

Vol. XLI

June 5-7, 2012

No. 2

MINUTES

**OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
ASSOCIATE REFORMED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

TWO HUNDRED EIGHTH STATED MEETING



JUNE 5-7, 2012

**BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER
FLAT ROCK, NC**

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

The 208th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was held June 5 through 7, 2012 at Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC.

MONDAY EVENING/ TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 4-5, 2012**THE PRE-SYNOD CONFERENCE**

The Pre-Synod Conference Dinner was served at the Camp-ground Pavilion. The first session of *"Transformation: Seeing Everything Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ "* was held at the Youth Activities Building Monday evening and featured Curt Young as the speaker.

The Tuesday Morning session began at 9:30 a.m. and featured speakers Rick Philips, David Vance, and Frank van Dalen.

SPECIAL SYNOD WEEK DENOMINATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The *Orientation for New Delegates* was held Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Hotel Classroom #1.

Christian Education Ministries' *"Lets Talk"* offered information on training, networking, events, and resources for Sunday School, youth ministry, family ministry and more at the *CEM Cafe'* from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. each day.

Synod's Kids' Camp for ages 7-18 was held Tuesday through Thursday at various times.

ARP Women's Ministries hosted *Pastors' Wives Fellowship* on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until 12 p.m. in the Jean White Room.

Erskine Theological Seminary's *Barbecue Picnic* was served Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. at the Headspring Pavilion.

ARP Women's Ministries' *Oasis: A Time of Spiritual Refreshment* with Kristi James, Sallye Lucas and Leona Query, providing a time of listening and sharing on the subject of *"Glimpses of Salt and Light,"* was presented on Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Synodical Hall.

Outreach North America's *Church Planting Breakfast* was Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m., Dining Room B, with Sinclair Ferguson and Brandon Barrett speaking on the new work at Grace Presbyterian Church in Pontiac, SC.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012, 7:30 P.M.

The 208th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church began with the opening worship service led by Moderator Andrew Putnam.

OPENING WORSHIP

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Youth Activities Building

7:00 P.M.	Informal Psalm Sing	C. Earl Linderman
		Harriet E. Linderman, Accompanist
	Prelude	Greg Reynolds
7:30 P.M.	Call to Worship	
	Song: "The Praises of Heaven and Earth"	
		<i>The ARP Psalter</i> , No. 205
	Invocation and the Lord's Prayer	
	Gloria Patri	
	The Constituting of the General Synod	
		Andrew K. Putnam, Moderator
	Memorial Service	
		Paul G. Patrick, Vice Moderator
	The Listing of Deceased Ministers	
	The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders	
	Prayer	
	Song: "Under His Wings"	
		<i>The ARP Psalter</i> , No. 183
	Sermon	Andrew K. Putnam
	"Wolves"	
	Text: Acts 20:28-32	
	The Administration of the Lord's Table	
	Prayer of Thanksgiving	

Benediction

Postlude

Greg Reynolds

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 7:00 A.M.

Earl Linderman led an informal coffee and singing of the Psalms on the Dining Room porch.

Following the prelude by Greg Reynolds, the opening worship service was conducted by Bob Anderson.

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

Principal Clerk Ron Beard made a motion that the roll created by the sign-in process be constituted as the Official Roll of Synod. Vaughn Hathaway made a motion that:

Due to an oversight, the language necessary to amend the Form of Government to implement the decision of the 2011 Synod to grant ruling elders who are former moderators of the General Synod the right to sit, deliberate and vote at subsequent meetings of the General Synod was not sent down to the Presbyteries. Therefore, be it resolved that the Synod of 2012 grant these rights to all such former moderators who are in attendance at this Synod, who are also in good standing as members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

The motion carried.

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

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Brothers in Christ,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the moderator of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. I want to thank the Tirzah congre-

gation, Vice Moderator Paul Patrick, the clerks of Synod and the staff of the ARP Center for their tireless support, sacrifice and work.

It has been an exciting and surprisingly interesting year. Over the past 12 months, I have seen positives and negatives.

I have been encouraged and strengthened and also mocked and slandered. I've traveled more than 14,000 miles, attending presbyteries, boards, committees, and various church functions. I visited with our missionaries in Europe (who are doing incredible work in tough conditions) and have worshipped with mission churches from New York to Alabama. I have had numerous translators for different cultures and have eaten a wide variety of interesting items. I've listened to the concerns of our brothers in the North and even had someone in the deep South suggest that the moderator's shield would make a great belt buckle. I have seen the GOOD, the BAD and the UGLY of the ARP Church. So, let's take a moment and talk about these three.

Let's start with the UGLY.

I'm not talking about the way you look on the outside (though some of you should be thankful that entry into heaven is not a beauty contest). I'm talking about Behavior. Words. Actions. Things that are simply embarrassing. Things that poorly represent the ARP Church and Jesus Christ and are a hindrance to the Gospel message going forth to the lost. I've had several folk ask me if some of you are even Christians after they've witnessed some of what has transpired, been published or said. I warned last night about the wolves and would remind you it's open season, it's time for warriors. We must put a stop to this before it consumes this denomination. We would not tolerate this behavior in our congregations and we should not in our presbyteries and in the Synod.

The BAD.

Our statistical information shows us to be a church in decline numerically. We have a tremendous number of small, remote congregations that are on a terminal path. We have around only 28 churches with over 200 active members. And many of our congregations are simply not healthy. Financially we continue to ask our boards and agencies to take up their ministries with less funding, and most of our money comes from only a handful of our churches. (60% of the Denominational Ministry Fund is from 20 churches.) We must change our attitudes, our selfish focus, and seek to spread the Gospel message freely to the LOST. Christ must have pre-eminence in all that we do.

The GOOD.

God loves you. We cannot underestimate the power of the Gospel message to transform lives. We are hearing tremendous testimonies in some of our congregations. Some of our presbyteries are renewing their emphasis upon church planting, and we are seeing revitalization in some of our older

congregations. I rejoice at the new works taking place across the ARP denomination. We are seeing a revival within parts of the ARPC. Many of our ministries are now on track and making progress. But we must understand that it will take time.

Our missions work is taking off in new areas. It was exciting for me to see the potential for new works in Spain, Germany, Ukraine and Turkey, and to see the work we are undertaking to plant churches in Scotland. There are possibilities for SO MUCH MORE for the ARPC!

*I set before the denomination a challenge to revive and grow: 20 new congregations of 200+ members and 20 new mission works by the year 2020. **We are on our way.***

Throughout our history it has been evident that the Lord has had his hand on this little denomination. It is my prayer that he will continue to bless and guide us.

I have spent the better part of 18 years on this stage as Parliamentarian and as Moderator. I'm looking forward to a break. I hear there are some trees outside that everyone likes to gather under.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the ARP Church.

Retiring Moderator Andrew K. Putnam presented Moderator-Elect G. Steven Suits to the Synod. Vice Moderator Patrick escorted Mr. Suits to the podium. Mr. Putnam placed the Moderator's Shield around the neck of Mr. Suits, and made brief remarks. Moderator Suits presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Putnam.

