Place for Truth*, by David Wells
- *Preaching to a Post-Everything World*, by Zach Eswine
- *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*, by Graeme Goldsworthy
- *Christ-Centered Preaching*, by Bryan Chapell
- Nine Marks ([www.9marks.org](http://www.9marks.org))
- Simeon Trust ([www.simeon.org](http://www.simeon.org))

The Committee encourages individuals and presbyteries to participate in, or host, preaching workshops sponsored by the Simeon Trust, or to participate in similar events on their own. These workshops provide good continuing education opportunities for pastors to sharpen their preaching skills.

B. Pastoral Transitions

A self-study form for congregations going through a pastoral change is available from the Office of Central Services. The Committee recommends that congregations seeking pastors utilize this form as a guide during pastoral searches.

C. Orientation Program for New Ministers

Synod's orientation program for new ministers is designed to foster interpersonal relationships among new pastors and to build relationships between pastors and those who are engaged in the ministries of the denomination. The Committee encourages presbyteries to insist

that pastors attend an orientation program early in their ministry. Orientation programs are scheduled for the last Monday and Tuesday in March and the last Monday and Tuesday in September. Spouses are invited, and the General Synod will reimburse participants for out-of-pocket expenses.

**D. Consideration of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Ministers and Students**

For many years this Committee has made, 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)**

In lieu of the uniform written exam last revised in 1995, 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 2011:

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Committee Travel & Meeting Expenses | \$ 4,000         |
| General Office                      | 50               |
| Presbyterian Council                | <u>9,450</u>     |
|                                     | <u>\$ 13,500</u> |

**Miscellaneous Items**

A. The Committee encourages presbyteries to seek meaningful internships and mentorships for students of theology under their care. These experiences should not only provide opportunities for preaching, but should also be structured to provide the students with spiritual enrichment and opportunities to develop pastoral skills.

**B. Officers for 2010 - 2011:**

Chairman: John Cook

Vice-Chairman: David Lauten

Secretary: Fred Carr

**C. Meeting Dates for 2010 - 2011:** The Committee will meet in conjunction with the Board of Benefits. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates: November 3 – 4, 2010 and April 6 – 7, 2011.

**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 view their meetings as opportunities for spiritual retreat, devoting considerable time to prayer and worship, 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 .
7. That Synod approve the appointment of Col. Terry Wallace to another term on the Presbyterian Council on Chaplains and Military Personnel.
8. That the Synod pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our military and institutional chaplains.
9. That presbyteries that have not yet done so adopt policy statements on sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.
10. That the Committee be granted another year in determining a suitable endorsing agency for ARP chaplains.
11. That the budget for 2010 be approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Cook, Chairman

The recommendations of the Committee on Minister and His Work were adopted.

A special prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for the ministry of our military and institutional chaplains was offered at this time.

The Report of the **Moderator's 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 (Board) is now in its 105<sup>th</sup> year. The William H. Dunlap Orphanage (Dunlap) 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 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 met at Bonclarken November 11 – 12, 2009 and by telephone conference call on March 17, 2010. 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, Se-



neca, SC, and the Palmer Home for Children, Columbus, MS. A representative from the Dunlap Board serves on the board of each of these homes—Matt Miller 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 2 – 21 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](http://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](http://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. During the 2009 – 2010 academic year, 13 students received assistance through the scholarship program. In addition to this program, funds are also available for Associate Reformed Presbyterian orphans who plan to attend college but are unable to attend Erskine.

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 Presbyterian provides input to the Board on an annual basis to determine if there is a need for continued funding to support this ministry.

In 2010, the Board is also providing assistance to World Witness for the support of orphans enrolled in the Mabel Lowry Pressly School, Sahiwal, Pakistan; French Camp Academy, French Camp, Mississippi; and Calvary Home for Children, Anderson, SC.

Following is a summary of support provided in 2010 to the organizations discussed above:

|       |              |                                |
|-------|--------------|--------------------------------|
|       | \$26,000*    | - Erskine College scholarships |
|       | 26,000       | - Palmer Homes                 |
|       | 26,000       | - Collins Home                 |
|       | 2,500        | - Presbyterian Home            |
|       | 15,000       | - French Camp Academy          |
|       | 12,500**     | - World Witness                |
|       | <u>5,000</u> | - Calvary Home                 |
| TOTAL | \$113,000    |                                |

\* The normal allocation to Erskine is \$20,000 annually. In 2010, the Board has made an additional one-time allocation of \$6,000 to assist a larger than expected number of orphans.

\*\* The Dunlap Board awarded \$5,000. A gift from Mr. Jim Kidd in honor of the Board and former Board member David Vickery provided the additional \$7,500 for this allocation.

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.

At the meeting of General Synod in 2009, a motion passed that the Board "...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." (*Minutes of General Synod*, 2009, p. 67.) At its November 2009 meeting, the Board appointed Jamie Self, Diane Clowers, Jim Kidd, Mike Jones, and Darrell Peer to a Special Adoption Committee. The committee is studying the Board's charter and policies to determine the most effective way to provide assistance and will continue its deliberations at its November 2010 meeting.

#### **Administrative**

Administrative support is provided through the Office of Central Services.

Future meeting dates: November 10-11, 2010 Bonclarken; March 16, 2011, 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 exclu-

sively 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 2011 are based on anticipated income from the trusts and five percent (5%) of the three-year market value of the endowments. **Actual expenditures for 2011 will be approved at the November 2010 meeting of the Board.** (See "Ministry Expenditures" under "2011 Proposed" on the accompanying 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 2010 – 2011 are:

Darrell Peer – Chairman  
William Harris – Vice-Chairman  
Susan Jenkins – Secretary

Synod's Treasurer serves as Treasurer to the Corporation. Paul Bell serves as Administrative Officer.

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

**Recommendations:**

1. That the tentative budget for 2011 be approved.
2. That ARP pastors and congregations actively seek to minister to orphans through service and prayer.
3. That all other actions of the Board, herein reported, be sustained.

Darrell Peer, Chairman  
William H. Dunlap Fund

## WILLIAM M. DUNLAP FUND

|   | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011<br>Proposed |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Income Anticipated</b>                 |                        |                  |
| Miscellaneous Gifts                       | \$ -                   | \$ -             |
| B. J. Wade                                | 53,352                 | 53,352           |
| Interest Allocation                       | 500                    | 500              |
| Ola B. Hunter                             | 2,112                  | 2,112            |
| Orphanage Fund                            | 47,231                 | 47,231           |
| Will Ministry Fund (min bal of \$255,022) | 15,805                 | 15,805           |
| <b>Total Anticipated</b>                  | \$ 119,000             | \$ 119,000       |
|   | -                      |                  |
|   |                        |                  |
| <b>Ministry Expenditures</b>              |                        |                  |
| Erskine                                   | \$ 26,000              | \$ 20,000        |
| Collins Home                              | 26,000                 | -                |
| Palmer Home                               | 26,000                 | -                |
| Presbyterian Home                         | 2,500                  | -                |
| French Camp Academy                       | 15,000                 | -                |
| World Witness-MLPS Girls' Hostel          | 20,000                 | -                |
| Calvary Home                              | 5,000                  |                  |
| Available for allocation-Nov 2009         | -                      | 91,750           |
| <b>Sub-Total Ministry Expenditures</b>    | \$ 120,500             | \$ 111,750       |
| Central Services                          | \$ 4,250               | \$ 4,250         |
| Board                                     | 2,750                  | 2,750            |
| General Office                            | 250                    | 250              |
| <b>Total Ministry Expenditures</b>        | \$ 127,750             | \$ 119,000       |
|   | (8,750)                |                  |
| Income over/(under) expenditures          | \$ (8,750)             | \$ -             |

The **Moderator's Committee on Dunlap Orphanage** recommended that the recommendations of the board report be adopted. The recommendations of the Moderator's Committee were approved.

Following announcements, Synod adjourned with the Benediction by Rev. Nathan M. Frazier.

**Thursday, June 10, 2010, 7:00 a.m.**

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

Paul D. Mulner led the opening worship service.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** was presented.

**MEMORIAL FROM SECOND PRESBYTERY**

Whereas, the stated purpose of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church, and

Whereas, it has been reliably reported that non-Christian clergy persons have been admitted into the Doctor of Ministry programs at Erskine Theological Seminary,

Therefore, Second Presbytery memorializes the General Synod to inquire of the Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Seminary and seek explanation of the admission of Jews, Mormons and Muslims to Erskine Seminary.

**MEMORIAL FROM CATAWBA**

Whereas motions passed during the meeting of the General Synod of March 2-3, 2010 calling for the appointment of a replacement interim Board and a change to the nominations process for the Board of Trustees for Erskine College and Seminary, and the subsequent injunction issued by Judge E. Griffith, Jr.

- **Acknowledging** the need of the Associate Reformed Synod for God’s grace and wisdom, and confessing that there has been not only legitimate difference of opinion among us, but also a failure to see the Lord’s face, to act with discretion, wisdom and with an openly confessed commitment to submit ourselves to the whole counsel of God and to pursue not only those goals which will be to his glory, the advance of the gospel of Christ, and the holiness and unity of the church which Jesus Christ purchased with his own blood.
- **And taking cognizance** of such facts as have come to light since the meeting of the General Synod, and chiefly that in private discussions during the special called Synod, members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees were willing to approve the proposals of the Special Commission with respect to the future development of the Board, including specifically the numerical size of the Board,

*but only a time scale differing only by a few months from the Special Commission's proposal;*

· **And in full recognition of the solemn duty of the Board of Erskine College and Seminary** to act in pursuit of its fiduciary responsibilities;

Therefore, for the sake of (1) the honor of the Lord Jesus Christ among his people and in the world; and (2) the unity and peace of the church, and (3) the special relations that have historically existed between the Church and the College and Seminary, and (4) the current material needs of the College and Seminary and its various employees, and (5) minimizing the damaging impact of the current lawsuit and addressing issues pertinent to it,

**Catawba Presbytery moves that Synod, acting immediately through its Executive Board, ask the Board of Erskine College and Seminary in the spirit of brotherhood to commit itself voluntarily to a process by which the concerns expressed in the ongoing debate and discussion with regard to the Board might be addressed.**

Presbytery thus prayerfully expressed the desire and hope that (1) Such a measure of agreement might meet the concerns of the majority of Synod who voted for a similar but marginally more rapid change being made in a mandatory fashion; (2) Such a voluntary action on part of the Board which reassure both Synod and the Erskine Community can, despite past differences in matters of wisdom rather than principle, and although mutually wounded by recent events, honor Jesus Christ, seek the glory of God above all personal interest, and help to advance rather than hinder the ministry of Erskine College and Seminary as a community in which Christ, his covenant grace, his faithful Word, and his Father's name are honored.

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

1. That Memorial from Second Presbytery be adopted.
2. That Memorial from Catawba Presbytery not be adopted.

In addition, the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended:

3. That General Synod require the Erskine Board of Trustees to report on the memorial from Second Presbytery no later than the 2011 Meeting of General Synod.

4. That General Synod ask the Erskine Board of Trustees to explain the admission of non-Christian clergy, particularly as it pertains to the stated mission of the seminary and the seminary's own policy for admission to the D. Min program.

The first Memorial from Second Presbytery was read and recommendations three and four of the Moderator's Committee Report were read.

A motion carried that the Moderator's Committee Report be postponed until such time as printed copies of the Memorials are in the hands of the delegates.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod 2011.

Robert Patrick nominated Andrew K. Putnam. James A. Hunt seconded the nomination.

John R. de Witt nominated Jeffery J. Kingswood. Paul G. Patrick read a seconding speech on behalf of R. J. Gore.

A motion carried to close the nominations.

A motion carried that the process for nominations for Moderator of the General Synod of the ARP Church be referred to the Executive Board of Synod for their consideration and recommendations.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** was reopened.

Recommendations one, three and four of the Moderator's Committee report were adopted.

Recommendation two was debated and adopted.

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for the morning break.

Gordon Query, Chair of the Erskine Board Presidential Search Committee, addressed the Synod and introduced to the Synod the President-Elect for Erskine College and Seminary,

Dr. David Norman. President-Elect Norman spoke to the Synod regarding his aspirations for the college and seminary.

A motion carried to print the comments of the President-Elect in the Minutes of Synod of 2010.

*Let me begin my saying what a great privilege it is to be invited to address you, the highest court of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. I have admired and greatly benefited from your work for many years. Thank you for what you have done, and what you continue to do.*

*I should also draw to your attention to the fact that I am not yet the President of Erskine College and Seminary. As you know, Dr. Ruble has contributed many years of faithful service, and he continues in that service today. I am eager to take office, however, if for no other reason than so that I can begin making a few key mistakes that may get me off this pedestal I seem to have found myself placed upon.*

*Out of respect for your important work, my comments today will be very brief, but Professor Ferguson has been kind enough to invite me to give a Thornwell lecture on my vision for Erskine at First Pres Columbia on July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to hear more then, you are more than welcome to come.*

*Thank you for calling me, through the Erskine Board, to be the fifteenth President of Erskine College and Seminary. I believe that Erskine is one of the most important ministries of the ARP. Its long and rich history is a testimony to the wisdom of this body. As Erskine's next president, I pledge to do everything within my power to be faithful to your excellent vision, as expressed in the 1977 Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and subsequent documents produced by this body.*

*I intend to implement your vision by focusing on three key principles.*

*The first is academic integrity. By "academic integrity" I mean more than just honesty. I mean something like what was meant in the 1970's by the phrase, "integration of faith and learning." I think that that phrase has been somewhat over-used in recent decades, so its meaning has been diluted. So I*



*now prefer the admittedly less eloquent phrase, "creative academic rigor in the context of trust and trustworthiness." Our academic pursuit must be creative and free, but flowing organically from our strong commitment to the Truth, namely the Triune God of the Absolutely Authoritative Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.*

*The second is financial sustainability. Your Philosophy of Christian Higher Education clearly states that this body has the responsibility to provide for Erskine's financial needs. I look forward to working with you to ensure that those needs are met in a way that is sustainable and not overly burdensome.*

*The third principle is service to the poor. Jesus cared about the poor, and we are His followers — so do we. And what do the poor need more than the Gospel? And how can they hear without a preacher? At Erskine Seminary, we will train pastors who clearly and accurately exposit our sacred scriptures for those who do not have the financial or intellectual resources to do so as carefully on their own. But at Erskine, we serve the poor in more ways than simply training pastors. At Erskine College, we ground undergraduates in the liberal arts tradition as it flows from authentic Christian faith. In doing so, we are training tomorrow's cultural gatekeepers to fill the earth and subdue it with the love and the justice of the Father, building a society that does not look to short-term profits or individual gain in ways that exploit the poor. Erskine graduates are trained to see and understand the big picture, so that they can honor God's image bearers wherever they may be found. And so we will build His Kingdom until he comes.*

*Many of you have told me that you are praying for me, and that you are praying for Erskine. Thank you. You know we need it. Erskine now faces some severe difficulties. While Erskine has a rich, 170-year history, the Church and her ministries will never have true peace or true purity until her bridegroom returns. It is our lot, as the church militant, to do all that we can to labor faithfully toward His ends until He comes.*

*I appreciate your prayers. But right now, it is more important that I pray for you. You are in the midst of some very serious work. I believe that decisions you make over the next few hours may literally make ... or break ... this powerful ministry that is Erskine.*

*We have been given so many reasons for faith and so few excuses for doubt. Thank you for calling upon me to speak to you today. I will go now and pray for you.*

--Dr. David A. Norman

The Report of the Board of **Erskine College and Seminary** 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. One-half of the members are required to be alumni or alumnae of the College and/or Seminary. Ex-officio members include the President of the Erskine Alumni Association, Moderator of Synod, President of the ARP Women's Ministries, and a representative designated by ARP Women's Ministries. Advisory members are the institution's President, all Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Deans, faculty delegates and student representatives, Chaplain, President of the Parent Advisory Council, Chairman of the Board of Counselors, Director of Christian Education Ministries, President of the Flying Fleet Club, Moderator-Elect of Synod, and Coordinator of the General Synod. Members at large serve for six years. Each class of Trustees includes two Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers. 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: Academic, Enrollment, Finance and Facilities, Development, Student Services and Athletic, Seminary, Trustees, Honorary Degrees and Executive.

The Board of Trustees exercises direct control of the operations of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary, 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 discussed and examined by the appropriate Board committee, and recommendations for full-Board consideration are crafted. Between

regular Board meetings, the President sends campus updates to the Board. 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 the Statement of Philosophy of Higher Christian Education. In keeping with its authority, the Board may challenge and rescind or amend administrative actions. No such action has been taken during the past academic year. A revised Strategic Plan was presented to the Board and adopted.