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

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

Fathers and brothers, last year Moderator Andy Putnam laid before us a statistical picture of the health of our denomination. His presentation made it quite clear that the trajectory of the ARPC in terms of numbers is not positive. Now, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) identifies in its report to us this year what is eating at the fabric of the ARPC, echoing to a large degree what was said by the Vision Committee over five years ago. Not only are we experiencing declining membership, diminishing giving, and dying congregations, but, according to what these two committees have reported, apathy

and mediocrity characterize much of our work, at least in the sphere of denominational affairs. Coming out of this is what the SPC called, "blame-shifting and conflict for control."

Such negative attributes are probably not as apparent to those among us who do not spend much time in denominational activities, but rather are working hard to serve their local congregations. Nevertheless, this is what has been said by the members of these two committees, who have thought long and hard about our condition. What underlying problems are responsible for this state of affairs? Again, according to these committees, biblical illiteracy and theological confusion are commonplace among us. They tell us that this has led to moral decay, lack of vision, and ineffective leadership – especially seen in weak pulpit ministries.

So we read in the reports. And so I have heard in meetings since you elected me last year.

What I am hearing too frequently is along the lines of the conflict for control that the SPC mentions in its report. I have heard many placing the blame for the condition of our denomination on the make-up of this board or that committee. And now we know that a conflict over control has so impeded an entire presbytery that the Executive Board has recommended we cut ties with it.

Given this situation, I have been asking repeatedly during the past months, "Why a Synod in the first place?" Like many of you, I delight in the worship, preaching and teaching of my church, and in her outreach to the community and her commitment to world missions. I am excited by the planting of a new local body of Christ under our sponsorship and hope we will continue to do this. I hear of similar satisfaction with local churches from many of you throughout our denomination. So, why a Synod in the first place?

When I looked to our Confession of Faith for guidance, I found that a Synod is for the better government and further edification of the Church. How does a Synod provide for better government and further edification of the Church? Specifically, according to the Confession, a Synod is formed to determine controversies of faith and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the public worship of God; to set down rules and directions for the

better government of [the] church; and to receive complaints in cases of maladministration. We will find ourselves carrying out such functions over the next two days. Our Form of Government revision process speaks directly to Synod's function to set down standards for the better government of the church. We have received cases of alleged maladministration in the form of complaints filed with Synod this year.

Now, we certainly deal each General Synod with controversy. Whether or not it involves what the Confession refers to as "controversies of faith" is open to question. Nevertheless, we as the Church of Christ must not waste any controversy. Let us make each one count. How can we do this? By letting each controversy drive us to our Lord for resolution; by letting it drive us to the Scriptures for clarity; by letting it drive us to our knees to seek for the Spirit's intervention; and by letting it drive us to seek purity with peace and unity. God's call to purity and his call to strive for peace and unity are not antagonistic, but complementary. In fact, peace and unity can only exist where there is purity. I recently read that controversies can be a warning to us not to suffer from doctrinal apathy and to remember the necessity of humility with a willingness to affirm that we do not debate from our own authority, nor for our own sakes, but for truth's sake.

We must not believe that taking a stand on anything is inherently arrogant and unloving. The most loving thing we can do for a brother is to speak the truth, not try to avoid all controversy. How we speak is important. But speak truth we must. To be complacent about any or all controversy is to be complacent about truth itself. Controversy is not the problem. A London newspaper once asked, "What's the Matter with the World?" and encouraged its readers to write in with their answers. After an ongoing dialogue over several months, G. K. Chesterton wrote and said, "Sirs, you asked, 'What's the matter with the world?' I am, Sincerely yours, GKC." The dialogue ended abruptly. Similarly, controversy is not the problem. We are. I am.

We will spend the bulk of our time over the next two days dealing with areas that do not fall directly under the Confession's stated functions for a synod. I wonder why we spend so much time on what has

little to do with the purpose of a Synod according to our Confession. At the Synod level, we are doing more than the Confession calls for. The rest of our Standards and our governing documents indeed establish multiple other roles for our Synod. But I cannot help but wonder if this expansion in the Synod's role has not caused us to perform the confessionally-mandated duties poorly and has led to such a burden on the Synod that we cannot support everything we are trying to do. I listened as the nominating committee struggled to find people to serve the many vacancies on boards and committees. I heard one agency after another describe their diminishing denominational funds. I wonder how much of the disunity in our denomination has resulted from trying to be too much and do too much. I wonder. If Synod limited its work to establishing better government, determining controversies of faith and conscience, ordering public worship, and receiving complaints of maladministration, I wonder if we wouldn't re-establish the ties that bind. I wonder. If we dared to look at our agencies, boards, committees – all that we do – and sought where they fit in to a confessionally-crafted Synod, would we find a place for them all? I wonder. Most, if not all, the things we are trying to do are good things. But we are not always doing them well as a Synod. I wonder if perhaps it's because we ought not to be doing them at the Synod level. I wonder. Our Confession reflects the essential things for our denomination. If these are lacking or being poorly performed, then we need to put our focus on them, and not on the less crucial activities of our denomination. Are we, at the denominational level, trying to do what local congregations ought to do?

*Local congregations must sense a need for the Synod to enable **them** to do the work of the kingdom, or to do it better, if they are going to move out from the limited labor of local ministry wherein they are consumed with their local needs and the tyranny of the urgent at home. If we want to see better participation from congregations in denominational affairs – including funding – then the Synod needs to offer them something they need and get beyond the distractions of years gone by. The churches must see that all we do as a Synod is necessary, not just tradition or the way we've done it. And it is the essentials that are necessary.*

Our decade theme gives us a place to start when identifying what we really need to be doing: The ARPC Essentials – What Makes Us Who We Are? As we seek to answer this question, let us consider it within the context of our Confession’s teaching on the purpose of a Synod. If what makes us who we are is not according to that, then let us ask if what we are is what we ought to be.

We entered the decade with a multi-year focus on the Word of God, wrapping it up in 2010 with Moderator Steve Maye’s theme, the Spirit-Illumined Word. This past year we have thought about the free offer of the Gospel. The Word and the free offer of the Gospel are part of our legacy in the ARPC. The obvious theme for the Synod this coming year would be the lordship of Jesus Christ, another one of our historical emphases. And so it will be. There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. And we have no higher calling than to know him as Lord and to make him known as Lord.

I hear repeatedly that our denomination needs transformation. For it to be transformed, we who are the Synod must be transformed individually and only then might we be transformed as a denomination corporately. Taking the lead from brother Curt Young’s advice, our Pre-Synod Conference looked at how we might be transformed through a better understanding of the lordship of Jesus Christ, applied in our lives. In the initial presentation, Dr. Young laid out that to be transformed individually, we must live with a proper regard for the majesty of the Lord Jesus. Our PCA brother, Dr. Rick Phillips, showed us that if we would see the Church transformed, it will come through expository preaching as an expression of the lordship of Jesus Christ, recognizing that it is his Word that can transform us. Brother David Vance explained that if we would be transformed and always transforming, we ought to look to the biblical and historical origins of the significance of the doctrine of lordship and seek to be faithful to the Word and our lordship tradition as it applies to our civil, ecclesiastical and family lives. Finally, Frank van Dalen excited us to see that if we truly want to see transformation of the whole world, we should recognize the lordship of Jesus Christ over all the nations, claiming the whole world as our inheritance, and seek to call his elect throughout the world as we are going into all nations making disciples.