**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 Admissions Committees made up of faculty and staff; and through faculty structures, all candidates for degrees are approved by the College or Seminary faculty. The 2009 fall enrollment had 182 freshman students and 25 transfer students for a total of 207 new students. Altogether the college enrolled 581 students with entering SAT averages of 1091 points. The faculty approved during the 2010 spring semester proposals for articulation agreements with area technical colleges. The President has signed agreements with Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood and Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton. An articulation agreement is currently being developed with Spartanburg Methodist College.

**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. 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. The budget for 2010-2011 was approved at the February Board meeting. Once a budget is adopted, the President informs parents of the financial charges for the coming year. The budget will likely be revised as the year progresses based on final stu-

dent enrollment, gift revenue, or other significant changes. Revised budgets are submitted to the Board through the Finance and Facilities Committee. That Committee may make any needed changes, and it then forwards them to the full Board for consideration.

**4. To establish curriculum.**

In institutions of higher learning, the curriculum is primarily shaped by the faculty and submitted to the Board for approval. At Erskine the Board approves all new academic programs and degrees. The College offers a liberal arts education and awards the A.B. and B.S. degrees. The Seminary awards the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Christian Education, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministry, Master of Church Music, Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, Master of Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry degrees. Several years ago the Board approved offering the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, and the Doctor of Ministry programs in the Columbia location. Following an on-site visit by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the Columbia site was approved for awarding the degree programs in Columbia. This means that students can complete degree requirements without attending classes in Due West. The Dean of the Columbia program is Dr. Mark Ross. In August the Seminary received a grant that enabled 20 mid-career pastors to visit Israel. A College success program has been established to help students meet academic expectations. The College and Seminary will undergo reaccreditation visits in 2012. Intensive preparation is underway. In May 2010 both ATS and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will send focused committees to investigate the change in governance and to determine whether some sanction needs to be imposed.

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

a. Religious programs

The Board and administration continue to focus upon Erskine's mission as a Christ-centered institution. This is a major feature of the College and Seminary Mission Statements. To implement these Mission Statements, the administration has put in place and has continued a variety of Christian programs: worship services, The Barn ministry under the Chaplain, Bible studies, retreats, re-

quired 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 group, Baptist Campus Ministries, and other denominational ministries. New measures have been established to continue to integrate faith and learning, including inviting major off-campus speakers with a strong background in this process and having presentations at student and faculty and staff meetings. The Seminary brings to campus interesting and challenging speakers throughout the year, including denominational and agency leaders. One outstanding speaker this spring is Walter Kaiser, formerly President of Gordon-Conwell Seminary. The Baccalaureate speaker in May is the Reverend John Dorr of Atlanta. Mission trips to Haiti and Mexico included Seminary faculty and students. Erskine students participated in a conference in Ethics and Moral Decision-Making and in Senator Jim DeMint's Student Leadership Forum on "Faith and Public Values."

b. Athletic programs

Currently, Erskine has fourteen intercollegiate sports: men's and women's cross country, tennis, soccer, and basketball, in addition to baseball, softball, golf, women's lacrosse, and volleyball. Collegiate competition is carried out in Conference Carolinas, which includes institutions from North and South Carolina. During the past year women's tennis finished in first place, and both softball and baseball ended the season ranked high in the conference. Several athletes won conference honors. It is noteworthy that thirty-six percent of all Erskine student athletes had a 3.0 grade point average or higher. In addition to these official National Collegiate Athletic Association sports, Erskine provides opportunities for students to play intramural sports. Excellent athletic facilities are available.

c. Social programs

Many social programs for men and women are offered in the area, on and off campus. Concerts and recitals, plays, formal and informal dances, Homecoming and Christmas parades, and participation in social service projects, such as those with Habitat for Humanity, are just a few of those activities. Student organizations include the Student Government Association, the Student Christian Association, the Judicial Council, and numerous others. Student publications include *The Arrow*, *The Review*, *The Mirror*, and *The Pilot*. Choral groups such as the Gospel Choir, the Choraleers, and various ensembles provide social interaction for many of the students at Erskine, during practice and performance and on tour. The Hanger in the basement of the Erskine Building is an informal place for students to gather and talk.

- d. In cooperation with the College physician, Student Services has put in place a part-time counselor for students. Erskine was spared a flu epidemic. On two occasions, H1N1 shots were offered to Erskine faculty, staff, and students by DHEC without charge. During the past year Erskine has revised the *Employee Resource Handbook*, which incorporates new laws and regulations, and has adopted a Student Grievance Policy.

A new Alumni Directory has been printed.

**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 had a balanced budget for the third consecutive year without any negative notations from the auditors. A fourth consecutive year is anticipated.

b. Increasing funds, resources, and properties

A Development staff of eight in the College and two in the Seminary works in the area of Development

and Alumni Affairs, 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 has added to the campus more than seven acres and made available needed rental property for faculty and staff. Most of the Erskine campus has been relamped and new HVAC controls have been installed. Significant energy savings will result in considerable financial savings over the next few years. Erskine successfully completed the first Environmental Protection Agency peer audit in October and was commended for its disposal of hazardous materials and waste. Mr. Greg Haselden and Mr. Randy Moore presented well-received workshops detailing Erskine's green and sustainability initiatives at ATS, SACS, and NACUBO annual meetings.

c. Maintain and secure physical facilities

A staff of thirty workers maintains the physical facilities and Erskine's ninety-six-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 Watkins Student Center. Physical improvements have been made to Bowie Arts Center as well as the Art Department building.

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 Invest-

ment Committee meets monthly with representatives from Smith Barney to review the market and our investments. 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. Erskine has converted its \$11.5 million principal amount of Education Facilities Revenue bonds to a bank qualified loan with the National Bank of South Carolina. The administration has retained the services of *Communication Mark*, a grant and foundation research firm in Arden, North Carolina.

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

The Board oversees the overall character and size of the faculty and staff, appoints executive-level 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 staff and faculty of the College and Seminary. Faculty and staff salaries were frozen during the past year and senior administrators took a cut of three percent. Unnecessary travel and expenses were curtailed.

Erskine's President, Dr. Randall T. Ruble, will retire on June 30, 2010, and a Search Committee under the leadership of Trustee Gordon Query is at work to secure a replacement. Appointments for a new Executive Vice-President and Dean of the College and a Vice-President for Advancement have been postponed until a new President is in place.

New Faculty for 2010-2011.

The only new College faculty member for the 2010-11 academic year is Dr. Matt Klauza, Assistant Professor of Eng-



lish. He replaces Dr. Wilbur Reames, who has retired. A search is underway for a new Professor of Business to replace Dr. Charles Emery, who is retiring. The Seminary has no new professors for the next 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 positions. This process is performed annually in the fall of the year before Synod's Committee on Nominations meets. Consent is secured from each person nominated.

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

Reports are made each year 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 Education 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 and 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 of *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 an 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 Bib-

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

#### **Miscellaneous Items**

A supplemental report is provided by the Executive Vice President of Erskine Theological Seminary.

#### **Recommendations:**

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:
  - \$575,000 operating funds
  - \$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, denominational events such as conferences and retreats, and on other occasions.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Scott Mitchell  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Randall T. Ruble  
President

#### **REPORT OF ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

#### **Fathers and Brethren:**

Our May 2010 commencement promoted 74 graduates. The breakdown by degree was as follows: 1 Certificate in Practical Ministry, 1 Diploma of Theology, 23 Master of Divinity, 5 Master of Arts in Counseling

Ministry, 4 Master of Arts in Educational Ministry, 4 Master of Church Music, 5 Master of Arts in Practical Ministry, 4 Master of Arts in Theological Studies, 8 Master of Theology, and 19 Doctor of Ministry. The commencement speaker was The Rev. Douglas W. Petersen.

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 Alan Avera, John Blumenstein, Stephen Clyborne, Joyce Coggins, Jennifer Fairbairn, Leslie Holmes, Steve Hope, Eddie Soto, Bob Vasholz, Chris Wisdom, Michael Wolfe, and Susan Wyatt.

The Seminary gives thanks to God for the strong financial support received from the church, friends, and alumni. 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 received approval for degree-granting status at the Columbia Campus for the MDiv, MAPM, and DMin programs.

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 Charleston, South Carolina.

The Erskine Distance Education Network (EDEN) and Dr. Steve Lowe, Associate Dean of Christian Education, reported that Erskine Distance Education Network (EDEN) enrollments for fall semester 2009 surpassed our record enrollment of fall 2008 when the gasoline crisis was in full swing. EDEN, for the first time in its ten-year history, has topped 100 students enrolled in distance education courses. The Seminary's tracking of student progress indicates that once students start taking EDEN courses they continue to take them in record numbers. This is a testament to our EDEN staff and Seminary faculty who work hard at making these courses challenging, practical, and learner-friendly. In addition to the record enrollment in our traditional distance education courses, we have also seen a surge in the number of

faculty who use hybrid courses with a record number of 17 such courses available for fall 2009. A hybrid course is an on-campus course with an online classroom where a professor can house course materials that students can access 24/7. Go online at [www.eden.erskine.edu](http://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 plan offers 12 core courses (36 hours) in intensive seminar form on campus during that period.

The 2009-10 Erskine Lecture Series sponsored *History of the Christian Protestant Church in Brazil and Latin America* with Dr. Eber Lima, Professor of History at Universidade Nove de Julho in Sao Paulo, Brazil; *Fall Missions Emphasis Week* with Dr. Alan Avera, Executive Director of Outreach North America; *Celebrating Reformation Day with Martin and Katharina Luther* with Charlie and Ruth Jones of Peculiar People; *Spring Missions Emphasis Week* with Frank Van Dalen, Executive Director of World Witness; *How Christians Gain a Hearing in a Hollywood Culture* with Dr. Phil and Kathleen Cooke of Cooke Pictures in Burbank, California; and the *Annual Spring Conference* with Dr. Esther L. Meek, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania and Dr. Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., President Emeritus at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

The Master of Arts in Practical Ministry Program has expanded its concentration options to include three new areas of study: Church Planting, Church Administration, and Outdoor Leadership (for recreation directors).

The Master of Arts in Educational Ministries Program currently has 20 students working at various levels.

The Th.M. Program currently has 22 students in its fourth year of operation. Three students have graduated from the Program, while three others have completed virtually all requirements and will graduate in January 2010. The current students' concentration breakdown is: eleven in historical theology, three in systematic theology, four in New Testament, two in Old Testament, and two (new students) undecided. These figures show clearly that we are doing well at attracting historical theology students, but

are not yet attracting enough students in the other majors. Two recent changes (the addition of a non-thesis track and allowing students to count fourth-semester language courses for Th.M. credit) should help us attract more pastors to the program. Dr. Terry Eves, Professor of Old Testament, was named a faculty liaison to the PCA and ARP Presbyteries, with the expectation that his work will attract more students to this and other programs. Th.M. is very labor-intensive for faculty and should never be one of the Seminary's largest programs. A sustained enrollment of around 30 students should be a long-term goal, provided that these students are adequately distributed between Bible and theology concentrators.

A new class of MEDCOM chaplains arrived on campus in January and returned in May 2010.

The Columbia library staff continues to build the book collection in Columbia. Hours of operation were increased to thirteen hours per week (up from eleven).

2008-09 McCain Library Usage Statistics:

Circulation transactions (items checked out from our collections): 11,005

Items borrowed from other libraries (for our patrons): 1,238

Items lent to other libraries (for their patrons): 440

Reference questions answered: 1,199

Searches in the library's electronic databases: 38,185

- McCain Library provides Erskine Seminary Alumni with continued access to two databases in religious and theological studies that are used heavily by students: *ATLA Religion Database* and *ATLA Serials* (online theological journals). This program, begun in March 2009, has been a great success with Seminary graduates. Approximately 120 alumni have registered for access to the databases. A total of 668 searches were performed from March to August 2009. (That's an average of 111 searches per month, or twenty-seven searches per week.) Additionally, students viewed 280 online articles from theological journals.
- In January 2010, Drs. Steve and Mary Lowe led a short-term mission trip to Haiti through the combined resources of Main Street United Methodist Church and Erskine Wellness. The primary purpose of the trip was to continue developing the sister church relationship with Port Salut Baptist Church through Reciprocal Ministries International by providing medical and dental clinics, by holding a teacher seminar, by supporting the Hope for Kidz

program, and by constructing a self-sustaining water purification unit as coordinated by SIFE of Erskine College. Another objective was to continue defining the sister seminary relationship between Erskine Theological Seminary and the Bible Institute of Light in Les Cayes, Haiti. John Paul Marr, the Seminary's student representative, suggested that the student bodies of the two institutions should also have a reciprocal relationship through connectional/missional prayer, through mentoring/tutoring partnerships (in Haiti and in the USA), and by promoting student scholarships. He also acknowledged that the spiritual and academic preparation in accordance with the mission statement of the Seminary enabled him to participate in the diverse ministry opportunities in Haiti before, during, and after the earthquake. He describes the Haitian experience as a simple story: We came to Haiti to serve, we remained in Haiti to serve, and upon our return to the USA we hope to continue serving the church of Christ to the glory of God.

- The EDEN program gained national attention this spring when *Christianity Today* published an article jointly authored by Dr. Steve Lowe and Dr. Mary Lowe, Director of Online Instruction. The article addressed the issues of facilitating student spiritual formation in online courses and reported on the results of the recently completed three year Erskine Seminary National Consultation on Spiritual Formation in Theological Distance Education funded by a grant from The Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. In addition, Dr. Mary Lowe shared the results of her dissertation (Ed.D. Nova Southeastern University) research involving Erskine Seminary students enrolled in EDEN courses and the impact of those courses on student spiritual formation.
- The Institute for Reformed Worship provides courses in the Erskine Doctor of Ministry program, along with conferences, workshops, and other resources for the study and practice of Christian worship. The Institute hosted the *Preach the Word* Conference in Columbia in September 2009 (and another *Preach the Word* Conference in January 2010 with Dr. R. Kent Hughes as guest speaker). *The Lord's Supper in Reformed Faith and Worship* Conference was held at Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah in February 2010. The Institute looks forward to the Reformation Worship Conference to be held in Atlanta this fall, October 21-24. Erskine's own Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old and Dr. Mark Ross have been asked to serve on the steering committee and as presenters.

- Dr. Don Fairbairn, Associate Dean of Theology and Professor of Historical Theology,
  - Published *Life in the Trinity: An Introduction to Theology with the Help of the Church Fathers* (IVP Academic) in fall 2009.
  - Received a contract to publish *Fulgentius of Ruspe and the Scythian Monks: Correspondence on Christology and Grace* (Fathers of the Church Series, CUA Press), a book of translations from Latin to English that he is currently working on with Rob Roy McGregor.
- Dr. R. J. Gore, Associate Dean of Ministry and Professor of Systematic Theology, published the following:
  - An article, "Preaching on Special Occasions," along with a sample sermon for inclusion in the *Journal of Modern Ministry*.
  - An essay, "Biblical Worship in an Image-Based Culture," for inclusion in *The Case for Covenant Renewal Worship*, edited by Gregg Strawbridge.
  - "Luke 18:1-8 'Pray and Don't Give Up.'" *The Journal of Modern Ministry* 6:3 (Fall 2009): 197-204.
  - "Preaching on Special Occasions." *The Journal of Modern Ministry* 6:3 (Fall 2009): 185-196.
  - "Personal Word" in *Speaking The Truth in Love: The Theology of John Frame*, ed. John J. Hughes (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2009), xvii-xviii.
  - "Your Word is True," in the March issue of *ARP Magazine*.
  - "Adiaphora in Worship," for inclusion in the July issue of *Ligonier Ministries' Table Talk*.
- Mr. Fred Guyette, Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor,
  - Published an article in the peer-reviewed online journal, *Common Ground* (Fall 2009, vol. 7, no. 1). The focus of this issue is Christian Spiritual Formation. The article is titled "Spiritual Formation: Movements to New Life in the Gospels."
  - Published an article, "Ambrose on Scripture and Ethics," in the peer-reviewed journal, *Downside Review* (2009).