These transformational tasks are essentially individual and congregational responsibilities, not Synod tasks. The Synod can only facilitate and encourage them by promoting better church government and discipline, settling controversies of faith and conscience, and promoting and ordering the public worship of God. Where we are doing things and financing activities that are not a part of these Synod-specific responsibilities, perhaps we need to re-think our role as a Synod.

*After last year's statistical review and this year's report of the SPC, is there no good news? Recently, a friend and brother, who is a member of this court, gave me a copy of Professor Douglas Kelly's book, *New Life in the Wasteland*. It is a compilation of messages based on 2 Corinthians that he gave throughout Scotland under the sponsorship of Rutherford House. In it, Kelly reminds us that we "cannot always judge by the superficial appearance of the church, because historically and theologically it is so often true that God is doing the most when things look the very worst . . . Often when the church seems buried and things seem most discouraging, God is working profoundly beneath the surface."*

Fathers and brothers, what is God doing to further his grace among us so that he can work his grace through us? Let us not just look at the externals – the statistics, the reports, the so-called struggles for control and blame-shifting. Rather, let us call upon our Sovereign God under whose lordship we stand and serve. Let us look for his hidden pattern of providence that works all things – yes, even General Synod meetings – after the counsel of his will. Our ups and downs are in reality, according to Professor Kelly, God's sovereign forward movement to his goal. And I am convinced that he who began a good work in us will perfect it as we approach the day of Christ Jesus.

What would a biblically and confessionally-centered Synod look like? In order to carry out the functions enumerated by our Confession, we need to be a fellowship of the ministers and elders of our churches who care deeply about excellence in faithful ministry to the Lord. We need to look forward to our gatherings – at both Presbytery and Synod levels – as opportunities for soul-feedings and not games-

manship. We need to return to biblical discipline that is both timely and focused on repentance and reconciliation, not punishment and isolation. We need the strong pulpits that characterized the times of Robert Murray McCheyne; pulpits that preach the Word both by mouth and by manner of living. Let us heed McCheyne's instruction that we pray, "Lord, do in me first what I am asking you to do in this congregation. Apply the preaching to my life that I am seeking to have applied to this people whom you have given me." That is my prayer for my service to you.

*Everything under the lordship of Jesus Christ. This is not just a slogan; it is a reality. He **is** Lord! We need not try to determine how to put everything under his lordship; everything **is** under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Will I recognize his lordship in my service to his kingdom as it is embodied in the ARPC? I pray I will.*

Heavenly Father, promote the purity, peace and prosperity of your church as it is embodied in the ARPC, I pray. And guide our deliberations over the next two days during this 208th annual meeting of the General Synod of the ARPC, I ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Moderator Suits introduced the Vice Moderator, Kenneth J. McMullen, to the Synod.

Vice Moderator McMullen presented the program for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the General Synod. The program was adopted.

Moderator Suits made his appointments to the Moderator's Committees. A motion carried that the General Synod approve the Moderator's Committee appointments.

The Moderator determined that the Complaints which had been received by the Synod would be referred to a special committee which he then appointed.

Memorials from the presbyteries were referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Moderator Suits introduced his wife to the Synod. Vice Moderator McMullen introduced his family to the Synod.

Vice Moderator McMullen expressed the thanks of the Synod to all those who make the Synod function so well.

New ministers who have been received or ordained since the 2011 meeting of General Synod introduced themselves to the Synod.

Representatives of Other New Missions / Congregations which have joined the ARPC family since the 2011 meeting of General Synod introduced themselves to the Synod.

Seminary and Special Students under the care of a presbytery introduced themselves to the Synod.

Guy Smith presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Employees and Missionaries.

The report of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC), formerly known as Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission (PRJC) was presented by Doug Lee.

Following announcements, General Synod recessed for the morning break.

After Synod returned from the break, an announcement with regard to Korean translation of the proceedings was made.

An oral report of the **Committee on Minister and His Work** was presented.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTER AND HIS WORK

Fathers and Brothers,

There has not been sufficient business brought to the Committee on Minister and His Work from the presbyteries to warrant a meeting since the last meeting of General Synod.

The Committee notes that the transition from the PCCMP to the PRCC was accomplished on schedule.

Officers for Committee on Minister and His Work for 2013 will be:

Chairman: David Lauten

Vice-Chairman:

Secretary:

The Committee recommends the following people to serve as representatives to the PRCC:

1. R.J. Gore
2. Mike Yarman
3. David Lauten

A presentation on the **Denominational Ministry Fund** was made by Paul Bell. The incoming chairman of the Board of Stewardship, David Sides, addressed the Synod on behalf of the Fund.

Before presenting the **Recommended 2012 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**, Barry Dagenhart addressed the Synod on the subject of giving. The allocation was adopted.

Stewardship Committee				
2013 Denominational Ministries Allocations				
Amounts shown in \$000 (thousands)				
	2012 Approved Allocation	2013 Request	2013 Recommended	2013 Allocation Percentage
<u>Boards and Agencies</u>				
Central Services	\$ 284	\$ 289	\$ 289	11.0%
Benefits (covers board expenses)	7	7	7	0.3%
ARP Center Facility	15	19	15	0.6%
Executive Board and Contingency (2)	155	188	174	6.7%
The ARP	103	108	106	4.1%
Stewardship/Foundation	10	65	65	2.5%
<u>Commission & Committees</u>				
Inter-Church Relations	10	6	6	0.2%
Lay Ministry	18	18	5	0.2%
Worship	19	17	17	0.7%
Other Committees (1)	24	24	23	0.9%
Sub-Total for Non-Program	\$ 644	\$ 740	\$ 706	27.0%
Bonclarken	\$ 120	\$ 118	\$ 115.082	4.4%
Christian Education Ministries	212	201	204	7.8%
Erskine	449	518	431	16.5%
ARP Student Union	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0%
Outreach North America	602	572	578	22.1%
World Witness	602	573	578	22.1%
Program Sub-Total	\$ 1,984	\$ 1,983	\$ 1,907	73.0%
TOTALS	\$ 2,629	\$ 2,723	\$ 2,613	100.0%
(1) - Other Committees include: Ecclesiastical, Investment, Minister & His Work, Nominations, Theological & Social, Form of Government, Strategic Planning				
(2) - Included in the Executive Board is funding for the Erskine College Minister of \$79k in 2012 and \$82k in 2013				
<i>Gifts sent directly to agencies and those made to the Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings are not part of the Denominational Ministry Fund.</i>				

Mr. Dagenhart also introduced Mr. Steven Nichols, whom the ARP Foundation has hired as Director of Gift Planning.

Tom Patterson presented the report of the **Special Committee on Multi-Cultural Ministries**. The report was adopted.

REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRIES

Our denomination is composed of many multi-cultural congregations. There are Chinese, Hispanic, Hungarian, Iranian, Korean, and Swahili churches on the rolls of our presbyteries. Every presbytery with the exception of Virginia Presbytery is involved in multi-cultural ministry.