- Dr. Dale Johnson, Professor of Church History and Director of the Master of Arts in Theological Studies Program,
  - Reviewed the book, by R.Ward Holder, *Crisis and Renewal: The Era of The Reformation*, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2009 for the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. The review appeared in the winter 2010 issue.
  - Is reviewing the book edited by Crawford Gribben, *Literature and the Scottish Reformation*, Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Co., 2009, for the journal, *Church History*. The review will appear in the fall 2010 issue.
- Dr. Stephen D. Lowe, Associate Dean of Distributed Education and Professor of Christian Education, co-authored with wife, Dr. Mary Lowe,
  - a peer reviewed article in *Christian Education Journal* entitled "Spiritual Formation in Theological Distance Education: An Ecosystems Model," for the spring 2010 issue. Dr. Mary Lowe also serves as the Executive Director of ACCESS, a Christian distance education association representing a variety of evangelical Bible colleges, Christian colleges and universities, and theological schools.
- Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old, John H. Leith Professor of Reformed Theology and Worship and Dean of the Institute for Reformed Worship,
  - Received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Liturgics at Calvin500 in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2009.
  - Had a paper read by Terry Johnson, one of his students, at Calvin500 entitled "Preaching as Worship in the Pulpit of John Calvin." This paper is to be included in volume 7 of a series of volumes commemorating Calvin500 to be published by Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing House in 2010.
  - Completed the seventh volume of his complete history of preaching, *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church*, in March 2010. To celebrate his lifetime achievement in the history of Christian worship, a banquet

will be held in his honor on Friday, August 27, in Columbia.

- Dr. Max Rogland, Assistant Professor of Old Testament (Columbia Campus) published the following:
  - Article, “*makrothymein* in Ben Sira 35:19 and Luke 18:7: A Lexicographical Note”, *Novum Testamentum* 51.3 (2009) 296-301.
  - Article “The Covenant in the Book of Job” for the fall 2009 issue of *Criswell Theological Review*.
  - Review of A. Berlejung and P. Van Hecke (eds.), *The Language of Qohelet in Its Context: Essays in Honour of Prof. A. Schoors on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday* (Leuven, 2007) in *Review of Biblical Literature* 6/2009 [www.bookreviews.org].
  - Article “Interpreting ‘ed in Genesis 2:5-6: Neglected Rabbinic and Intertextual Evidence” in *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*.
  - Article “The Covenant in the Book of Job”, *Criswell Theological Review* 7.1 (2009) 49-62.
  - Review of R. Blake, *Brave New Digital Classroom. Technology and Foreign Language Learning* (Washington D.C., 2008), *Teaching Theology and Religion* 13.1 (2010) 78-79.
  - Review of J. DeRouchie, *A Call to Covenant Love. Text Grammar and Literary Structure in Deuteronomy 5-11* (Piscataway, 2007), *Review of Biblical Literature* 10/2009 [www.bookreviews.org].
  - Review of M. Barker, *Temple Themes in Christian Worship* (London, 2007), *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 52.3 (2009) 583-85.
  - Presented “The *Shema* and the Commandment: An Integrated Reading of Deuteronomy 6”, Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting, Pentateuch unit, November 17-20, 2009 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
  - Presented “Did Moses Take a Tent? Re-reading the Verb Forms in Exodus 33.7-11 and Their Significance for the Golden Calf Pericope”, Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, Pentateuch unit, November 21-24, 2009 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

- Dr. Mark Ross, Associate Dean for the Columbia campus and Associate Professor of Systematic published the following:
  - An article in the September 2009 *Tabletalk* magazine for Ligonier Ministries, "In Essential Things, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity."
  - A chapter to Volume III of *The Westminster Confession into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Ligon Duncan, ed. (Christian Focus Publications), "Improving the Means of Grace: The Larger Catechism on Spiritual Growth." The publication was released in September.
- Dr. George Schwab, Professor of Old Testament, contributed the following literary works:
  - Commentary on Proverbs in the Cornerstone Biblical Commentary Series.
  - Manuscript for his upcoming commentary on the book of Ruth in Zondervan's new Expositor series.
  - Approximately 25,000 words on two dozen essays for Baker Books' upcoming Bible Dictionary.
  - "God as Healer: A Closer Look at Biblical Images of Healing with Guiding Questions for Counselors." *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*. Co-authored with Phil Monroe, Psy.D.
  - Manuscript for a chapter of an upcoming book exploring John Calvin's exegesis of the prophetic books of the Bible.
  - Received a contract from Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing to write a stand-alone book on the Book of Judges.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Neely Gaston, D.D.  
Executive Vice President  
Erskine Theological Seminary

|   |  |  |            |  |                                  |
|---|--|--|------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  <b>ERSKINE</b><br>COLLEGE |  |  <b>ERSKINE</b><br>THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY |            | <i>Forever Connected</i><br>CHRIST   LEARNING   LIFE | <i>For Christ and His Church</i> |
|   |  | BOARD  | BOARD      | BOARD  |                                  |
|   |  | APPROVED   | APPROVED   | APPROVED   |                                  |
|   |  | 2008-2009  | 2009-2010  | 2010-2011  |                                  |
|   |  | BUDGET   | BUDGET     | BUDGET   |                                  |
| <b>REVENUES AND OTHER ADDITIONS</b>   |  |  |            |  |                                  |
| Tuition, fees, room, and board  |  | 19,037,695   | 20,534,095 | 21,997,125   |                                  |
| Less: Scholarships and Financial Aid  |  | 7,297,500  | 8,590,653  | 9,124,454  |                                  |
| Net Tuition, fees, room, and board  |  | 11,740,195   | 11,943,442 | 12,872,671   |                                  |
| Endowment income  |  | 3,332,139  | 3,127,067  | 3,052,067  |                                  |
| Annual Fund   |  | 885,812  | 943,625    | 943,625  |                                  |
| General Synod   |  | 614,188  | 556,375    | 556,375  |                                  |
| Sales-Bookstore   |  | 430,000  | 430,000    | 460,000  |                                  |
| Other income  |  | 584,316  | 945,868    | 367,000  |                                  |
|   |  | 17,586,650   | 17,946,377 | 18,251,738   |                                  |
| <b>EXPENSES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS</b>  |  |  |            |  |                                  |
| Salaries and benefits   |  | 10,188,040   | 10,387,161 | 10,203,396   |                                  |
| Operating expenses - (instructional & institutional)  |  | 6,954,718  | 7,259,216  | 7,588,342  |                                  |
| Bookstore   |  | 300,000  | 300,000    | 310,000  |                                  |
| Contingency   |  | 100,000  | -          | 150,000  |                                  |
|   |  | 17,542,758   | 17,946,377 | 18,251,738   |                                  |
| <b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>   |  |  |            |  |                                  |
|   |  | 43,892   | -          | -  |                                  |

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

1. That recommendation Number 1 be adopted.
2. That recommendation Number 2 be adopted.
3. That recommendation Number 3 be adopted.

In addition, the **Moderator's Committee on Erskine recommends:**

4. That a season of prayer and fasting for Erskine College and Seminary be held in the churches of the presbyteries in the ARP Synod.

An amendment to recommendation Number 1 was offered.

An amendment to the amendment was proposed. The amendment to the amendment was adopted that any funds which arrive at Erskine designated for legal defense not be forwarded to any other entity but be returned to the sender.

The order of the day for lunch was called.

The morning session closed with prayer and the blessing by Mark J. Miller

**Thursday, June 10, 2:00 p.m.**

Patrick D. Malphrus led the afternoon worship service.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, G. J. Gerard presented the Report of the **Committee on Nominations**.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

The Committee on Nominations met on Monday, February 8, 2010, at 9:30 am EST at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

Present were:

- Rev. G. J. Gerard, Northeast Presbytery
- Rev. Henry Bartsch, Canadian Presbytery
- Dr. Bob Cara, First Presbytery
- Rev. Tom Shoger, Second Presbytery
- Rev. Jack Coad, Florida Presbytery
- Rev. Kyle Sims, Catawba
- Mr. Fred Hartin, Tennessee-Alabama
- Rev. Howard Wheeler, Mississippi Valley
- Ms. Nancy Corbitt, WM Rep., attending for Lee Campbell.

Absent:

- Bill Harris, VA Presbytery
- Moderator, Dr. J. R. DeWitt
- Vice Moderator & Moderator Elect, Stephen Maye

Also Attending:

- Mr. Paul Bell, Dir. Central Services

Following introductions, Rev. Jack Coad gave a devotional message from Romans 8:35-39 and Ephesians 1:4-5 and led in prayer. Rev. Gerard determined that a quorum was present. After procedural comments from Rev. Gerard, the nominations process began, working on a consensus basis. The Committee recessed at noon for lunch, with Howard Wheeler asking the Lord's blessing of the meal. The meeting resumed following lunch with prayer offered by Bob Cara.

The following officers were elected for 2011:

- G. J. Gerard, Chairman,
- Henry Bartsch, Vice Chairman,
- Howard Wheeler, Secretary

Next stated meeting of the Nominations Committee will be Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. The deadline for submission of nominations for 2011 will be January 9, 2011.

The Committee agreed to meet by teleconference call to complete its work to secure nominees for all vacancies, and set a tentative date of Monday, May 10, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. EDT for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. with prayer offered by Henry Bartsch.

Additional meetings were held by teleconference on May 3, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. EDT and again on June 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. EDT to complete the work of the committee.

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, 2010, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected.

The Nominations Committee expresses its appreciation to all those who were recommended to us and expressed a willingness to serve.

#### **Benefits**

2013 - Earl Linderman

2016 - Lissa Shine, Helen Fields (WM)

#### **Bonclarken**

2016 - Marshall W. Welch, Ernie Cooper, William B. Patrick, Jr.

#### **Christian Education Ministries**

2011 - Carole Ellis

2014(\*) - Amanda Ghent, Ike Hughes

2016 - Bill Warner

\* Pending Synod 2010 approval of CEM recommendation for board expansion.

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2011 – Charles F. Edgar (TA), \_\_\_\_\_(S)

2012 - David Vance (V) Unknown: (P), \_\_\_\_\_(A), Kim Payne (FL)

2013 - Clint Davis (C)

2014 - \_\_\_\_\_(F), \_\_\_\_\_(MV), Robert Whittet (NE)

#### **Erskine**

2011- Ann Marie Tribble

2016 – Andrew Putnam, Bobby McDonald, David Conner, Tim Watson, Dixon Cunningham,

#### **Outreach North America**

2016 – John Kim

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2011 – Brian Murray (A), Rick Lewis (F)

2012 – David Wharf (V)

2013 -- Martin Taylor (C)

2016 – Mike Jones (FL), TJ Gentry (MV), Charles Roberts/David Johnston (NE), Mark Wright (S), Steve

Weber (TA), \_\_\_\_\_(P)

#### **Stewardship**

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2011 – H. Paul Matthews (NE)

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

2013 – Don Hampton (V) \_\_\_\_\_(P), \_\_\_\_\_(A)

Kerry Ptacek (TA)

2016 - \_\_\_\_\_(F), \_\_\_\_\_(MV), Michael Horne (S)

#### **The Associate Reformed Presbyterian**

2013 – Charles Walden

2016 – Joel Reed

#### **William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc.**

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2016 – \_\_\_\_\_(P)

#### **World Witness**

2016 - Jack Grier, Jennie Costner

#### **Ecclesiastical Commission On Judiciary Affairs**

2014 - Doug Jones, Peter Tae Mun Lee

**Inter-Church Relations**

2016 - Robert E. Patrick, III

**Investment Committee**

2013 – Matt Wylie

2015 – Mike Cruce

**Lay Ministry**

2011 - \_\_\_\_\_

2012 – Patsy Ratchford

2013 – Andy Scott, Carlene Shafer, Randy Foster, Charles Paxton

**Theological and Social Concerns**

2014 – William VanDoodewaard, Bill Stanley

**Worship**

2011 - \_\_\_\_\_

2014 – Jane Shelton Dale, Joyce Edgar, Rob Roy McGregor, III

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

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2011 - Charles Todd (M)

2012 - David Blugerman (V), John Cook (S), Charles F. Edgar (T),  
\_\_\_\_\_(P), David Rockness (FL)

William Sutherland and Fred S. Carr (NE)

2013 - \_\_\_\_\_(F), \_\_\_\_\_(A) David Lauten (C)

**Committee on Nominations**

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2011 – Bill Harris (V), Henry Bartsch (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (P) Tom Shoger (S)

2013 – Kyle E. Sims (C), Lee Campbell (WM), John “Jac” Coad

2014 – Fred Hartin (TA), Howard Wheeler (M), G.J. Gerard (NE)

Officers for July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011:

G.J. Gerard, Chairman; Henry Bartsch, Vice-Chairman; Howard Wheeler, Secretary

**Executive Board**

Presbytery appointees/representatives reported as information:

2011 – H. Max Bolin (V), Peter Waid (S), Drew Severance (F)

2012 – James S. Kidd (T) \_\_\_\_\_(P)

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

2014 – Robert Alexander (C), Drew Severance (FL), Jeff Kingswood (A)



**Officers of Synod:**

2012 — Principal Clerk: Ron Beard

2014 — Reading Clerk: Charles Edgar

**Bill Clerk:** Leland Beaudrot

**Treasurer:** Guy H. Smith, III

**Historian:** Bryan McKown

The Nominations packets for 2011 will be mailed in September 2010. Next stated meeting of the Nominations Committee will be Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. The deadline for submission of nominations for 2011 will be January 9, 2011.

**Recommendations:**

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. That each presbytery consider making Recommendations for Service during their Fall meetings.
5. That Sessions consider making Recommendations for Service during their November and December meetings.

6. 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.
7. That the General Synod authorize \$6,000 for Committee expenses in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
G. J. Gerard, Chairman

Recommendations were taken one at the time.  
Recommendation one was presented, debated and adopted.  
Recommendation two was presented, debated and adopted.  
Recommendations three through seven were adopted.

A motion carried that in the future the Committee on Nominations be required to provide the court with an answer from Erskine nominees on the question "What do you understand to be the role of a trustee of Erskine College and Seminary?"

Synod voted by secret ballot for the election of Moderator.

Andrew K. Putnam was elected to the office of Moderator of General Synod 2011. Vice Moderator Patrick escorted the Moderator-Elect to the podium. Moderator-Elect Putnam addressed the Synod:

*Mr. Moderator, fathers and brethren. I want to thank those who nominated me for the kind words. Early today I sat in the back listening to all the things that were said. I felt like I was at my own funeral..... and now (that I'm elected)...*

*I want to begin by reading from scripture. As we know this to be God's Word, we must demonstrate this knowledge by what we say and do.*

Ephesians 4:14-16

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

I serve as the Senior Pastor at Tirzah ARP church. It's an interesting congregation. It was established in 1803, making it the same age as the denomination. It has seen its share of good times and bad, ups and downs (and left and rights). The past few years have been exciting. A few weeks back I had a senior lady in the church come up to me after the service. It had been a busy day at Tirzah, we had just had our 12th baptism of this year- and the dear widow looked around and said to me "I GUESS THE OLD GIRL CAN STILL DANCE...." (Admittedly, it was a bit awkward, since I thought she was talking about herself.) But she was talking about the church... It still had a future, its best days may still be ahead of her....

Ten years from now will be 2020 (I'm sure others will use this theme). Since we are at Bonclarken, it's a great place to get a "good clear vision," a 2020 vision.

IN 10 YEARS, what will the ARP denomination look like?

Will it be a fractured group of congregations, fighting to survive while fighting each other?

Will it even exist? (Instead of having merged or dissolved into other, younger denominations)

Ten years from now will be 2020. For a moment, imagine a different option- a better way....

In the year 2020, Erskine college is dedicating its newest dormitory. It's not replacing an old building, but needs the space for more students. She has become the college that everyone dreamed she could; a place where there is a FUSION of the Christian faith, a liberal arts education, of community, love and respect. A place where students are challenged, yet also built up and equipped for their respective callings, families, and futures. An institution that is not LIKE some other school, but instead is the one that EVERYONE ELSE WANTS TO IMITATE.

In 2020, Outreach North America has established its 20th new congregation in 10 years. I'm not talking about small groups that are organized rather than shut down, but 20 congregations with over 100 active members each.