Last year, Synod approved the following recommendation from Outreach North America:

1. That Synod affirm ONA's guideline concerning ethnic church planting: we prefer to fund new ethnic church plants that have plans for, or are in the process of, making a significant impact with the next generation.
2. That Synod authorize having the revised *Form of Government* translated into Korean and Spanish once the revised *Form of Government* is approved by Synod, and that the Synod authorize the Executive Board of Synod to have the revised *Form of Government* translated into other languages as the Executive Board determines there is a need.
3. That Synod remind multi-cultural ministers and sessions of their responsibility to participate in Presbytery and Synod.
4. That Synod encourage presbyteries to assign a mentor/translator for ministers of different ethnicity coming into the presbytery. The mentor/translator will help the new minister understand the ARP culture and ARP *Form of Government*.
5. That Synod authorize a training time for ministers and elders of different ethnicity during the Pre- or Post-Synod time period each year; this training to be coordinated by Central Services.

As follow-up to these recommendations, there is a more coordinated effort to reach out to and include the multi-cultural ministers and congregations in the overall ministry of the church.

Other topics that need addressing include:

Constituting a Session
Making out a Call to a Pastor
Denominational Ministry Giving
Giving to Foreign Missions/Missionaries
Serving On/Attending Synod Boards & Committee Meetings

Not all of these needs can be met at one time. The teaching and training aspect of multi-cultural ministry has to be ongoing and many times it will involve going over the same material more than one time. Another consideration is offering this training to our multi-cultural brethren at their location. It would be more cost efficient to send one man to them as opposed to having all of them come to Greenville or some other East Coast location.

News from Multi-Cultural Ministries:

Bonclarken will make space available to the Korean pastors attending Synod for an early morning prayer service and for late evening worship services. Christian Education Ministries is offering a Pre-Synod Seminar on Training for Elders and Deacons.

Last year, Dr. Suk Ho Moon, senior pastor of the Hyo Shin Korean ARP Church, Flushing, NY, wrote an article for the ARP Magazine. It was well received by the Korean community. Dr. Moon's schedule did not permit him to write an article for every issue of the magazine. The Rev. John Kim is going to recruit Korean pastors to write these articles and provide this as a regular feature in the magazine each month.

We were privileged to have missionary Tat Stewart attend our recent committee meeting. He brought us a fresh report on the Iranian Ministry. He shared with us that there are over 2 million Iranians living in the United States and Canada. Many of them are Christians. Tat works with a group of Iranian pastors and churches who want to be a presbytery. They also want to be Presbyterian. They have associated themselves into a fellowship which is actually called a Presbytery. There is probably as much ministry going on to the Iranians in North America through the ARP Church than any other denomination or group. There is a significant opportunity for our denomination to have a great impact on Iranians at home and abroad. It is reported that many Iranian Christians are fleeing Iran. Our World Witness missionaries have indicated the presence of Iranian Christians in their fields of service.

The Korean Bethel ARP Church in Fayetteville, NC, is having great success at impacting the second generation of Koreans. Most

Korean churches have this as a goal – to reach the second generation -- but the majority of them don't have the financial resources to accomplish the goal. Korean Bethel has an ordained ARP minister working with their young people and Americans in the congregation. Their building has been renovated, and a large chapel has been constructed. An English-speaking service is conducted each Lord's Day. Attendance at the English Service is running between 40-50 people. Some of these are Americans who have Korean spouses. Others are the second generation young adults and the children of the congregation. We are encouraging other Korean congregations to begin such ministries.

Dr. C. K. Rhee, a Korean pastor, was elected as Moderator of Northeast Presbytery.

There is a realization among some of the pastors of Pacific Presbytery that they need to be more participatory in the affairs of the General Synod. They are committing themselves to receiving training to help them better understand how to cooperate effectively and be a part of the ARP Church. We are grateful to the Office of Christian Education Ministries who sees the need and has stepped up to offer the training. Over the past few months, the presbytery has sent a representative to some of the Board/Committee meetings. This is the first time in years they have been represented at any meeting. They plan to increase their participation this year.

Concerning the matter of translating documents into Korean, John Kim indicates that we have men within our ranks who are capable of providing accurate translations from Korean to English and from English to Korean. No one person can undertake translating everything, but when there is a need we can find someone to do the translating for us. There would be little or no cost associated with this assistance. The Rev. Jeff Lui, the Chinese pastor in Florida, is already working on translating the *Form of Government* into the Chinese language.

The Canadian Presbytery has reported contact with a couple of Korean congregations in its bounds.

The Korean ministers and students in First Presbytery are now meeting together over lunch during the stated presbytery meetings. This is filling a need they have for fellowship with one another.

Christian Education Ministries is still exploring the possibility of offering a Korean youth retreat. You will remember a retreat was planned January a year ago, but it had to be cancelled due to the weather. The Korean pastors tell us that separate Korean youth retreats are needed. Currently the Korean youth attend retreats that are sponsored by Koreans from all backgrounds and denominations.

There is a need for these gatherings to come from a more reformed perspective. At the present time, there is little or no participation of Korean youth in our retreat ministry.

We have spoken with ARP Women's Ministries representatives concerning the drawing of the Korean ladies into the women's work. The Koreans have indicated that such issues as work schedules and language barriers keep the Korean women from participating in the women's ministry. The suggestion is made to have representatives from ARP Women's Ministries come to a cluster gathering of the Korean women to enable them to get involved in women's ministries on the local, Presbyterial, and Synod levels.

If there is a concentration of a particular multi-cultural group in a presbytery, it may be helpful to include someone from that group on the Minister & His Work Committee and the Candidates & Examinations Committee. First Presbytery and Northeast Presbytery are already doing that, and they find it helps with communications.

Ways You Can Help:

English-speaking congregations can have a great impact on developing relationships with multi-cultural congregations and people. Being willing to open our buildings to these congregations and groups provides new avenues for ministries to and with these various groups.

One of the pressing needs in every multi-cultural congregation is that of having English-speaking volunteers to work primarily with the children, but also with the adults. This does not mean the volunteers will leave their own church to attend the multi-cultural church. Schedules can be adjusted to accommodate the schedule of the volunteers. Those already involved in such ministry find it to be very fulfilling.

Churches can also offer English-as-a-Second Language classes and Citizenship Classes to the multi-cultural community. This would be extremely helpful to first generation immigrants.

The concept of having a mentor for each multi-cultural pastor is a good way to insure communications will be improved. The mentor could meet with the pastor at least once a quarter for fellowship, prayer, and discussion.

In Conclusion:

It is always necessary to use grace and patience when dealing with problems and miscommunications with multi-cultural groups.

Multi-cultural ministry presents a great challenge, but so does any ministry. If we are going to be effective in working together, and if we are going to help bridge the gap in communications, there has to be

some organized effort in place to address matters associated with these ministries. There needs to be a separate committee tasked with this responsibility.

Tom Patterson, Chairman

The report of the **Special Committee to Oversee Erskine Campus Ministry** was presented. The report was adopted. A special prayer was offered for the work of the campus minister at Erskine.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE ERSKINE CAMPUS MINISTRY

At its 207th meeting, General Synod extended for one year the interim Committee on Campus Ministry at Erskine so that the Committee could complete remaining details of the transition from the interim committee to a permanent standing committee.

In addition to committee members attending various ministry events at Erskine, the Committee met formally on two occasions. On January 12, 2012, the Committee met at the ARP Center to review with Rev. Paul Patrick his “end of semester” report. The review was comprehensive, and Rev. Patrick was very open in sharing both highlights and lowlights of the semester and things to pursue in the coming semester. Rev. Patrick spoke very highly of the current RUF staff interns, Zack and Elly Keuthan. Financial support details of the ministry were reviewed, and Rev. Patrick reported support has not been a hindrance to ministry to date. The interaction between the Committee and Rev. Patrick was lengthy, congenial, warm, and encouraging to all involved. The Committee was very positive about Rev. Patrick’s performance and the effectiveness of the campus ministry at Erskine.

The Committee then discussed details of the transition from interim committee to permanent standing committee. Moderator-Elect Steven Suits pointed out that Synod’s Committee on Nominations could not make nominations since there was not a Synod-approved *Manual of Authorities and Duties* committee description. He recommended that the interim committee make the nominations for the initial committee membership. Other transition details were discussed, such as modifying the required number of meetings from three to one each semester and others as needed. There was also a discussion regarding having the President of Erskine College as an advisory mem-

ber instead of ex officio. In subsequent discussions with the current president, Dr. Norman, he indicated that he did not object to this change.

The Committee met again on March 27, 2012 to review and revise the draft documents for the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* and the committee report to General Synod. Revisions were made and all documents were approved and are a part of this report.

Recommendations:

1. That the attached duties and structure for the Committee on Campus Ministry at Erskine for the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be approved.
2. That the current Special Committee to Oversee Erskine Campus Ministry serve as the first permanent standing committee with the following assignment of classes:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>
Rev. Thomas Shoger	2013
Mr. Phil Williams	2014
Rev. Robert Anderson	2015
Rev. Patrick Malphrus	2016
Mr. George S. Robinson	2017

3. That the General Synod authorize \$1,000 for Committee expenses in 2013.
4. That all other actions of the Committee as reported herein be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

George S. Robinson, Jr., Chairman

**PROPOSED ADDITION TO
MANUAL OF AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES**

Membership:	At Large: (5) members. Three (3) shall be teaching elders and two (2) shall be ruling elders. Advisory: President of Erskine College, Moderator of Synod, Moderator-Elect of Synod, Executive Director of Central Services.
Terms of Service:	At Large: Five (5) years. Advisory: As determined by the office to which appointed.

Stated Meetings:	One (1) in January and one (1) during the Fall Semester, and others as needed.
Organization:	Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary.
Authority:	The Committee on Campus Ministry at Erskine shall provide ecclesiastical oversight for the Campus Minister and Campus Ministry at Erskine College. This oversight includes the effect of any institutional changes which impact or influence the Campus Minister or the Campus Ministry. In the exercise of its authority, the Committee shall comply with <i>The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church</i> , and its policies and programs shall be consistent with the purpose of the General Synod.
Duties:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To oversee and provide support to the Campus Minister and ministry at Erskine College. 2. To ensure that campus ministry conforms to the <i>Overview of Erskine Campus Ministry</i> approved by the General Synod. 3. To ensure that the campus ministry complies with the terms of the affiliation agreement with Reformed University Ministries as approved by General Synod. 4. To serve as a Minister Search Committee when a new Campus Minister is needed, and to bring a recommendation to the Executive Board of Synod. 5. To prepare the terms of Call for the Erskine Campus Minister and to review the terms at least annually and make recommendations for changes to the Executive Board of Synod. The Call and subsequent changes shall be in accordance with proper protocol of the Campus Minister's presbytery. 6. To make an annual report to the General Synod.

Overview of Erskine Campus Ministry

[Adopted by 2011 Synod]

PURPOSE	Campus Ministry at Erskine College exists to provide Gospel ministry and pastoral care for Erskine students. The purpose of the ministry is to reach, nurture, and equip students with the Gospel of grace for the Christian life.
MINISTER	The General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's commitment to this ministry includes calling and sending to the Erskine Campus an ordained minister who is trained in campus ministry.
MINISTRY	The campus minister is charged with building a healthy and productive work of ministry that emphasizes reaching, nurturing, and equipping Erskine students with the Christian Gospel. This ministry is both "fixed" and "flexible." The ministry is <i>fixed</i> in that the theology and philosophy of ministry are to remain in conformity with the <i>Standards of the ARP Church</i> . The campus ministry is <i>flexible</i> in that the methodology implemented by the campus minister can and should vary according to his particular giftedness and strategic approach to ministering to his demographic group.
PHILOSOPHY	The most efficient safeguard of a faithful and enduring work of campus ministry at Erskine is attained through formal affiliation with Reformed University Ministries. This affiliation provides necessary and ongoing ministry training and resources to equip the Campus Minister and interns. See affiliation agreement.
SYNOD	The Campus Minister and his work of ministry are under the direct oversight of a permanent standing Committee on Campus Ministry at Erskine. This committee meets at least two times each year for the purpose of evaluation, review and pastoral care, and support of the Campus Minister and Campus Ministry.
PRESBYTERY	The Campus Minister is a member of an ARP Presbytery and an active participant in the ministry and work of the presbytery.

FUNDING	The funding of salary, insurance, benefits, and the minimal expenses of having a campus ministry presence at Erskine is provided by the General Synod. Ministry program expenses are raised by the campus minister from individuals and churches.
ERSKINE	Though not technically an employee of Erskine College, the Campus Minister is a vital and central member of the Erskine Community and a chief contributor to its spiritual environment. His presence on the Erskine Campus is as a privileged guest and as a resource provided from the General Synod to Erskine as its institution and agency of higher education. The Campus Minister, at the request of the President of Erskine College and Seminary, provides pro bono chaplain services for the good of the community that may include chapel services, baccalaureate services, and participation in the graduation ceremony, and other requests that may be beneficial to Erskine, with the concurrence of the Synod's permanent oversight committee. In consideration of these services Erskine has agreed to provide the Campus Minister's office, strategically located on the ground floor of Watkins Student Center, and director level full campus privileges for the campus minister and his family. Erskine further agreed to continue the agreement begun in 2006 which allows Campus Ministry Interns to be housed in empty (unused) dorm rooms.

CAMPUS MINISTRY AFFILIATION OF
THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WITH
REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES OF
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church - Erskine College
[Adopted by 2011 Synod]

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and Reformed University Ministries (RUM) do hereby agree to an affiliation for the purpose of reaching students for Christ and equipping students for service on the Erskine College campus.

Through this agreement the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and Erskine College are officially affiliated with Reformed University Ministries and thereby authorized to use said name and that of Reformed University Fellowship at Erskine College.