*Bringing the good news and our distinctive Reformed heritage into new cities for Christ....*

*In 2020, World Witness has established 20 new mission fields, in places where we have never been before. Our small country churches are leading the way: using the internet, they partner with the new works in amazing ways, going live to the mission field with 2-way video and keeping both groups updated through email and social networks. They may not have new folks moving into their area, so they have moved around the world. This is not science fiction; we've been doing it for years at Tirzah.*

*Imagine the things GOD can do with the ARP. This is a new day, and He can do amazing things. What may seem impossible to us is simple and possible to God. I know he can do amazing things!*

*Now, we have to live this passage like never before.*

*We have to RESPECT that God is working in different ways in our brothers & sisters (after all, we are each different parts of the body). The scripture teaches us that when we work together there is growth and edification.*

*The key to this is (there is no easy way to say it) we have to GROW UP.*

*We have to GROW UP and avoid the immature desire to be popular with the world, to try and act like everyone else, or to be carried to and fro with the latest FAD or theology.*

*We have to GROW UP and put away our childish ways of fighting and fussing, of name calling and squabbling, of selfishly acting like if we don't get our way, we'll take our ball and go home! Whether it's on Facebook, email, blogs, phones, texting or even "face to face" (people still talk that way)....*

*We need to GROW UP and act like ELDERS of the CHURCH that GOD has entrusted us with!*

*We need to model Christ to all we encounter, even each other.*

*You see I believe that our best days can still be ahead of us.*

*I believe "the old girl can still dance."*

*Thank you.*

-Andrew Putnam

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2011.

Moderator-Elect Putnam nominated Paul Patrick who was elected by acclamation.

Two motions were made by Andrew Putnam and adopted:

- 1) That upon becoming Moderator-Elect, the Synod accept my resignation

as Parliamentarian, effective July 1, and that the Rev. Vaughn Hathaway be selected to fill the unexpired term (2013).

2) That I remain on the Committee to Revise *The Form of Government*, but that the Moderator select a new chairman.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Erskine College** was reopened. The first amendment was reread and debated. The amendment was defeated.

Recommendation One was adopted.

Recommendation Two was adopted.

Recommendation Three was adopted.

Recommendation Four was adopted.

A motion was made and adopted that the independent auditing firm of Elliott Davis & Company be tasked by the Board of Trustees of Erskine College with investigating the issue of money being sent to Erskine for "defense funds" and that the report to the board be made available to General Synod.

The following motion was made and adopted:

WHEREAS the Synod celebrates the election of Dr. David Norman to be the fifteenth president of Erskine College and Seminary, and that by the unanimous support of the Board;

WHEREAS the election and unanimous support of Dr. Norman

constituted a signal event in the midst of the recent controversies,

AND WHEREAS Dr. Norman, who begins his tenure on July 1, 2010, should be afforded the opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the issues at hand and to work towards solutions that will strengthen the relationship between Erskine College and Seminary and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod and united them in a common mission;

THEREFORE,

1) for the sake of taking seriously Jesus' command to "agree with your adversary quickly while you are on the way" (Matthew 5:25),  
2) and for the sake of giving Dr. Norman the opportunity to influence positively the relationship between the Board of Erskine College and Seminary and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod,

The Synod asks the Board of Erskine College and Seminary to work with the new president to  
1) develop specific plans for addressing the issues raised by the Moderator's Commission (including financial integrity, conflicts of interest, integration of faith and learning, board training, and other issues raised by the Commission);  
2) to develop a plan for reducing

the size of the Board; and  
3) to bring these proposals before  
the Synod at the June 2011 meeting.

A motion was made. An amendment was proposed. An amendment to the amendment was proposed.

The order of the day was called, and the Moderator expressed special thanks to Randy Ruble on behalf of the General Synod.

The afternoon session closed with prayer and the blessing by Robert E. Patrick, III.

**Thursday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.**

Robert E. Patrick, III led the final opening worship service.

The motion on the floor at the close of the afternoon service and the proposed amendments were brought back to the floor.

A Motion carried that the motion and the amendments on the floor be postponed indefinitely.

A Motion carried:

WHEREAS, in recognition of the unanimous election of Dr. David A. Norman as president of Erskine College and of the Executive Committee's strong affirmation of support for the existing governance relationship between Erskine and the ARP Church;

Now, THEREFORE, the Synod states and establishes that, contingent upon the plaintiffs dismissing the lawsuit against the General Synod and the General Synod not being required to pay any of the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees, the Erskine Board of Trustees as now constituted (taking account of the

change in its composition with the seating on July 1 of the trustees elected by the General Synod today) is recognized by the General Synod as the duly appointed and constituted board of Erskine College and Seminary.

FURTHER, the General Synod states and establishes that it has no intention to remove said Erskine trustees pursuant to its March 3, 2010, recommendation #2, which named an interim board.

A motion carried that allowed dissenters to the previous motion to sign and be recorded as such.

William C. Marsh  
Kenneth J. McMullen  
Patrick J. Gretzinger  
Charles W. Wilson  
Nathan McCall  
John R. de Witt  
Rob Roy McGregor  
Morrie Lawing  
Scott Robar  
William Van Doodewaard  
Justin Hilliard  
Nathan M. Frazier  
James A. Loughner  
Patrick Malphrus  
William Anderson  
R. Alvin Sell  
Bill Slattery  
Stephen M. Crotts  
Paul Mulner  
Sam Robinson



A Motion carried that the Moderator appoint a committee to write for the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* a procedure for removing Synod-appointed agency trustees with cause, to be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration.

A Motion carried that the comments of Mr. Patrick and Mr. Wingate regarding their combined motion be added to the Minutes of Synod.

(As far as possible, the following represents those remarks.)

Mr. Moderator:

*I make the following substitute motion:*

*"WHEREAS, in recognition of the unanimous election of Dr. David A. Norman as president of Erskine College and of the Executive Committee's strong affirmation of support for the existing governance relationship between Erskine and the ARP Church; NOW, THEREFORE, the Synod states and establishes that, contingent upon the Plaintiffs' dismissing the lawsuit against the General Synod and the General Synod not being required to pay any of the Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees, the Erskine Board of Trustees as now constituted (taking account of the change in its composition with the seating on July 1 of the Trustees elected by the General Synod today) is recognized by the General Synod as the duly appointed and constituted Board of Erskine College and Seminary.*

*Further, the General Synod states and establishes that it has no intention to remove said Erskine Trustees pursuant to its March 3, 2010, recommendation #2, which named an interim board."*

*This motion is made jointly by me and Mr. Bill Patrick.*

*Several factors contribute to my support for this Motion, including, most significantly, the recent hiring of Dr. David Norman as president of Erskine College and Seminary. I believe that all the delegates to Synod earnestly desire to give him an opportunity to develop a plan for implementation of the downsizing of the Erskine Board of Trustees and for adoption of effective poli-*

*cies which are aligned with and advance the objectives set forth in Erskine's current mission statement and in Synod's Philosophy of Christian Higher Education. According to the resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 19, 2010, this is their good faith intention.*

*I would also remind the delegates that earlier today Synod has already adopted the following motion:*

*"The Synod asks the Board of Erskine College and Seminary to work with the new president to (1) develop specific plans for addressing the issues raised by the Moderator's Commission (including financial integrity, conflicts of interest, integration of faith and learning, board training, and other issues raised by the Commission); (2) to develop a plan for reducing the size of the Board; and (3) to bring these proposals before the Synod at the June 2011 meeting."*

*This motion that Mr. Patrick and I are now presenting would be strictly contingent on two conditions: the Plaintiffs (Dr. Taylor, Dr. Young and Mr. Chestnut) voluntarily dismissing their pending lawsuit against the Church "with prejudice" – that is, with finality – and also the Plaintiffs being responsible for their own attorney's fees and costs incurred in connection with the lawsuit.*

*The adoption of our Motion would only be a retraction of recommendation #2 of the Moderator's Commission as adopted by the General Synod on March 3, 2010, which removed the then-current Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Seminary and sought to replace it with an interim board.*

*The other recommendations of the Moderator's Commission, as adopted by General Synod on March 3, 2010, would not be affected in any way by this Motion, and would remain in full force and effect.*

*The bottom line in this Motion is that General Synod will not seek to remove the current Board (taking into account the seating on July 1 of the trustees elected today by the General Synod) and it is recognized as the lawful Board of Erskine College and Seminary.*

*Please notice that the Motion also contains a specific reference to the Executive Committee's strong affirmation of support for the existing governance relationship between Erskine and the ARP Church, whereby the Church appoints all of the trustees and will continue to do so in the future.*

*I make this Motion, in large part, because of the practical impossibility of moving forward with board changes in light of the injunction issued by the circuit court, the pending appeal of such Order to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, and the attendant burden on Synod for the cost of legal fees to defend*

*this action. It would be a year, more or less, before the Court of Appeals rules on the preliminary matter, then the case would be remanded to the circuit court for a trial on the merits. It could easily be four or five years before we know with certainty whether the General Synod has the authority to not only appoint the trustees of Erskine but also to remove the trustees, with or without cause, pursuant to South Carolina law.*

*The cumulative effect of the legal fees to the General Synod and the possible loss or suspension of accreditation for the institution in the meantime, in my opinion, makes the legal battle not worth the cost.*

*Again, the other recommendations of the Moderator's Commission as adopted by General Synod on March 3, 2010, remain in full force and effect. Those include recommendation #1 (downsizing the board), #3 (nominations of Erskine trustees to the Committee on Nominations by the five prior moderators) and #4 (qualifications for new board members).*

*We are all committed to maintaining and enhancing Erskine's faithfulness to the Scriptures, integrity in all financial matters, and effectiveness of the Board. The key will always be securing the appointment of trustees who are competent, independent and engaged. For the sake of unity and in an expression of willingness to allow Dr. Norman and the Board to continue to resolve these matters, I speak in favor of the substitute motion.*

Kenneth B. Wingate

A Motion carried that the remarks of the Moderator-Elect be printed in the Minutes of Synod and that a copy be sent to the ARP magazine.

A Motion carried that the Moderator appoint a committee to:

1) provide immediate ecclesiastical oversight and support of the Erskine Campus Minister for the purpose of maintaining and ensuring that the Synod's interests and expectations in having and funding an ARP campus minister at Erskine are maintained, and

2) that the committee investigate ways for a permanent structure and system of ecclesiastical oversight of our campus minister and his ministry at Erskine, and that the committee report back to the General Synod with these recommendations at a future stated meeting of General Synod.

A Motion was made that the 206<sup>th</sup> General Synod immediately declare that the civil action of taking the body of Christ into the civil courts as an egregious sin and call all those men who have filed suit against the Synod to repent of their sin.

A challenge to the presence of a quorum at this Session was made. A quorum consists of ministers and elders from three or more presbyteries, one-fourth of the Ministers of the General Synod and Elders from one-fourth of the churches. The actual numbers required for a quorum, assuming three Presbyteries, are 114 ministers and 73 elders. The quorum count indicated that the three Presbytery requirement for both were met, but there was an insufficient number of ruling elders present.

Lacking a quorum, the business of Synod ceased.

Athole Rennie gave an update on the Leith church plant in Scotland.

Those assembled sang the song of Christian Unity, Psalm 133 and a benediction was pronounced by John R. de Witt.

**FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY**, following are the official board reports submitted along with the Moderator Committee recommendations (denoted in bold). No action was taken on these reports or the Moderator Committee recommendations at the June 2010 Stated Meeting of General Synod.

### **THE 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 once since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its actions and activities and presents the recommendations of the Executive Board to the General Synod. 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:

#### Referrals:

The matter of consideration of a decade theme for the General Synod has not been done. The consideration of such a theme was referred to the Strategic Planning Committee for subsequent report to the Executive Board.

In response to a request from World Witness with regard to the meaning of the modes of Baptism, the Executive Board requested that the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns examine the subject and report its findings to the General Synod.

#### Actions of the board:

The monthly emphases for the year have not yet been made available. The Women's Ministries request for clarification of the status of Womens' Ministries and consideration of Women's Ministries support from the Denominational Ministry funds was again discussed. The Moderator informed the board that the appointment of the ad hoc committee to address the concerns has not been done. (The recommendation is repeated in the recommendations of this report.)

With regard to a matter in civil court, the Moderator is to appoint a liaison committee to communicate between the attorneys and the Executive Committee of the ARP Synod, Inc. (GSARPC, Inc.)

The Executive Board received oral reports from the Moderator, the Principal Clerk, the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, the Committee to Revise the Form of Government, the Boards and Committees of Synod, the presbyteries, and individual members of the Board. The reports were received as information.

As a part of the Committee on Administration of the Executive Board report, three items brought by Executive Director of Central Services, Paul Bell were noted and the Board acted to place them in the body of this report. They are as follows:

*Our small denomination is blessed to have so many talented and willing volunteers serving at all levels of our work, and while the work done is admirable, there are three readily evident obstacles to greater efficiency:*

*1) Lack of awareness--and lack of utilization--of resources that already exist within the denomination. A major emphasis of my coordination efforts is linking agencies and committees to one another in order that they might join, rather than duplicate, efforts. This lack of awareness causes us to spend time "reinventing wheels" and is especially evident at the committee level.*

*2) Looking backward – A number of our boards and committees drive by looking in the rearview mirror. Our requirement that Synod reports follow the framework in the Manual of Authorities and Duties, while helpful in one regard, also tends to make for backward-looking reports. Instead of receiving reports that cast a vision for the future, we end up with a summary of actions taken since the prior Synod meeting.*

*3) Inertia between meetings – Very few of our boards have committees that are active between stated meetings. Subsequently, meeting time is wasted in getting "up to speed" again, reviewing what was supposed to have been accomplished since the last meeting, and basically starting over. Such a practice makes for little, if any progress, and creates frustration for agency directors.*

In addition, Mr. Bell noted that the Office of Central Services had been instructed by the Committee on Organization to provide publications assistance to the agencies of the denomination. The original goal was to have a Director of Publications on staff by 2010. The office had moved forward with the recommendation and had, in fact, planned to initiate the position in 2009. Lack of sufficient funding has delayed implementation of the proposed plan, and further study indicates that the realm of responsibility should not be limited to print publications

only but should also include all official communications on behalf of the General Synod. The position would function more as a director of public relations than simply a director of publications. Funding will determine when such a plan can be put into place.

Northeast Presbytery reported on the status of the transfer of Korean congregations into Northeast Presbytery. The Executive Board was informed by the presbytery that the American Theological Seminary located within its boundaries has no official standing in the ARPC. The Executive Board voted to recommend to the Synod that the Ecclesiastical Commission be appointed to examine, consider, and conclude matters with regard to the relationship of Pacific Presbytery to the General Synod.

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 The ARP Center Facility, Central Services and the Executive Board be approved.
2. That the Emphasis for 2010-2011, "The Spirit-illuminated Word," be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination.
3. A motion with regard to the *Form of Government*, Chapter XIII, C, 3. That section 3 noted above be deleted from the *Form of Government*, and replaced with the following:
 

"A special meeting of the General Synod may be called only in a time of emergency and in the following manner: The Executive Board shall issue a call for a special meeting, at the official request of at least four presbyteries or upon its own initiative with the concurrence of at least four presbyteries. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each session not less than thirty(30) days in advance. The purpose of the meeting shall be as stated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted. Motions or recommendations with regard to the stated purpose of the meeting shall be distributed to all ministers and sessions at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting in order to be considered. (This does not preclude motions coming as a result of deliberations at the meeting.) In addition to all ministers of the General Synod, all congregations shall be represented by ruling elders in accordance with the *Form of Government* Chapter XIII, C, 1."
4. That the Moderator appoint an ad hoc committee to address the concerns with regard to clarification of the status of Women's

Ministries and consideration of requesting Women's Ministries support from the Denominational Ministry funds. (Repeated recommendation.)

5. That the Pacific Presbytery situation be referred to the Ecclesiastical Commission with the instruction to examine, consider and conclude matters with regard to the relationship of Pacific Presbytery to the General Synod.
6. That First Presbytery be the holding presbytery for churches and missions in Scotland until such time as it is feasible to organize a Scottish Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard de Witt, Moderator  
C.R. Beard, Principal Clerk

#### CENTRAL SERVICES

|                                | <b><u>2010 Synod Approved</u></b> | <b><u>2011 Proposed</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                |                                   |                             |
| <b>Current Funds</b>           | 14.62%                            | 3.07%                       |
| Denominational Ministry Funds  | \$ 311,691                        | \$ 295,920                  |
| Allocation of Invested Reserve | -                                 | -                           |
| AS Copier & Postage Reimburse  | 37,280                            | 39,520                      |
| Miscellaneous Sales & Services | -                                 | -                           |
| Operating Fund Interest        | -                                 | (200)                       |
| Total Current Funds            | \$ 348,971                        | \$ 335,240                  |
| <b>Agency Support</b>          |                                   |                             |
| Board of Benefits              | \$ 118,990                        | \$ 116,308                  |
| ARP Foundation                 | 3,750                             | 3,750                       |
| W. H. Dunlap Fund              | 4,250                             | 4,250                       |
| Other Agencies                 | -                                 | -                           |
| Total Agency Support           | \$ 126,990                        | \$ 124,308                  |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>          | \$ 475,962                        | \$ 459,548                  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                | 3.00%                             | 2.00%                       |
| Total Salary and Benefits      | \$ 395,219                        | \$ 391,261                  |
| <b>Staff &amp; Program</b>     |                                   |                             |
| Workman's Compensation         | \$ 2,063                          | \$ 2,069                    |
| Director Travel & Expenses     | 1,800                             | 2,000                       |
| Staff Travel & Expenses        | 1,800                             | 2,000                       |
| Training                       | 1,850                             | 1,900                       |
| Contract Employees             | 1,800                             | -                           |
| Total Staff & Program          | \$ 9,313                          | \$ 7,969                    |



2010 Synod Approved    2011 Proposed

|                                |            |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Equipment</b>               |            |            |
| Lease                          |            |            |
| Copiers (AS Exp Reimb)         | \$ 21,120  | \$ 18,500  |
| Postage Meter/Scales (AS Exp R | 2,710      | \$ 2,700   |
| Equipment Purchase             | 3,000      | 2,000      |
| Total Equipment                | \$ 26,830  | \$ 23,200  |
| <b>General Office</b>          |            |            |
| Software Maintenance           | \$ 4,120   | \$ 4,200   |
| Internet                       | 1,030      | 850        |
| Online payment service fees    | 150        | 1,500      |
| Basic Telephone                | 3,090      | 2,450      |
| Long Distance                  | 100        | 50         |
| ARP Synod Web Page design &    | 770        | 750        |
| Office Supplies                | 10,920     | 12,000     |
| Advance Purchase for Services  |            |            |
| Postage (AS Exp Reimb)         | 18,540     | 16,000     |
| UPS                            | 2,580      | 2,000      |
| Paper (AS Exp Reimb)           | 3,300      | 3,000      |
| Total General Office           | \$ 44,600  | \$ 42,800  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | \$ 475,962 | \$ 465,230 |
|                                |            |            |
| <b>Net Income (Loss)</b>       | \$0        | (\$5,682)  |
| Beginning Fund Balance         | \$0        | \$5,682    |
| <b>Ending Fund Balance</b>     | \$0        | \$0        |

| ARP Synod   |                     |                 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| CENTER FACILITY                                   |                     |                 |
| Summary of Financial Result and Budget Comparison |                     |                 |
|   | 2010 Synod Approved | 2011 Proposed   |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                                   |                     |                 |
| General Synod Allocation                          | \$16,000            | \$15,216        |
| Rent  |                     |                 |
| CEM   | 9,798               | 10,190          |
| Outreach North America                            | 9,147               | 9,513           |
| The ARP   | 5,880               | 6,115           |
| World Witness                                     | 19,336              | 20,109          |
| Non-Synod Agencies                                |                     |                 |
| 201   | 1,651               | 1,700           |
| 202   | 5,934               | 6,112           |
| 203   | 0                   | 0               |
| 204   | 3,170               | 5,592           |
| Interest and Miscellaneous                        |                     |                 |
| Interest  | 100                 | 25              |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                             | <b>\$71,016</b>     | <b>\$74,572</b> |

|                                 | <u>2010 Synod Approved</u> | <u>2011 Proposed</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b><u>Expenses</u></b>          |                            |                      |
| Facility Management             |                            |                      |
| Staff & General Office          | \$2,000                    | \$2,000              |
| Expendable Supplies             | 750                        | 1,000                |
| Repairs & Maintenance           | 5,000                      | 6,000                |
| Facility Management             | \$7,750                    | \$9,000              |
| Facility Maintenance            |                            |                      |
| Garbage Pick-Up                 | \$1,000                    | \$1,150              |
| Yard Maintenance                | 5,400                      | 5,600                |
| Heating & Air Conditioning      | 7,000                      | 7,000                |
| Janitorial Services             | 13,000                     | 12,250               |
| Security Monitoring Fees        | 300                        | 260                  |
| Pest Control                    | 310                        | 320                  |
| Facility Maintenance            | \$27,010                   | \$26,580             |
| Utilities                       |                            |                      |
| Electricity                     | \$20,500                   | \$20,500             |
| Gas                             | 13,000                     | 13,000               |
| Water & Sewer                   | 1,300                      | 1,300                |
| Utilities                       | \$34,800                   | \$34,800             |
| Building, Equipment & Furniture | \$1,500                    | 1,500                |
| Contingency                     | \$2,000                    | \$2,692              |
|                                 |                            |                      |
| <b>TOTAL Expenses</b>           | <b>\$73,060</b>            | <b>\$74,572</b>      |
| <b>Net Income (Loss)</b>        | <b>(\$2,044)</b>           | <b>0</b>             |
| Beginning Fund Balance          | \$2,371                    | \$9,995              |
| <b>Ending Fund Balance</b>      | <b>\$327</b>               | <b>\$9,995</b>       |

| <b>EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD</b>            |                                |                          |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | <b>2010 Synod<br/>Approved</b> | <b>2011<br/>Proposed</b> |
| <b><u>Revenues</u></b>                     |                                |                          |
| General Synod Allocation                   | \$ 88,690                      | \$ 93,455                |
| GS Contingency Allocation                  | 25,000                         | -                        |
| Minutes & Plan Book Sales                  | 750                            | 800                      |
| General Synod Registration                 | 14,805                         | 16,250                   |
| Moderator Honorariums Received             |                                |                          |
| Reimbursement for ARPWM Admin Salary & Tax | 18,220                         | 22,270                   |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                      | <b>\$ 147,465</b>              | <b>\$ 132,775</b>        |

|   | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011<br>Proposed |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>                             |                        |                  |
| <b>General Synod Officers</b>               |                        |                  |
| Moderator                                   | \$ 4,000               | \$ 4,000         |
| Vice-Moderator                              | 500                    | 500              |
| Moderator-Elect                             | 3,000                  | 1,000            |
| Vice-Moderator Elect                        | 100                    | 100              |
| Principal Clerk                             | 5,150                  | 5,000            |
| Treasurer                                   | 3,675                  | 3,675            |
| ARPWM Administrator (will be reimbursed)    | 18,220                 | 22,270           |
| <b>Total General Synod Officers</b>         | <b>\$ 34,645</b>       | <b>\$ 36,545</b> |
| <b>Synod Coordinator</b>                    |                        |                  |
| Consulting Fees                             | \$ -                   | \$ -             |
| Reimbursed Expenses                         | 0                      | 0                |
| Miscellaneous Office Expenses               | 500                    | 200              |
| <b>Total Synod Coordinator</b>              | <b>\$ 500</b>          | <b>\$ 200</b>    |
| <b>General Synod Meeting</b>                |                        |                  |
| Program & Preparation                       | \$ 9,270               | \$ 10,850        |
| Honorariums                                 | 2,000                  | 2,000            |
| Pre-Synod Conf Honorariums                  | 3,000                  | 3,200            |
| Staff Expenses                              | 1,500                  | 1,200            |
| Service Fee-Bonclarken                      | 16,480                 | 18,480           |
| <b>Total General Synod Meeting</b>          | <b>\$ 32,250</b>       | <b>\$ 35,730</b> |
| <b>Executive Board Meeting &amp; Office</b> |                        |                  |
| Board Travel & Meeting Expense              | \$ 13,500              | \$ 4,300         |
| Strategic Planning Committee                | 5,000                  | 2,600            |
| General Office & Miscellaneous              | 1,600                  | -                |
| Executive Board-Legal                       |                        |                  |
| Committee to Plan Emphases                  | 500                    | 550              |
| <b>Total Executive Board</b>                | <b>\$ 20,600</b>       | <b>\$ 7,450</b>  |

### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

The Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* met in September 2009 at Greenville (SC) ARP Church and March 2010 via conference call. In the past year the Board has continued its primary goal of publishing the magazine both in print and online, as well as maintaining a Web page for the magazine and distributing news through the ARP News Update and Twitter.

Moderator John R. de Witt's theme for the Synod year – The Powerful Word – was carried out in the Moderator's Corner and Synod Emphasis articles. The magazine continues to spread the news of the work of Synod's agencies to our denomination in monthly articles in

the magazine. Women's Ministries pages also appear each month by the WM president, administrator and department chairmen. Space is also available to churches for special memorial and honorary tributes.

We also welcome feature articles which will inspire and encourage. News in Brief provides information and photos which include church events, minister installations, presbyteries and other news. Our Kids Talk page seems to be a hit with our senior adults as well as the youth.

New to the magazine is an article, which started as *Mystery Ministers*, written by Carolyn Beaudrot. When we ran out of ministers, it changed to *News From the Orchard*. The latter is news of interest, picked straight from church newsletters and bulletins from churches throughout our denomination. We also added a Women's Ministries section to *All in Our Family*.

A new method of giving to the magazine in the form of a "donation" line has been added to our subscription forms and on our Web site. New advertising rate sheets have been created, as rates have not increased in six years.

The magazine staff works closely with Central Services and Synod agencies to help with photos and editing when needed. We do not hesitate to seek guidance from other agency directors and staff, and they in turn know they can call on us. It's a team effort.

We continue to offer the magazine to our denomination annually for \$20 in print and \$12 online. Due to the continued reduction in the Denominational Ministries allocation, and in an effort to balance our budget and not raise subscription rates, the Board elected to drop two months of publication in February and July 2010.

The Board and staff express appreciation to Dr. Peggy Gray, who is rotating off as board member, for her years of service to the Board.

The Board welcomes Kevin Owens, who has replaced Sabrina Cooper as Designer, and Sharon Griffin replaces Carolyn Beaudrot as the new *All in Our Family* editor. A motion was approved to recognize the work of Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Beaudrot with a letter of appreciation and a gift card.

#### **Editor's Report**

The editor and assistant editor consider it a privilege to serve our denomination in producing *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* magazine to God's glory – and as a means of connecting our entire denomination.

The past year has been challenging for the staff and Board. Operating for years on a tight budget, we have continued to search for ways to cut expenditures and balance a budget already stretched beyond its limit.

At the September meeting, board members agreed that our only recourse for 2010 was to drop two months of magazine publication – one in February and one in July. We combined January and February into one magazine. The operational expenses in publishing the magazine, which increase annually, depend heavily on the Denominational Ministry Fund allocation.

The magazine has always been self-supporting, but this is now difficult, considering our low subscription base and annual increases in print and postage costs. There is also a continued decrease in the number of churches that include the magazine in their budgets. But we are hopeful that more churches will respond to promotions and a new subscription campaign strategy this year.

We are thankful for the nearly 4,000 subscriptions we maintain, which includes the online version.

In place of the regular July magazine, we will mail a free, special edition magazine on stewardship to all ARP families in our denomination. This issue, paid for by the Board of Stewardship, will be published in an effort to educate our denomination about stewardship and the Denominational Ministry Fund.

The editor firmly believes that *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* magazine is a ministry and that it plays an important role in the ARP denomination. As a primary information source which connects the entire denomination, it has the unique opportunity to provide readers with an overview of the work the Lord is doing in our denomination. It is also a source of encouragement for churches and individuals in their service to Him.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the proposed 2011 budget be approved.
2. That the report of the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* be approved.

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

| <i>The Associate Reformed Presbyterian</i> |                        |                   |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
|  | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011 Proposed     |
| <b>REVENUES</b>                            |                        |                   |
| Denominational Ministries Alloc            | \$ 99,212              | \$ 99,212         |
| ARP Promotional Income Alloc               |                        |                   |
| Miscellaneous Gifts                        | 200                    | 200               |
| WSU Contributions                          | 3,000                  | 3,000             |
| ARP Subscription Income                    | 61,840                 | 62,400            |
| Online Subscription Income                 | 5,160                  | 1,800             |
| ARP Advertisement Income                   | 12,500                 | 13,230            |
| Misc Income                                | 150                    | 100               |
| ARPWM Study Book Sales Income              | -                      | -                 |
| Interest Allocation                        | 1,280                  | 68                |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>                      | <b>\$ 183,342</b>      | <b>\$ 180,010</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                            |                        |                   |
| <b>PAYROLL &amp; STAFF BENEFITS</b>        | <b>\$ 118,359</b>      | <b>\$ 116,680</b> |
| <b>STAFF &amp; BOARD EXPENSES</b>          |                        |                   |
| Editor Expenses                            | 710                    | 2,500             |
| Staff Expenses                             | 350                    | 390               |
| Board Meeting & Travel Exp                 | 2,580                  | 1,000             |
| Dues & Membership Fees                     | 150                    | 150               |
| Clerical Help                              | 1,000                  | -                 |
| Total Staff & Board Expenses               | \$ 4,790               | \$ 4,040          |
| <b>PUBLICITY &amp; PROMOTION</b>           |                        |                   |
| Publicity & Promotion                      | 4,120                  | -                 |
| ARP News Update 800 Charges                | 40                     | 40                |
| "The ARP" Web Page                         | 850                    | 880               |
| Periodicals & Publications                 | -                      | -                 |
| Total Publicity & Promotion                | \$ 5,010               | \$ 920            |
| <b>EQUIPMENT</b>                           |                        |                   |
| Equipment Maintenance                      | -                      | -                 |
| Equipment Purchase                         | -                      | 1,500             |
| Total Equipment                            | \$ -                   | \$ 1,500          |
| <b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>                      |                        |                   |
| Internet Services                          | 260                    | 270               |
| Long Distance                              | 50                     | 630               |
| Total Communications                       | \$ 310                 | \$ 900            |

|                            | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011 Proposed     |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>       |                        |                   |
| Rent                       | 5,930                  | 6,000             |
| Office Supplies & Misc     | 2,320                  | 500               |
| Contingency                | 500                    | -                 |
| Total Miscellaneous        | \$ 8,750               | \$ 6,500          |
| <b>PRODUCTION EXPENSES</b> |                        |                   |
| Preparation & Printing     | 41,650                 | 34,450            |
| Labels and Postage         | 10,820                 | 10,380            |
| Materials and Supplies     | 520                    | -                 |
| Photography Expenses       | 720                    | 150               |
| Design Services            | 5,090                  | 4,490             |
| Total Production Expenses  | \$ 58,800              | \$ 49,470         |
| <b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>      |                        |                   |
| ARPWM Study Books          | -                      | -                 |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>      | <b>\$ 196,019</b>      | <b>\$ 180,010</b> |
| <b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>   | <b>\$ (12,677)</b>     | <b>-</b>          |
| Beginning Fund Balance     | \$ 2,418               | \$ 4,199          |
| <b>Ending Fund Balance</b> | <b>\$ (10,259)</b>     | <b>\$ 4,199</b>   |

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Stewardship 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 exists 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 Synod's Investment Committee serves 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 according 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 advocates for the ministries and programs approved by General Synod and strives to assist them in achieving their goals by working alongside them in an impartial manner.

In an effort to promote the ministries of the denomination, the Board sponsors the annual Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings in our churches. The results of the special offerings for the past five (5) years are reported here. These figures reflect only monies received through the Treasurer of Synod and do not reflect gifts sent directly to agencies.

| <b>Easter Offering</b>          | 2009          | 2008          | 2007           | 2006          | 2005          |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Stewardship Foundation          | 9,610         | 9,643         | 10,711         | 10,167        | 9,570         |
| Bonclarken                      | 13,800        | 13,640        | 14,346         | 13,574        | 12,578        |
| Christian Educations Ministries | 9,985         | 10,458        | 11,727         | 9,553         | 8,680         |
| Erskine College                 | 13,286        | 12,604        | 13,290         | 13,120        | 12,132        |
| World Witness                   | 22,309        | 24,562        | 25,734         | 23,063        | 19,905        |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                | <b>68,990</b> | <b>70,907</b> | <b>75,808</b>  | <b>69,476</b> | <b>62,865</b> |
| <b>Thanksgiving Offering</b>    |               |               |                |               |               |
| Erskine Seminary                | 9,974         | 9,037         | 13,577         | 10,569        | 8,166         |
| American Bible Society          | 4,871         | 5,178         | 7,292          | 7,947         | 5,329         |
| Outreach North America          | 11,269        | 11,910        | 18,077         | 14,603        | 10,686        |
| Christmas Benevolent Fund       | 60,913        | 64,170        | 65,695         | 58,172        | 29,687        |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                | <b>87,027</b> | <b>90,295</b> | <b>104,641</b> | <b>91,291</b> | <b>53,868</b> |

**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;**



The primary program by which funds are secured is the Denominational Ministry Fund.