- I. Responsibilities of Reformed University Ministries
 - A. Reformed University Ministries will provide area assistance, staff resources, and coordination and supervision of the over-all ministry.
 - B. Reformed University Ministries will maintain a Committee on Reformed University Ministries. The Committee will consider and make recommendations to the General Assembly for appropriate action as it relates to a unified campus ministry. This action will include:
 - 1. Operational procedures and guidelines for staff and ministry.
 - 2. Staff - Staff recruiting, assessment, processing and job descriptions.
 - 3. Training - Providing a regular program of training for staff.
 - 4. Accounting - Including receipting and acknowledgement of gifts, payment of staff and programming expenses per presbytery specifications, and financial, budget and donor reports.
 - 5. Development - With data provided by the area coordinator, minister, staff, or intern, RUM will produce such items as initial appeal letters and regular newsletters. RUM will maintain all staff mailing lists within the ministry's donor database.
 - 6. Ministry-at-large - Coordinating and implementing agreed upon programs, projects, and ministries, including intern program, conferences, public relations, pastoral care, and insurance.
- II. Responsibilities of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
 - GA PCA - RUM affiliates ministries through PCA presbyteries and denominations with which the PCA has fraternal relations. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church acknowledges and accepts the responsibility to:
 - A. Oversee the campus minister under its jurisdiction who will be ordained and in good standing with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

- B. Ensure the ministry is conducted in accordance with the doctrinal system set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger Catechism, and the Shorter Catechism of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- C. Ensure the ministry is conducted in accordance with the principles of Presbyterian polity.
- D. Establish an appropriate committee to implement the church's oversight of the ministry. The local South Carolina Committee on Campus Ministry will exercise its normal review. The staff member will report regularly to the PCA South Carolina Committee on Campus Ministry, as well as to an appropriate committee of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
- E. Call and hire all staff, (with the approval of Reformed University Ministries) who will work with Reformed University Fellowship at Erskine College.
- F. Determine all staff salaries and budgets.
- G. Fund the ministry, assuming sole responsibility for all staff salaries and ministry expenses.
- H. Make contributions toward the cost of area assistance. \$500 per month for the Campus Minister and \$75 per month for each intern.
- I. Ensure participation of all campus ministers, staff, and interns in training provided by Reformed University Ministries. Area and local staff will assist when needed in providing such training.
- J. Ensure participation of campus ministers, staff, and interns in area-wide and ministry-at-large programs and projects.
- K. Participate in the overall campus ministry through involvement in RUM campus organizational structure.
- L. Encourage its members to pray for Reformed University Fellowship, to refer contacts to the Reformed University Fellowship staff, and to make students aware of this ministry at the Erskine College.
- M. The ARP synod will provide a method of handling the cost of the ministry and provide for the salaries and related benefits and all ministry programs, training, and support costs.
- N. As a rule, Campus Ministers have a line item in the programming budget to cover training. In lieu of this, Reformed University Ministries – Atlanta will invoice the Associate Presbyterian Church for the costs incurred by the campus minister for training and conferences (materials, housing, meals, etc.)

- O. Insure that the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church carry out the work in the manner set forth in this affiliation agreement.

Associate Reformed
Presbyterian Church
Erskine College

Reformed University Ministries

Andrew Putnam,
Moderator of the Associate
Reformed Presbyterian Church

Rod Mays,
Coordinator of Reformed
University Ministries

____ 6/9/11 _____
Date of Action

____ 6/9/11 _____
Date of Action

Dr. David Norman,
President of Erskine College

____ 6/9/11 _____
Date of Action

FUNDING

AREA/FIELD ASSISTANCE

Each affiliated ministry contributes to the overall ministry cost through contributions for:

TRAINING

Provide several weeks of intensive training for all staff. This involves the planning, scheduling, material production and facilitation.

AREA COORDINATORS

Support of Area Coordinators who serve the ministry in designated areas.

CONFERENCES

Organization of conference, speakers, lodging, food, insurance, programs, registration and fund management.

MISSION PROJECTS

Provide receipting, bookkeeping and handling of funds for various mission projects of the campus ministries.

RECRUITING

Travel to the Regional Fall Conferences for purpose of meeting potential intern staff.

Recruiting on seminaries by Coordinator and his team of Area Coordinators. Coordinator also speaks at seminaries and holds meetings with students and faculty.

GENERAL

Project and submit full budget and required reports to General Assembly.

Prepare and distribute agenda for RUM Permanent Committee Meetings.

Assist Permanent Committee members on works to evaluate ministry operation.

Carry out development plan including various presentations for targeted individuals and groups and general appeal letters.

Attend Presbytery RUM Committee meetings and provide training and assistance with expansion efforts.

Meet with campus administrators as needed to insure grant of charter and compliance with bylaws and constitution of Reformed University Fellowship.

Processing and placement of interns, providing oversight and development strategy and giving support as needed.

The Stated Clerk of First Presbytery read a third **Memorial from First Presbytery** to the Synod. A motion carried that the memorial be referred to the Moderator's Committee on Memorials.

Bryan Crotts presented the **Report of the Special Committee to Oversee ARP Women's Ministries**. The report was debated.

A call for the Order of the Day was accepted. Following announcements, the morning business session closed with prayer and the Blessing by Kevin Vickery.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1:45 P.M.

The Moderator's Committees began their meetings at 1:45 p.m.

The special committee appointed to examine **Complaints** met at 3:30 p.m. The Moderator instructed the committee not

to adjudicate the complaints, but to recommend to Synod the most efficient way to handle them.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 7:00 P.M.

The Prelude for the evening session was presented by Greg Reynolds.

The Camp Joy Singers provided special music for the evening worship.

The evening worship service was led by Jeff Kingswood.

Elaine Pace-Reed, President of the ARP Women's Ministries, brought greetings from ARP Women's Ministries. A motion carried to print the greetings in the *Minutes of Synod*.

Good Evening. I would like to thank Moderator Suits for inviting me to speak on behalf of ARP Women's Ministries. This year we have provided a written report of our activities, Index E, so my comments will be focused on the impact that Women's Ministries is making on the lives of the ladies of our denomination and how the members of this Court can support our efforts.

I would like to begin tonight by sharing a page from the life of one of our board members. She will remain nameless, as her name is not important, but the journey she took is. This woman came to know Christ as a young girl, but turned her back on the church in her late teens after being deeply hurt by members of her local congregation. She remained estranged from God and the fellowship of believers until her late 30's, when the Lord placed a woman in her life who made it her mission to pray for reconciliation. She was brought back into fellowship with Christ. As she began attending a new church—an ARP church — the Lord again put a woman in her life to be her spiritual mentor and then yet another to encourage her in studying the Bible. The Lord used these three women through one-on-one ministry to set in motion an explosion of spiritual growth which gave birth to her passion for women's ministries. Perhaps this account renders in your mind the image of a woman you know.

This experience exemplifies the article, "Why Women's Ministries," in the recent issue of The Associate Reformed Presbyterian. It's an excellent article laying out the Biblical foundation for woman-to-woman ministry. The ARP Women's Ministries Board appreciated the note received from Pastor Allen Derrick who encouraged the elders, deacons, and women of his churches to read this article.