The Board of Stewardship recognizes that the vast majority of our pastors and church members do not understand what the Denominational Ministry Fund is, nor its purpose. That this fund provides for the ministries of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, 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.

In giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund, churches across our Synod share in the privilege of:

- Leading people to Christ through Outreach North America's church renewal efforts and new church plants not only in the United States but also in Scotland.
- Proclaiming the Gospel in Mexico, Great Britain, Germany, Spain, and Pakistan, and to Muslims in the United States through World Witness.
- Providing sound doctrinal teaching and resources for persons of all ages through Christian Education Ministries.
- Providing scholarships to students pursuing Christian higher education at Erskine College and Theological Seminary.
- Distributing spiritually enriching information, articles, and news of our denomination through *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* magazine.
- Providing for the ongoing ministry of spiritual refreshment and renewal at Bonclarken Conference Center.
- Making possible the administrative support provided to the denomination by Central Services.
- Furthering the work of God's Kingdom through the efforts of Synod's standing and special committees, the Board of Benefits, and the Board of Stewardship.

Without the support provided through the Denominational Ministry Fund, many of the ministries of our Church simply would not exist, and others would be severely limited in their scope. It is the sincere desire of the Board of Stewardship that Associate Reformed Presbyterians will understand the blessings these ministries are to our

spiritual life and that they will view giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund as a *spiritual privilege* rather than a burden.

The Board has developed an ongoing program of stewardship education that includes:

- A special edition of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* to be mailed to all ARP households in July 2010 highlighting the ministries of Bonclarken, Erskine College and Seminary, Christian Education Ministries, Outreach North America, and World Witness. As a denomination, we are far too ignorant of the nature of the work of these agencies and the spiritual impact they are having on lives. This issue of the magazine will emphasize how your ministry dollars are used by your agencies.
- Quarterly newsletters which contain stories of how the work of our agencies are impacting lives, updates on denominational ministry giving, and stewardship training information. These newsletters will be sent to pastors, clerks of sessions, and chairmen of diaconates with the intention that the information will be shared with members of congregations.
- *In Touch with Paul*, a 13-week program of study suitable for Sunday School and fellowship groups.
- Brochures entitled "Who Do You Serve? Five Principles of Biblical Stewardship" and "Why Tithe?"

*In Touch with Paul* and the brochures referenced may be purchased through the ARP Bookstore ([www.arpbookstore.com](http://www.arpbookstore.com)).

In addition to the resources listed above, members of the Board of Stewardship are available to speak to presbyteries and congregations regarding the Denominational Ministry Fund.

**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 Denominational Ministry Fund was established by Synod in the late 1960's as a voluntary commitment, and congregations have been encouraged 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.

Until 2009 the amount of money contributed to the fund increased each year, but the *percentage* of funds contributed compared to funds available in the congregations steadily declined. In 2009 allocations to our denominational ministries were reduced by 5% to accommodate an expected decrease in giving. Through the Lord's gracious provision, giving in the last quarter of the year was stronger than expected, resulting in an increased contingency fund. Allocations to ministries remained at reduced levels, however.

Giving in 2010 is down once again. The Board of Stewardship proposes using excess revenues from the contingency fund to offset those losses so that 2010 allocations can be held at the 2009 levels. The recommended allocations of Denominational Ministry Funds are presented separately as "Allocations for Synod's Unrestricted Income."

**Please note that the Board anticipates a reduction in allocations of 4.5% in 2011.**

The original Voluntary Commitment system referenced above developed not so much out of scriptural teaching as out of the financial needs that existed at the time. This method of raising support for ministries worked quite well due to the familial nature of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in that era. Congregations displayed strong loyalties to the ministries of the Church and were willing to give sacrificially in order to fund them. Since that time, some of those loyalties have faded, some newer churches have not developed these loyalties, and without a scriptural foundation, the 20% goal garners fewer and fewer adherents.

The Board of Stewardship believes a more Biblically defensible position is the expectation that each congregation will give a tithe of its general (unrestricted) fund to the work of the denomination. Genesis 14, Genesis 28, Leviticus 27, Malachi 3 and other passages in the Old Testament speak to the importance of the tithe. Jesus Himself addressed its importance in Matthew 23, and there are numerous scriptural references that speak of giving over and beyond the tithe. If there is a scriptural standard for giving, then, it is the tithe.

Some may counter that scriptural teaching is directed toward individuals, not congregations. However, crucial to the Biblical view of social and economic life is the fact that God's people are a community—we are members one of another. This connectivity has something to say about the way we manage what God has given (cf. Acts 2: 44-47; 4: 32-35). The Kingdom of God matters more than any one person, and by extension, any congregation (Lk. 18:28-30).

In addition, just as the lesser tithes to the greater (Abraham to Melchizedek—you and I to God), so does this principle hold true for con-

gregations. A tithe to the denomination acknowledges Jesus as King and Head of the Church. I Timothy 5: 17-18 makes the principle clear that one cannot sit under the teaching and authority of a local church without supporting it financially; this same principle can be extended to the denomination.

Former Moderator Dr. Bill Kuykendall summed it up quite nicely: "it has come to be a common thing for some of us to withhold our tithes from the local church and distribute them according to our own desires. This sort of distribution is quite legitimate when we are dealing with our offerings, but our tithes belong directly to the Lord and to the causes to which He guides His Church to distribute them. If we feel that we cannot trust the local church and the denomination to be guided by His Spirit in the use of these funds, then we should seek a setting in which we can place our trust, either by seeking to change the activity of our own church by prayerful involvement in its local and denomination activities or by seeking another congregation and denomination we find trustworthy. The ARP Church has long since proved its trustworthiness and divine guidance to my satisfaction. It is my concern that we come to realize that it needs our careful attention to its rightful claims upon us, upon our time, and upon our world resources. We do not invest our tithes in ourselves. We invest them in glorifying God through His body, the church." (*The ARP Magazine*, March 1985)

In view of the scriptural teachings and thoughts cited above, the Board of Stewardship recommends to Synod:

**That all ARP congregations are expected to participate in the work and ministry of the Church by tithing the previous year's General Fund giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund. For those churches not presently tithing, the expectation will be for an increase of two percentage points in giving per year until the tithe is achieved. "Bring the full tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." (Malachi 3:10 RSV)**

The Board gratefully acknowledges the contributions of those congregations who are currently giving above 10% and respectfully requests that they continue to do so. Their contributions have been crucial to the financial health of our denominational ministries and will continue to be vital in a transition to the proposed giving level. Further, the Board wishes to point out that a tithe by all congregations

would produce \$1 million more than is currently available for our ministries.

Much concern has been expressed over payment of the legal expenses associated with the lawsuit filed against General Synod, Inc. in March of this year. The Board believes that Denominational Ministry Funds should be used for *ministry* purposes only and not for legal fees. Synod's Revolving Book Fund has accumulated significant revenues from the sale of publications. The Board recommends that up to \$100,000 of these excess revenues be designated as a legal defense fund and that the fund be open to donations from individuals wishing to make contributions. Although rarely used in recent years, the primary purpose of the Revolving Book Fund is to provide monies for the initial printing of books published by Synod. A sufficient balance will be maintained in the fund for that purpose.

**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 expresses gratitude to God for the generosity of those who have provided gifts to the denomination through bequests, trusts, and donations. The Foundation is seeking an individual or group of individuals 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](http://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, 2009 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 Ben Johnston, Martha Dees, and Eldredge Kelley.
- Officers for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011:  
Bob Elliott, Chairman  
Jeff Lipscomb, Vice Chairman  
Barry Dagenhart, Secretary
- Next meeting date: September 20 – 21, 2010

#### Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund May 2010

| Category   | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Churches meeting goal of 20%                                 | 9    | 11   | 17   | 17   | 16   |
| Churches giving 10% - 19%                                    | 36   | 34   | 45   | 48   | NA   |
| Giving percentage not determined                             | 59   | 14   | 35   | 7    | 15   |
| Remaining at same percentage                                 | 156  | 101  | 56   | 2    | 2    |
| Increased percentage level                                   | 118  | 81   | 56   | 66   | 48   |
| Increased by at least 1%                                     | 78   | 49   | 22   | 44   | 35   |
| Decreased percentage level                                   | 92   | 92   | 36   | 46   | 69   |
| Decreased giving but at 10% or above                         | 14   | 12   | 13   | 20   | 19   |
| Submitted a report but did not pledge support*               | 47   | 41   | 42   | 41   |      |
| Churches who have not submitted reports as of April 26, 2010 | 42   | 45   | 58   |      |      |

\*Of the 41 churches listed in 2009, 11 did actually make contributions to the Denominational Ministry Fund. Thirty (30) did not pledge and did not contribute.

The figures for 2010, as compared to the previous year, are based on information recorded in Statistical Reports from individual congregations. Total churches = 291.

**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 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.
3. That all ARP congregations are expected to participate in the work and ministry of the Church by tithing the previous year's General Fund giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund. For those congregations presently giving in excess of 10% we are eternally grateful and encourage you to continue to receive God's gracious blessing in giving at your current level. For those congregations not presently tithing, the expectation in 2011 will be for an increase of two percentage points in giving per year until the tithe is achieved. **"Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10 RSV.**
4. That General Synod authorize the Board of Stewardship to allocate up to \$100,000 from the Revolving Book Fund, as needed, to establish a legal defense fund (which is open to donations) for any Synod approved legal expenses incurred by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
5. That the proposed 2011 budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved.
6. That the Easter and Thanksgiving offerings be continued for Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Elliott  
Chairman, Board of Stewardship



## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

|                                  | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | Proposed<br>2011 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                   |                        |                  |
| General Synod Allocation         | \$ 17,500              | \$ 14,750        |
| Special Offering                 | 9,331                  | 10,000           |
| Transfers for Ministry           | 36,925                 | 34,019           |
| Interest and Dividends           | -                      | -                |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>             | \$ 63,756              | \$ 58,769        |
| ARP Foundation                   |                        |                  |
| Staff Expense                    |                        |                  |
| Administrative Support           | 3,750                  | 3,750            |
| General Synod Audit & Legal      | 7,000                  | 7,210            |
| Other                            | 1,000                  | 1,000            |
| Ministry Contribution to DM Fund | 36,925                 | 34,019           |
| Transfer to GS Reserve           |                        |                  |
| General Office                   | 751                    | 790              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>            | \$ 63,756              | \$ 58,769        |
| Net Income (Loss)                | \$ -                   | \$ -             |
| Beginning Fund Reserve           | \$ 167,127             | \$ 167,127       |
| Ending Fund Balance              | \$ 167,127             | \$ 167,127       |

## REPORT OF BOARD OF BENEFITS

The Board of Benefits (Board) is pleased to be the agency charged by General Synod 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.

The Board met in November 2009 and in April 2010.

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 agencies employees and who were eligible for Synod's retirement benefits.

The Board contacts all eligible participants each Fall to determine if they wish to apply for support on the basis of financial need. After funding the Widow 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 widows of ARP ministers and their dependent children.

2009 Christmas distributions and 2010 ongoing support are summarized below:

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Widows Benevolent Fund                  | \$ 6,364 (2 recipients)        |
| Christmas Benevolent need-based support | 15,500 (3 recipients)          |
| Carson Fund                             | 100 (1 recipient)              |
| Christmas gifts to retirees             | <u>26,145</u> (105 recipients) |
| Total distributed                       | 48,109                         |

These gifts are received with great gratitude as expressed in this note of thanks from a 2009 recipient:

*Thank you for the most generous and greatly appreciated check given to me at Christmas. God has promised never to leave nor forsake us and this gift surely proves that to be true! Such a loving blessing and a joy.*

#### **Insurance**

The Board works 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 (exception: Pacific Presbytery). Medical and dental insurance coverage is conditional on the employee enrolling within the first 31 days of eligibility. **Late enrollment is not permitted under the plan and will result in denial of benefits.** 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 as soon as a new, full-time employee is hired.**

#### Medical Plan

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—usually until January 1 following the renewal date.

The denomination has been blessed by the Lord with good claims experience for several years. In addition, our insurance claim reserves have been sufficient to absorb premium increases for the past six (6) years, meaning that there has been no increase in costs to churches and agencies during that time. The purpose of insurance is to mitigate costs for those needing medical care, and a number of our ARP brothers and sisters have experienced serious illnesses in the past several months. Our plan continues to meet its obligations to those persons and all other participants. **Our rates, however, cannot continue at their current levels and will increase in 2011.** The Board is in the process of negotiating premiums and plans to conclude those negotiations in mid-June 2010. The actual increase will be announced after that time. The Board suggests that churches and agencies anticipate an increase of 7%.

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

- utilizing the Ask-a-Nurse hotline provided through our plan
- utilizing nurse consultants at pharmacies
- purchasing medications at discount pharmacies

In an effort to be a better steward of resources the Board terminated its contract with HealthStat, a health risk management program on the campus of Erskine College, after determining that utilization of the program did not support the associated costs to the insurance plan.

#### 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 increase in premiums is expected for 2010.

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

These programs are fully insured and cover **all eligible employees. It is mandatory that eligible employees be enrolled in these programs. (Pacific Presbytery is exempt from this enrollment.)**

Additional information regarding the group insurance plan is available through our Web site: [www.arpchurch.org/benefits.html](http://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. **Any eligible employees who have not yet enrolled in the plan should contact the Office of Cen-**

**tral Services.** 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 \$1200/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 \$800.)

Employees of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are not included in the ARP Retirement Plan as Erskine has a separate plan for its employees. Effective January 1, 2004, employees serving in a pastoral ministry outside the United States are not eligible for enrollment in the plan. Those persons serving outside the United States who were previously enrolled in the plan and have not been terminated from it continue to accrue Service for vesting purposes. Calls to ministers serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States must provide for contributions to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan approved by the presbytery extending the Call.

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

While the plan defines Normal Retirement Age as 65, participants may retire as early as age 60. Participants who are at least age 64 and

have at least 25 years of Credited Service may retire at age 64 without an actuarially reduced benefit. The Normal Form of Retirement is an annual benefit equal to 3.1% of total career Earnings and 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, 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](http://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 requires third-party verification of ministerial status at the time of retirement for former Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers.

#### Actuarial Valuation

Stanley, Hunt, DuPree, Rhine, Inc., (SHDR) a subsidiary of BB&T, serves as the plan actuary. Board policies require that an actuarial review of the plan is conducted every three years to determine the minimum contribution level necessary to maintain the plan on an actuarially sound basis and to determine if a change in benefits is feasible. The next scheduled valuation is December 31, 2011.

The retirement plan trust is sufficiently funded for current liabilities and has recovered strongly from market losses incurred in 2008 and 2009.

### **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. An on-line program by which participants may generate their own retirement income projections is also available.

#### 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 annually provides information to churches for budgeting and financial planning. In 2009, the Office of Central Services began a new system of invoicing for insurance premiums that has provided more detailed information for churches and agencies, and by the end of 2010, the office plans to initiate invoicing for retirement plan contributions.

**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 2009.

|   | 2006        | 2007        | 2008        | 2009        |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Medical/Dental premiums collected | \$3,614,777 | \$3,445,043 | \$3,901,149 | \$3,553,056 |
| Fees paid to Medical/Dental providers   | 378,764     | 402,710     | 445,354     | 455,366     |
| Paid Medical and Dental Claims          | 2,822,978   | 2,993,789   | 3,329,906   | 3,314,901   |
| HealthSTAT fees                         | 38,368      | 39,477      | 48,735      | 40,304      |
| Administrative Costs *                  | 45,311      | 47,079      | 45,984      | 60,062      |
| Balance of claim reserve                | \$2,999,062 | \$3,052,779 | \$2,574,776 | \$2,399,924 |

\*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 on 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 2011 Operating Budget for the Board is attached and reflects allocations recommended by the Board of Stewardship to cover the Board's meeting expenses and general office expenses. 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, 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 2010 – 2011

Chairman: Guy H. Smith

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

Secretary: Nat Stewart

Treasurer: Chip Smith

Administrative Officer: J. Paul Bell

Meeting Dates

November 4-5, 2010, Bonclarken

April 7-8, 2011, Bonclarken

November 3-4, 2011, Bonclarken

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering continue and that it be taken during the Thanksgiving Season and that all churches provide an opportunity for members to make contributions for this ministry.
2. That pastors and clerks be encouraged to be attentive to the special needs of retired Synod employees and widows of former employees and ARP pastors and seek to assist the Board of Benefits in its ministry to these faithful servants.
3. That presbyteries direct all congregations (except for congregations that have been excluded by action of the Board of Benefits) to enroll and pay premiums for all employees eligible to participate in the life, dependent life (if applicable), accidental death and dismemberment, and long term disability plans.
4. That the proposed budget for 2011 be approved.
5. That all other actions of the Board as reported herein be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Board of Benefits  
Guy H. Smith, Chairman

**BOARD OF BENEFITS**

|   | 2010 Synod Approved | 2011 Proposed       |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                             |                     |                     |
| <b>Unrestricted for Operations</b>          |                     |                     |
| General Synod Allocation                    | 9,000               | 6,300               |
| A&R Interest                                | -                   | -                   |
| Total Unrestricted                          | 9,000               | 6,300               |
| <b>Designated Estimates for Benevolence</b> |                     |                     |
| Benevolent Fund Special Offering            | 60,000              | 60,000              |
| Benevolent Fund Interest                    | 2,100               | 700                 |
| J. C. Lott Trust                            | 7,835               | 7,100               |
| Total Benevolent                            | 69,935              | 67,800              |
| <b>Group Insurance Resources</b>            |                     |                     |
| Group Insurance Premiums                    | 3,972,982           | 3,959,654           |
| Group Insurance Interest                    | 90,000              | 90,000              |
| Gain/(Loss) A&R Claim Reserve               | -                   | -                   |
| Total Group Insurance                       | 4,062,982           | 4,049,654           |
| <b>Retirement Plan Resources</b>            |                     |                     |
| Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement          | 1,849               | 1,849               |
| ARP Retirement Plan                         | 1,097,721           | 1,121,705           |
| Total Retirement Plan                       | 1,099,570           | 1,123,554           |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                       | <b>\$ 5,241,487</b> | <b>\$ 5,247,308</b> |

|   | 2010 Synod Approved | 2011 Proposed       |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>                           |                     |                     |
| <b>Board and General</b>                  |                     |                     |
| Board Travel & Meeting                    | 8,000               | 5,100               |
| Office and Miscellaneous                  | 1,000               | 1,200               |
| Total Board and General                   | 9,000               | 6,300               |
| <b>Benevolence</b>                        |                     |                     |
| Benevolence                               | 69,935              | 67,800              |
| <b>Group Insurance</b>                    |                     |                     |
| Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserve | 4,000,000           | 3,975,000           |
| Group Insurance Administrative Support    | 45,982              | 58,154              |
| Fees-A&R Claim Reserve                    | 17,000              | 16,500              |
| Total Group Insurance                     | 4,062,982           | 4,049,654           |
| <b>ARP Retirement Plan</b>                |                     |                     |
| Audit                                     | 2,400               | 2,500               |
| Actuarial Fees                            | 2,700               | 12,500              |
| Administrative Support                    | 44,370              | 58,154              |
| Miscellaneous Expenses                    | 100                 | 400                 |
| Transfer to Trustee                       | 1,050,000           | 1,050,000           |
| Total ARP Retirement Plan                 | 1,099,570           | 1,123,554           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                     | <b>\$ 5,241,487</b> | <b>\$ 5,247,308</b> |
| <b>Net Income (Loss)</b>                  | <b>\$ -</b>         | <b>\$ -</b>         |

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Visionaries and Servant Leaders---Bonclarken has always been blessed to have individuals in leadership with vision and with servants' hearts. Our current Board is no different, and the vision of this Board for Bonclarken's future led to the creation in 2009 of a 25-Year Master Plan for the grounds of the Conference Center.

The Board worked diligently to develop this Master Plan which outlines a comprehensive focus for our next 25 years. Before embarking upon ideas for suggested site improvements, the Board listened to user groups, conducted surveys, and solicited the help of the Trehel Corporation and RSCT architecture+design. While numerous site improvements are desired, the Board concluded that five main areas are to be addressed in these Master Plan recommendations for the future ministry:

- Renovations to the Heidelberg House;
- Expanding youth offerings;
- Creating a "Sense of Place" greenspace for guest gatherings;
- Enhancing and improving entrances and security; and
- Future guest housing.

The Board expresses tremendous thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who assist each year with this ministry. These volunteers bring their time and talents and are a wonderful encouragement to the Bonclarken staff.

The Board continues to be thankful for the financial support received from General Synod and praises God for His great faithfulness.

General Synod has given the Bonclarken Board 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 with which God has blessed us. The Board 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 create an environment where 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 2009, Bonclarken hosted 75 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 events for 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.* Bonclarken hosted 212 events for other Christian and educational groups in 2009.

**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 2010-2011: Calvin Draffin, Chairman; Floy Jumper, Vice Chairman; Lee Logan, Secretary; Welch Bostick, Treasurer. Committee Chairs for this year are: Jim Ashburn, Administration Committee, Jimmy Matthews, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and Lou Ann Aheron, Promotion and Services Committee.
- The Board employs and supervises Chip Sherer as President of Bonclarken. Mr. Sherer has the responsibility of carrying out the policies of the Board and managing the day-to-day operations of the Center.

**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 ensure that all property owned by Bonclarken was appropriately managed and took the following significant actions from April 2009 through February 2010:

**Administrative Information**

Action taken at the May 9, 2009 Board meeting:

- Approved the creation of a Spiritual Life Committee to aid the President in overseeing the spiritual aspects of Bonclarken-run camps and any other spiritual issues related to the operation of the conference center.
- Granted authority to the Master Plan Committee to move forward with the Trehel Corporation to phases three and four

of the planning process with the highest priority being to move youth out of the Heidelberg House east wing.

- Approved that the President be allowed to investigate the possible purchase of two lots on Highland Lake Road.
- Authorized the President to clear up ownership issues dealing with the Markley property.
- Authorized the Administration, with the approval of the Executive Committee, to borrow up to \$25,000 from the Property Acquisition Fund at a rate of 3% (compounded annually) to be used for capital repairs.
- Authorized the President and the Vice President for Finance to sign the Auditor's letter issued and a copy of the audit report be submitted to Synod.

Action taken at the October 31, 2009 Board meeting:

- Approved the revised Memorandum of Understanding for Use of Synodical Hall between Bonclarken and ARPWM.
- Approved the use of the 2009 endowment income as proposed by the Administration.
- Approved the By-Laws of Bonclarken Conference Center, Inc. as amended.
- Approved the addition of language to the Bonclarken Personnel Policy to include national sex offender background checks for both new and current staff and to address arrest, legal actions, and criminal convictions in order to comply with standards of the American Camp Association.
- Approved Carl Shaw, CPA, to conduct the financial review for 2009.
- Approved a "Resolution of Respect and Appreciation" in memory of Col. Richard "Dick" Weisner, Bonclarken Board member who passed away on September 2, 2009.

Action taken at the January 16, 2010 Board meeting:

- Approved a 2010 Operational Budget.
- Approved a 2010 Non-Operational Budget.
- Authorized the Administration to place the funds received from the estate of the Rev. Ken McArthur in the endowment.
- Adopted the revised and updated Administration Committee policies.
- Adopted the revised and updated Buildings and Grounds Committee policies.



- Approved the Administration's request that the Youth Cottage (which was approved for further study at the October 2009 meeting) not be constructed at this time.
- Adopted the revised and updated Promotion and Services Committee policies.
- Approved request of the Chairman to establish a special (non-standing) Development Committee to assist with fundraising for Master Plan projects.

**Recommendations:**

We make the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That a Bonclarken representative be given time during the presentation of this report to offer a brief review of the Master Plan for Bonclarken.
2. That General Synod continue to support Bonclarken in the allocation of Synod funds and in the annual Easter offering.
3. That General Synod continue to encourage all presbyteries, boards, and church organizations to choose Bonclarken for their retreats and conferences.
4. That the meetings of General Synod for 2011, 2012, and 2013 be held at Bonclarken beginning on June 7, 2011, June 5, 2012, and June 11, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Draffin, Chairman  
Board of Trustees  
Bonclarken Conference Center

## BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

|                                | <u>2010 Synod Approved</u> | <u>2011 Proposed</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b><u>Revenue</u></b>          |                            |                      |
| Rooms                          | \$ 717,310                 | \$ 768,000           |
| Food Service                   | 543,025                    | 502,000              |
| Activity Fees                  | 258,825                    | 249,000              |
| Programs                       | 50,000                     | 45,000               |
| Camps                          | 47,000                     | 42,000               |
| Gift Shop/Nibble Nook          | 42,000                     | 37,000               |
| Property Owners                | 40,000                     | 40,000               |
| Miscellaneous                  | 35,000                     | 33,000               |
| <b>Total Op. Revenue</b>       | <b>\$ 1,733,160</b>        | <b>\$ 1,716,000</b>  |
| <b><u>Non-Op. Revenue:</u></b> |                            |                      |
| General Synod                  | \$ 151,900                 | \$ 129,000           |
| ARPWM                          | 6,200                      | 6,000                |
| Mountain Club/Churches         | 131,000                    | 145,000              |
| Easter Offering                | 14,000                     | 13,000               |
| <b>Total Non-Op. Rev.</b>      | <b>\$ 303,100</b>          | <b>\$ 293,000</b>    |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>           | <b>\$ 2,036,260</b>        | <b>\$ 2,009,000</b>  |
| <b><u>Expenses</u></b>         |                            |                      |
| <b><u>Cost of Sales:</u></b>   |                            |                      |
| Food Service                   | \$ 213,409                 | \$ 196,000           |
| Gift Shop/Nibble Nook          | 13,000                     | 13,000               |
| <b>Total Cost of Sales</b>     | <b>\$ 226,409</b>          | <b>\$ 209,000</b>    |
| <b>Total Pysl/Benefits</b>     | <b>\$ 1,142,851</b>        | <b>\$ 1,213,800</b>  |
| <b><u>Other Expenses:</u></b>  |                            |                      |
| Administration                 | \$ 75,000                  | \$ 95,000            |
| Maintenance                    | 45,000                     | 47,000               |
| Food Service                   | 32,000                     | 28,000               |
| Housekeeping                   | 80,000                     | 81,000               |
| Marketing                      | 50,000                     | 40,000               |
| Programs                       | 60,000                     | 62,000               |
| Property Insurance             | 85,000                     | 65,200               |
| Utilities                      | 180,000                    | 163,000              |
| Debt Payment                   | 50,000                     |                      |
| Summer Staff                   | 5,000                      |                      |
| Other Expenses                 | 5,000                      | 5,000                |
| <b>Total Other Expenses</b>    | <b>\$ 667,000</b>          | <b>\$ 586,200</b>    |
| <b>Total Op. Expenses</b>      | <b>\$ 2,036,260</b>        | <b>\$ 2,009,000</b>  |

and be thoroughly equipped. Just as the local church is dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of its people, CEM is dedicated to doing everything within our ability and scope of authority and resources to provide the local church with the expertise/training to 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. Together, let's build foundations that are steadfast, grounded in God's Word.

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Organization:

Officers: **Chairman – Bob Whittet, Vice Chairman – Chad Reynolds**, Secretary – Kathy Barron

**Committees:** Executive Committee  
Administration Committee  
Events Committee  
Resource Committee  
Finance Committee

**Board Meetings:** The Board of Christian Education Ministries held two meetings since the last Synod meeting. These meetings were held on September 12-13, 2009 and February 10-12, 2010 .

**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.

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

*The format of this report is based on the duties and work as defined in the Manual of Authorities and Duties for Officers and Agencies and Rules of Order of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MAD 2009).*

#### **Duties and Work Underway...**

1. To employ such administrators and staff as are necessary for the work of the Board and to supervise the execution of the Board policies.

- The board continued their contract with Mr. Matt Ross as a resource consultant.
- The board voted to allow the administrative assistant position to become full-time starting in June of 2010.
- The board approved Rev. Bob Whittet as a CEM trainer.
- The board will have a special day of planning in September 2010 to study its current structure.

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. (See budget at end of this report.)

3. To initiate, develop, promote, coordinate, and evaluate comprehensive programs of Christian education for Synod, presbyteries, congregations that will help to equip the saints for their ministries in the world. (Ephesians 4:12)

- CEM established a new Web site for the ARP bookstore. The Web site is found at <http://www.arpbookstore.com>. It is the goal of CEM to continue to update the bookstore and make it a source of help to churches and presbyteries.
- The board continues to work 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 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.).

- CEM continues to work on the Adult Quarterly (Sunday School Curriculum). Power points are now available for this resource.
- CEM is now working on a Vacation Bible School Curriculum based on a “Missions” theme.
- CEM is working on a stewardship resource to be used in the local churches. New stewardship brochures have recently been produced and are available for purchase at the ARP bookstore.
- CEM should have the second Sr. High curriculum book out soon written by Dr. Jay Younts.
- CEM’s resource committee has read, studied, and reviewed several books in children’s ministry. Four of these books were approved and made available in the ARP bookstore. The committee is now studying discipleship material and will then study stewardship material.
- The board continues to work closely with Great Commission Publications. Dr. E. Brent Turner, Executive Director of CEM, has spoken at one of their conferences and has attended their board meeting with CEM’s current chairman, Rev. Bob Whittet.

#### CURRENT 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 are best suited to the needs of the congregation. The following materials have been endorsed and recommended by the Board of Christian Education Ministries as being in doctrinal conformity with the ARP Standards and of excellent quality:*

1. The Adult Quarterly of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (**Order from the ARP Center, Christian Education Minis-**

tries, 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.

- 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.
- CEM Staff met with different presbyteries and is working on being a "HELP" to them.
- CEM held several CE workshops in different churches and presbyteries.

Goals:

- CEM would like to assist as many churches as possible in the denomination in the area of Christian Education.

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

- The board looked at its existing camps and conferences and was encouraged by the continued strong attendance patterns:

Horizon Conference (Sr. High Conference) attendance - 375

Quest Conference (Jr. High Conference) attendance - 369

Camp Joy—3 full sessions in Bonclarken Conference Center with 137 campers and 131 counselors and 11 staff members

Camp Joy Florida (Camp Aurora in Lake Wales, Florida) -  
This was our first year in Florida.

Appalachian Mission—457 ARP young people and adults  
from 39 churches conducted Vacation Bible Schools in 21  
locations in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Vir-  
ginia ministering to more than 600 children

Bonsenior (Senior Adult Conference) was held at Bonclarken  
with 72 in attendance

Elder/Deacon Training (Lake Wales, Florida) attendance – 130

Elder/Deacon Training (Memphis, Tennessee) attendance -  
110

- The board decided that every camp and conference should be self-supporting.

Goals:

- CEM is working with Florida Presbytery on a future conference with juniors (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders).
- CEM is working with North East Presbytery on a future youth conference within the Presbytery bounds.
- CEM is working with Rev. Paul Patrick, Chaplain at Erskine College, on an annual collegiate conference which nurtures ARP college-aged men and women.
- CEM is working to provide educational workshops that can further help equip pastors in their ministries.

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

- CEM intends to continue a good relationship with Great Commission Publications (PCA and OPC), Christian Education and Publications (PCA) and with other denominations.

Goals:

- CEM hopes to join with Great Commission Publications and Christian Education and Publications in the 2020 vision program. This is a program aimed at raising godly children and youth in the next ten years.

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

- a. Providing and promoting opportunities for leadership training;
- b. Developing and promoting Christian education activities for congregations;
- c. Assisting, when requested, in the development of congregational libraries.
- d. Making available relevant media resources for loan or purchase from the office of Christian Education Ministries.

- CEM held several training sessions in local churches in the area of Christian Education.
- CEM held planning meetings with CE workers to help plan and promote CE work in churches.
- CEM continues to be a place where churches can freely call and receive help with resources for their particular church.

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

- CEM has established a page on its Web site to promote job opportunities in the area of Christian Education.

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.

- CEM has an annual report of information collected from churches in 2009 on the CEM Web site. This information can be viewed and downloaded from [CEMARP.org](http://CEMARP.org)

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



**Recommendations:**

1. CEM recommends that the 2011 budget be approved.
2. CEM recommends that two additional at-large members be added to the CEM board and that the rotation be revised to 4 years for new members. (This recommendation is based on the increased workload of individual Board members as CEM seeks to move forward with numerous projects.)