When I think of impact and its rippling effect, I go back to my childhood when my dad and my grandfather showed me how to skip rocks. The ideal stone was made smooth by the influence of its environment; it seemed the best results occurred when I took the time to wash the stone off in the water—almost allowing the stone to become familiar with the water—with a slight step back and a smooth release of the wrist the stone bounced off the water causing ripples. I have the same image of the ARP Women's Ministries Board. The board is standing at the edge of our community. We send out encouragement through resources and training, which skip along like stones across it. The ripples of impact spread far and wide as lives are touched. What does this impact look like? For Sharon Carr it is ensuring an accurate Biblical perspective. After attending an event this year she wrote, "Thanks for making the Word very prominent in your talks." For Diane Speights of Scots Kirk ARP, impact is realized through weekly Bible Study. In a recent email she shared, "I have learned so much from the Woman's Bible studies at our church through the years and truly feel that through them I have grown in my knowledge of and love for the Lord and His Word. We all leave a legacy on this earth, and the legacy I want to leave is one of Biblical womanhood, a woman who loves and serves the Lord. These Bible studies have made me aware of my responsibility as a woman to be the best example of Biblical womanhood I can be for my family, friends, community, and church." During my travels this year I met Eunjin Kim, a young lady born in Korea who now lives in the United States trying to find her place in a new country, in a culture very foreign to her own. Hear her words, "I was very encouraged by your testimony about fellowship with others in Christ. I was avoiding to have fellowship because of my past experience and hurts. Your words encourage me and gave me courage to trust God."

As pastors and leaders of our denomination, you have supported the women of the ARP Church. I will only take the time to speak about three. Associate Minister, David Lauten, from First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC instructs the Bible Moderators each month, who in turn teach the Bible Study to its women. "Under his teaching and guidance, the Bible study teachers (Bible Moderators) don't feel alone, but have a foundation for their studies and preparation" (Eve Huffman—April 25, 2012). Rev Lauten has taken his commitment to this type of instruction so seriously he accepted the invitation to speak at a Catawba Women's Ministries Meet and Greet on the subject of "How to Teach a Bible Study." Likewise, Pastor Kevin Carter and his wife Joanne took an active role in the teaching at the annual Ontario Ladies' Retreat. And one of the most unusual forms of support I witnessed this year was at the installation service, where Rev Michael Lashley individually charged each officer with scripture and words of encouragement. The ripples

of your support travel wide and far. As our shepherds, we value your direction, and the importance of the encouragement runs deep.

*As I close this evening, I would like to leave you with one final quote from this year's **You Are a Woman, You Are a Christian, You Are Invited** seminar. Linda Wedge of Kirkridge ARP Church in Manchester, MD shared, "I came to look for ways I could serve the Lord. Outreach type stuff. I had no idea how you would be ministering to me. This was an awesome experience. I will be back next year." Our prayer for Linda and all the women of the ARP Church is to touch their lives in such a way that they will "know Jesus intimately, love Jesus faithfully, and serve Jesus fruitfully" (ARP Women's Ministries website).*

After being introduced by Robert Patrick of the **Inter-Church Relations Committee**, Fraternal Delegates from the following denominations addressed the Synod:

Presbyterian Church in America, Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk
Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jack Sawyer
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, Bruce Parnell

Justen John was introduced by Frank van Dalen. Mr. John brought greetings from the **Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Pakistan** as well as an update on our denationalized schools there. Mr. John presented the following letter:

May 2012 Update

The General Synod of the ARP Church, Pakistan feels great joy in having this opportunity to interact with the ARP Synod of the United States at its annual meeting. Our relationship with each other is more than a hundred years old. We acknowledge and consider the US Synod as the mother Church of the ARP Church, Pakistan. God gave us birth through you.

We can never forget the pivotal role US missionaries have played in our life through the years, men and women faithfully serving in different capacities. We especially want to thank you and show appreciation for the services of Rev. Gary Letchworth for initiating the denationalizing of our schools and Dr. Ron Brunson for serving to promote the Christian Education Ministry of our Synod. We praise God for their marvelous contributions. World Witness indeed serves as a good channel linking our Synods and labors together. We

are grateful for the efforts of World Witness Executive Director, Rev. Frank van Dalen, and Field Director, Mr. Andrew Howard, to strengthen these bonds. Your physical, spiritual, financial and moral cooperation is enabling us to see the dream of an ARP School System beginning to come true.

We also want you to be aware of our desire to plant new churches here in Pakistan. Our Synod even dreams of a new presbytery being established in the Lahore region. Lahore is one of the major cities of our country. One church is already established there and has had regular worship services for the last four years. We will soon be ready to start two more churches and are considering more opportunities as well. We want to especially thank Rev. van Dalen and Rev. Letchworth, encouraging and assisting us in these dreams. Our church plants will initially rent space to meet, but we hope that as we move forward permanent homes will be found and many will be reached for Christ. So, we ask that you please remember us in these projects.

We also want to give thanks for the Barnabas Ministry and MT3 projects of WW because they are very helpful in developing and promoting our emerging leaders.

Following 3 1/2 years of unsuccessful meetings, the Pakistan Annual Synod finally met on Nov 10, 2011. But there remains the need for peace and harmony in our Synod. Please continue to pray for us, as the needs and ministry opportunities are great! May the Lord richly bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Zeeshan Sadiq
Synod Secretary*

The Synod continued consideration of the report of the **Special Committee to Oversee ARP Women's Ministries**. Recommendation #1 was **not adopted**. Recommendations #2 and 3 were **adopted**.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE ARP WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

At the 205th meeting of General Synod (June 2009), the Moderator was directed to form "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." (Minutes, 2009, 84-85)

The following is a portion of remarks made by 2009 ARP Women's Ministries President Sue E. Roberson. The remarks provide context for their request:

At the March Executive Board meeting for Synod, with the advisement of Executive Director Paul Bell, I invited Administrator Elizabeth Burns, and Vice President Kathy Barron, to be introduced to the Board and to support me as I asked the Board a very important question concerning the ARP Women's Ministries. The question was: "Exactly WHO or WHAT are we in the eyes of Synod? The ARP Women's Ministries is an integral part of Synod, but – we are not an Agency, or a Board, nor a Standing Committee. So then, where do we, as an organization, fit into the overall order of our church?" The Synod Board members very graciously took our questions seriously and will study them to help identify exactly (hopefully) how Synod sees the ARPWM, and how we can work together for the continued glory of God. (Minutes, 2009, 38)

The Committee was formed in 2011 by Moderator Steve Maye and membership includes: The Rev. Bryan Crotts (Chairman) - Christ Community, NC; Mr. Paul Bell (Advisory) - Central Services; Mr. Phillip Malphrus - Devenger Road, SC; Mrs. Laura Navarro (Secretary) - Huntersville, NC - Past President of WM, Huntersville and current Vice President of Presbyterial; Mrs. Nancy Myers - Coddle Creek, NC - Secretary of WM at Coddle Creek Church; the Rev. Tim Phillips - Midlane Park, KY; Mr. Alvin Sell - Redeemer, SC; the Rev. Jim Mitchell - Sandy Plains, NC.

The Special Committee to Oversee ARP Women's Ministries met by telephone conference call in May 2011. The Moderator of the 2011 General Synod continued the committee. Over the summer, fall and winter, various members of the committee consulted a number of individuals or groups related to the matter of finding a suitable lodging place in the current structure of the ARP Church for Women's Ministries. The Committee met by telephone conference call in March 2012.