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Whittet, Chairman

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

| Revenues                           | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011 Proposed     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Denominational Ministry Allocation | \$ 227,651             | \$ 227,651        |
| Easter Offering Allocation         | 11,556                 | 9,985             |
| Contributions for Ministry         | 4,300                  | 4,400             |
| Miscellaneous Income               | 1,100                  | 900               |
| Registration and Fees              | 333,675                | 349,200           |
| Sales & Subscriptions              | 51,300                 | 81,360            |
| Interest Allocation                | 2,000                  | 1,604             |
| Special Endowment Fund Gift        | 1,250                  | 1,250             |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>              | <b>\$ 632,832</b>      | <b>\$ 676,350</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                    |                        |                   |
| Total Salaries & Benefits          | 220,007                | 221,400           |
| Staff Expenses                     | 44,031                 | 41,630            |
| Board/Committee Expenses           | 12,750                 | 10,500            |
| General Office                     |                        |                   |
| Promotional Expenses               | 4,725                  | 2,380             |
| Resources                          | 4,200                  | 4,410             |
| Equipment                          | 2,684                  | 2,700             |
| Communications                     | 638                    | 1,900             |
| Rent                               | 9,880                  | 11,600            |
| Office Expenses                    | 9,030                  | 7,100             |
| Total General Office               | 31,157                 | 30,090            |
| Facility Management                | 650                    | 800               |
| Contingency                        | 5,000                  | 5,000             |

|                                | 2010 Synod<br>Approved | 2011 Proposed |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Publications                   |                        |               |
| Adult Quarterly                | 22,778                 | 31,300        |
| Adult Quarterly Editor         | 16,883                 | 17,200        |
| Book Store Purchases           | 3,390                  | 24,800        |
| Other Publications Expenses    | 424                    | 1,600         |
| Total Publications             | 43,475                 | 74,900        |
| Conferences and Training       |                        |               |
| Room & Board Expenses          | 236,200                | 239,700       |
| Honorariums & Fees             | 21,838                 | 20,600        |
| Travel                         | 9,610                  | 8,380         |
| Planning                       | 5,589                  | 4,200         |
| Supplies                       | 19,442                 | 14,300        |
| Promotional                    | 2,839                  | 7,200         |
| Total Conferences and Training | 295,518                | 294,380       |
|                                |                        |               |
| Total Expenses                 | \$ 652,589             | \$ 678,700    |
| Change in Fund Balance         | \$ (19,757)            | \$ (2,350)    |
| Beginning Fund Balance         | \$ 136,412             | \$ 184,531    |
| Ending Fund Balance            | \$ 116,655             | \$ 182,181    |

## 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 adopted the following 5-year goal in the area of evangelism:
  - To see a majority of ARP churches teaming with the board toward renewal, evangelism, church planting, and outreach to include the immediate ethnicities within the communities our churches reside.
- 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 postponed for a year the introduction of the special emphasis each February on the free offer of the Gospel. With the ARP magazine combining issues for February, with the attention of Synod focused on the called meeting of Synod, and with the amount of work needed to produce the materials for this emphasis, it will be better to introduce this emphasis in February 2011. ONA will seek cooperation with Christian Education Ministries to 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 continued to work with Erskine Seminary in teaching a required course on evangelism and an elective course on church planting and renewal. In January we plan to again work with World Witness and Erskine Seminary to teach a missions course called *Islam in the West: A Missiological Perspective*.
- ONA provided scholarships to lower the costs for participants in the Dearborn mission trip. This trip helps to equip people in the ARP Church to reach out to the growing population of Muslims in the US and Canada.

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

- ONA adopted the following 5-year goals in the area of church vitality:
  - The Director of Church Renewal will make at least one formal renewal presentation in each ARP presbytery. On average, a minimum of two such presentations will be made each year.
  - A minimum of two HIGH M-PACT Revitalization trainer/coaches will be developed in each ARP presbytery. One trainer coach from each presbytery that has hosted a revitalization cluster will be in place within the first two years; the remaining trainer/coaches by the end of the five-year span.
  - In coordination with presbytery church extension chairmen and committees, a minimum number of churches in each presbytery will be identified and

engaged in full church revitalization training and coaching. Identification of these churches will be made within the first two years with all training complete by the end of the five-year span.

- The HIGH M-PACT Revitalization Digital Training Catalog will be made easily accessible to all ARP churches no later than September 1, 2010.
- Ken Priddy continues to work with churches as ONA Director of Church Renewal. Ken is seeking an individual from each presbytery to receive HIGH M-PACT Revitalization trainer/coach training in order to provide renewal training within the presbytery. The goal is for each presbytery to have trainer/coaches who have been trained by Ken so that they can provide training within the presbytery.
- Ken is working to produce material in CD and webinar format that will be easily accessible for ARP Churches.

**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.**

- ONA adopted the following 5-year goals in the area of new church development and ARP expansion:
  - Stimulate the ARP culture in order to make church planting more visible and attractive.
  - Attract, train & develop the very best candidates for church planting.
  - Identify/design new models for church planting and communicate them.
  - Mission churches will be setting the example for other churches through engagement in kingdom advancement.
- The following mission congregations have received financial supplements from Outreach North America during all or part of the period since the last Synod meeting.

**Catawba**

Indian Land, SC

Rev. Gary Stiltner

**First**

Good Shepherd, Charlotte, NC

Rev. Walt DeHart

Hope Chapel, Greensboro, NC

Rev. Todd Jones

Rivertown replant,

Hillsborough, NC

Rev. Ross Durham

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Tapestry, Charlotte, NC                       | Rev. Jarvis Ross   |
| <b>Florida</b>                                |                    |
| Christ Community,<br>Apollo Beach, FL         | Rev. Charlie Lewis |
| SonLife, Jacksonville, FL                     | Rev. Bob Hovey     |
| <b>Mississippi Valley</b>                     |                    |
| Havana, Havana, AR                            | Rev. Moises Chan   |
| <b>Northeast</b>                              |                    |
| Christ, Grove City, PA                        | Dr. Iain Duguid    |
| TriState, Chester, WV                         | Rev. Rick Anderson |
| <b>Second</b>                                 |                    |
| Travelers, Travelers Rest, SC                 | Rev. Bill Barron   |
| International Community<br>Outreach (Swahili) | Rev. Isaac Gitundu |
| <b>Tennessee-Alabama</b>                      |                    |
| Connections, Madison, AL                      | Dr. Bob Illman     |

- 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: Greg Duke, Charlie Jones, and Jae Park.
- ONA has provided training for mission developers over the past year through a Mission Developer retreat (theme: The Church Planter as Preacher) 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 six potential church planting candidates/couples in an assessment center in August. Through a several year long study of successful ARP mission developers, ONA has developed a new list of church planting competencies needed by mission developers in the ARP Church. This new list of competencies will shape the direction of mission developer recruitment, assessment, and training in the future. The next scheduled assessment center is August 2010.

- ONA has worked with First Presbytery to help First Presbytery launch a mission congregation in the Leith area of Edinburgh, Scotland. The mission developer, Athole Rennie, and his family are with us at Synod and we request 10 minutes for Athole to address the Synod. The brochure *Why Plant Churches in Scotland* will be available at the ONA booth at Synod for delegates to take back to their churches.
- ONA is again working with Erskine Seminary in Erskine's fall home missions emphasis November 9 – 11. Our speaker this year will be Dr. Bruce Finn from the Philadelphia area new church network of the PCA. Bruce has done research on the benefits of small churches being involved in church planting. ONA will invite each presbytery to send a representative from their church extension committee to attend the November 9, 2010 Chapel at Erskine and then meet with Dr. Finn afterwards.
- To better monitor stewardship of the resources allocated from Synod, ONA has begun requiring continuation requests at each board meeting from missions wishing to remain under support beyond the first year. These requests are to include a financial statement.

**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 Web site: [www.americanbible.org](http://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.**

- ONA adopted the following 5-year goals in the area of finance:
  - Develop an evaluation tool for a successful mission proposal and continued support for the church plant utilizing the document *Elements of a*

*Well-Planted ARP Church* that was developed through a study of successful ARP church plants.

- Pursue new opportunities to seek additional funding beyond the Denominational Ministry Fund to continue to plant new churches. (i.e., mailings, dinners, campaigns, available grants, personal requests)
- Develop and establish a cadre of potential financial and administrative coaches to work with church planters as requested.
- Due to both the positive growth of the Revolving Loan Fund and inflation of land and building costs over the years, we are requesting that Synod approve the following changes to the ONA Policy book. These changes will provide more help to new churches seeking to purchase land and/or build a first building.
  - The interest rate will be fixed at 2% below current commercial bank rates for 15-year fixed rate home mortgage in the local community; however, the rate will not be below 3%. [This will replace the current paragraph VI.C.3.b.(3): The interest rate will be fixed at 1.5% below current commercial bank rates for a 15-year fixed rate home mortgage in the local community; however, the rate will not be below 5%.]
  - The maximum amount of the loan will be \$500,000. [This will replace the current paragraph VI.C.3.b.(5): The maximum amount of the loan will be \$400,000.]
- ONA is in the process of bringing the servicing of the Revolving Loan mortgages in house, using Central Services as the custodian, saving in fees to an outside custodian and providing better service to our churches.

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

- The ONA board has noted that there is no provision in our Policy Book in the event that a presbytery church extension chairman is providentially hindered from attending a particular board meeting. Since it is crucial that each presbytery have a qualified representative at our board meetings, we request that Synod approve a change in the ONA Policy Book to provide for a “presbytery approved alternate if the chairman is not able to attend.”

**Recommendations:**

1. That Synod affirm the 5-year goals adopted by the board of Outreach North America:
  - To see a majority of ARP churches teaming with the board toward renewal, evangelism, church planting, and outreach to include the immediate ethnicities within the communities our churches reside.
  - The Director of Church Renewal will make at least one formal renewal presentation in each ARP presbytery. On average, a minimum of two such presentations will be made each year.
  - A minimum of two HIGH M-PACT Revitalization trainer/coaches will be developed in each ARP presbytery. One trainer coach from each presbytery that has hosted a revitalization cluster will be in place within the first two years; the remaining trainer/coaches by the end of the five-year span.
  - In coordination with presbytery church extension chairmen and committees, a minimum number of churches in each presbytery will be identified and engaged in full church revitalization training and coaching. Identification of these churches will be made within the first two years with all training complete by the end of the five-year span.



- The HIGH M-PACT Revitalization Digital Training Catalog will be made easily accessible to all ARP churches no later than September 1, 2010.
  - Stimulate the ARP culture in order to make church planting more visible and attractive.
  - Attract, train & develop the very best candidates for church planting.
  - Identify/design new models for church planting and communicate them.
  - That mission churches will be setting the example for other churches through engagement in kingdom advancement.
  - Develop an evaluation tool for a successful mission proposal and continued support for the church plant utilizing the document *Elements of a Well-Planted ARP Church* that was developed through a study of successful ARP church plants.
  - Pursue new opportunities to seek additional funding beyond the Denominational Ministry Fund to continue to plant new churches. (i.e., mailings, dinners, campaigns, available grants, personal requests)
  - Develop and establish a cadre of potential financial and administrative coaches to work with church planters as requested.
2. That Rev. Athole Rennie be given 10 minutes to address Synod regarding church planting in Scotland.
  3. That Synod encourage each presbytery to select at least one individual to receive HIGH M-PACT Revitalization trainer/coach training from Ken Priddy, and then ask that person to provide training in church renewal to their presbyteries.
  4. That Synod approve the following changes to the ONA Policy Book in section VI.C. concerning Revolving Loans:
    - Replace paragraph VI.C.3.b.(3) with “The interest rate will be fixed at 2% below current commercial bank rates for 15-year fixed rate home mortgage in the local community; however, the rate will not be below 3%.” The paragraph currently reads: “The interest rate will be fixed at 1.5% below current commercial bank rates for a

- 15-year fixed rate home mortgage in the local community; however, the rate will not be below 5%.”
- Replace paragraph VI.C.3.b.(5) with “The maximum amount of the loan will be \$500,000.” The paragraph currently reads: “The maximum amount of the loan will be \$400,000.”
  - In coordination with the above changes, in paragraph VI.C.3.c.(1) eliminate the words “up to \$400,000” because the maximum amount of the loan is already spelled out in the paragraph on terms of the loan. The paragraph will read: “The primary purpose of the Revolving Loan Fund is to make available for new church development loans up to \$400,000 for land purchases and for building the first unit.”
  - Also in coordination with the above changes, eliminate paragraphs VI.C.3.c.(9) and (10) because these paragraphs are redundant. The terms are already spelled out in paragraph VI.C.3.B Terms of the Loan. The eliminated paragraphs currently read: “(9.) Loans will bear an interest rate of 1.5% less than the prevailing rate unless otherwise specified by the Board. (10.) Loans will be granted for a period of fifteen years.”
  - Renumber the remaining items in this section after the eliminated paragraphs.
5. That Synod approve the following change to the ONA Policy Book in section I.A. concerning board membership:
- Replace the period with a comma at the end of paragraph I.A.1.a. and add “or a qualified presbytery-approved alternate if the chairman is not able to attend.” The paragraph would now read: “The chairman of the church extension committee of each presbytery of the General Synod as the representative of his presbytery to the Board, or a qualified presbytery-approved alternate if the chairman is not able to attend.”
6. That the proposed budget be approved.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Sattlem, Chairman

### OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

|   | 2010<br>Synod<br>Approved | 2011<br>Proposed |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                               |                           |                  |
| <b>Denominational Ministry Funds</b>          | \$ 716,000                | \$ 646,325       |
| Contributions for Ministry                    |                           |                  |
| Special Offering                              | 16,500                    | 12,000           |
| Miscellaneous Contributions for Ministry      | 101,900                   | 102,400          |
| Interest on Reserves                          | 8,835                     | 3,300            |
| <b>Invested Fund Transfers for Operations</b> |                           |                  |
| Hillcrest Fund                                | 5,490                     | 5,359            |
| Church Plant Cash Flow Loan Fund Income       | 13,750                    | 13,516           |
| Mattie B. Ellis Fund Income                   | 530                       | 278              |
| Permanent Fund Income                         | 5,580                     | 4,488            |
| Ralph Grigsby Fund                            | 1,610                     | 1,413            |
| St. Andrew Church Fund                        | 6,840                     | 3,621            |
| Christ Fellowship                             | -                         | -                |
| <b>Invested Fund Transfers for Operations</b> | 33,800                    | 28,675           |
| <b>Program Receipts/Sale of Material</b>      | 200                       | -                |
| <b>Total Revenues for Operations</b>          | 860,735                   | 780,700          |
|   |                           |                  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                               |                           |                  |
| <b>Payroll &amp; Benefits</b>                 | 310,313                   | 321,650          |
| <b>Staff Expenses</b>                         | 19,055                    | 20,300           |
| <b>Board Expenses</b>                         |                           |                  |
| Travel and Meeting                            | 15,000                    | 14,000           |
| Promotion                                     | 22,315                    | 25,400           |
| Professional Services                         | 14,080                    | 3,700            |
| <b>Total Board Expenses</b>                   | 51,395                    | 43,100           |
| <b>General Office</b>                         | 17,500                    | 20,500           |
| <b>Program and Mission</b>                    |                           |                  |
| Recruiting and Assessing                      | 27,250                    | 25,500           |
| Training                                      | 163,100                   | 126,000          |
| Placement                                     | 7,500                     | 7,500            |
| Recruiting - Assessing - Training - Placement | 197,850                   | 159,000          |
| Mission Exploration                           | -                         | 2,500            |
| Mission Supplements                           | 272,313                   | 233,700          |
| <b>Total Mission</b>                          | 272,313                   | 236,200          |

|                                 | 2010<br>Synod<br>Approved | 2011<br>Proposed  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Evangelism &amp; Renewal</b> |                           |                   |
| Evangelism                      | 5,000                     | 3,000             |
| Muslim Ministry (ARP Connect)   | 24,100                    | 24,800            |
| Erskine Evangelism Course       | 1,700                     | 2,000             |
| Erskine Mission's Conference    | 750                       | 750               |
| Multi-Ethic Ministries          | 2,000                     | 2,000             |
| Church Renewal                  | 3,500                     | 3,500             |
| <b>Evangelism &amp; Renewal</b> | <b>37,050</b>             | <b>36,050</b>     |
| <b>Program and Mission</b>      | <b>507,213</b>            | <b>431,250</b>    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>           | <b>\$ 905,476</b>         | <b>\$ 836,800</b> |
| <b>Net Income (Loss)</b>        | <b>\$ (44,741)</b>        | <b>(56,100)</b>   |
| <b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>   | <b>291,730</b>            | <b>219,690</b>    |
| <b>Ending Fund Balance</b>      | <b>\$ 246,989</b>         | <b>\$ 163,590</b> |