Great consideration was given to individuals, groups, governing documents, various precedents and other pertinent matters. The following recommendations have short-term and long-term goals. The long-term desire of the Committee is to find a suitable lodging place for Women's Ministries that will allow them to function as an effective and efficient ministry to ARP women. We are studying all possible

solutions. We have considered their placement under Christian Education Ministries, as well as making them their own agency of the ARP Church. At this point in time, we do not yet know what is the wisest course of action and will consider the matter further over the next year. For now, we see temporary lodging with Central Services as a necessary step for providing oversight. Otherwise, Women's Ministries will remain a separate organization without an official place in the structure and government of the ARP Church.

Recommendations:

1. That, as a short-term solution, Women's Ministries of the ARPC be placed under the oversight of Central Services.
2. That, when necessary, the Executive Board of Women's Ministries report directly to the Executive Board of Synod.
3. That the Special Committee to Oversee ARP Women's Ministries be continued and report to the 2013 General Synod with a long-term solution for how Women's Ministries of the ARPC comes under the oversight of the General Synod.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Crotts, Chairman

Doug Peterson presented the **Report of the Special Committee on Strategic Planning**. Recommendations were voted on one at a time. Recommendations #1-7 were **adopted**. Recommendation #8 was amended by adding the words, "and report their findings to the next Synod meeting for consideration." Recommendation #8 was **adopted as amended**. Recommendation #9 was **adopted**.

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
STRATEGIC PLANNING
FROM PLANNING TO ACTION**

Introduction and Review

The Special Committee on Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) was established in 2007 and charged with the responsibility "to evaluate the current ministries of the General Synod in the light of the present and future challenges facing the ARP Church, and to propose a

strategic plan for the future.” During its first two years, the committee examined the history of the ARP Church and the cultural and theological challenges it faces. However, the evaluation of our ministries/agencies (hereafter, these terms used interchangeably) in light of those challenges required the identification of a standard for making such an evaluation, a standard based on the Scriptures and in harmony with our confessional standards. Initially, two prominent core values were identified from the origin of the ARP Church which remain important for the church in our time, namely, the free offer of the gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. After being reported to the Synod in 2010 these core values were featured in the annual emphases of Synod for 2011-2013 as well as in initiatives by our congregations and ministries.

As the committee continued its work, it became clear that, as important as they are, the two core values of the free offer of the gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ do not provide sufficient specificity for evaluating all the ministries/agencies of Synod. Additionally, therefore, the committee proposed to the 2011 General Synod a new vision statement, three ministry criteria, and five emphases for use in making evaluations and developing a strategic plan for the denomination. (See the Appendices to this report.) The 2011 General Synod received this proposal with favor and commended the vision, ministry criteria and emphases to the presbyteries and congregations of the ARPC “for careful consideration as to how each of us can help strengthen the ministries of the Church.” The Synod also instructed the boards and agencies of the ARPC “to give careful consideration to the Vision, ministry criteria and five emphases outlined in this Report, and that representatives of these Boards and Agencies provide a detailed written report to the SPC as a basis for further discussion as to how their ministry is consistent with and can work to further these goals.”

A persistent concern of the committee has been to discover how a strategic plan for the denomination might be effectively implemented. Far too many committee reports are simply approved and published in the Minutes of the General Synod, only to be forgotten thereafter. To assist us in the process, we engaged the services Dr. Billy Browning, a leading consultant on organizational effectiveness and a committed Christian. He was referred to us by the PCA’s Mission to the World and is contributing his services to us free of charge. Dr. Browning has provided us with invaluable assistance in helping us to understand (a) the importance of giving the parties to be assessed an opportunity to participate in developing the criteria for assessment

and (b) the need for initiating a strategic planning process which will engage the congregations and presbyteries that form the ARPC as well as the ministries/agencies that serve the Church in an ongoing, mutually-supportive collaboration to implement the mission of the church.

In the fall of 2011, representatives of the SPC met with directors and board members of our Synod ministries to initiate collaboration between the committee and the ministries in preparing the reports required by the 2011 Synod. This meeting resulted in further collaboration among the ministry leaders and produced, among other things, the following recommendation for a sixth emphasis to be added to those in the 2011 Interim Report of the SPC:

6. Mobilization for World Missions

Because we are committed to “proclaiming joyfully the gospel of grace freely to all; making disciples among the nations” and accomplishing God’s purposes in God’s way, we must be committed as a church to pouring lives and resources into the advance of God’s kingdom for the sake of his glory. We assert that the mission of the church is not merely the province of professionals and a few enthusiasts, but rather the sacred privilege and responsibility of the whole body of Christ working together according to his call, gifting and leading. We further assert that the gospel is not merely the means by which we receive redemption from God. Rather, it is also the means by which God has revealed his glory to us in our Lord Jesus Christ, and as we gather the elect from all nations through carrying out the Great Commission, it becomes a great means by which we bring praise, glory and honor to him who loved us and gave himself for us. We believe that the church exists by mission as fire exists by burning, and any fire that is spreading is not going out.

The SPC arranged for our consultant to meet with the ministry leaders in January 2012 and report his findings to the committee, and this led to Moderator Putnam arranging a joint meeting involving the SPC, directors and board members of Synod’s ministries, and the Executive Board of Synod in March 2012. In each of these meetings, the committee witnessed a desire for increased cooperation among the various stakeholders of the ARPC, but in order to achieve this increased cooperation, certain challenges must be addressed.

Challenges

1. Culture.

The ARP Church is not immune from the culture in which it exists. The church as an institution is increasingly marginalized in western culture. The economic crisis has added to the already growing questions about the value of maintaining traditional organizations for their own sake. Biblical illiteracy, theological confusion and moral decay eat at the fabric of the church from within. The symptoms of institutional disease – lack of vision, ineffective leadership, declining numbers, acceptance of mediocrity, cynicism about the future, blame-shifting, and conflict over control – are present in the ARP Church. If we are going to have a credible standard for evaluating our ministries and a sound basis for strategic planning; then the fault-finding “they” must be replaced with the accountability-accepting “we.” The SPC has been encouraged by witnessing, among those with whom we have met, a new spirit of repentance and an increased zeal for being co-workers with God in proclaiming and living out the free offer of the gospel and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, **and we believe that a strategic process rather than a fixed plan is better suited to encouraging the growth of such hopeful developments.**

2. Governance.

Although the original charge to the SPC focused on the ministries of Synod, it has become increasingly clear that an effective strategic planning process must encompass the whole ARP Church, not just the boards and agencies. We cannot fix what is wrong with the ARP Church by fixing the agencies. The ministries and the congregations need each other and must be engaged in mutually-supportive relationships. These relationships require both a shared vision for ministry and accountability for implementing that vision, and therein lies the challenge. While the Synod has the power to require accountability from the ministries by setting policies, approving budgets and electing board and committee members, it has no similar powers to require accountability for supporting those ministries from the presbyteries and congregations. Even if a new strategic plan was adopted, our system of governance does not provide a structure for timely enforcement of implementation which encompasses the whole church. Our moderators are neither presidents nor popes. Only the General Synod, when it is in session, and the Executive Board of Synod, in specified situations, have the power to take action for the General

Synod. As a result, once Synod adjourns, the boards and agencies are largely left to fend for themselves while the congregations primarily focus on their own concerns. The Synod has resisted efforts to concentrate power at the Synod level, but this means that some other way must be found to achieve a sense of accountability for implementing the mission of the ARP Church by both our ministries and our congregations. **The SPC believes that an active, prayerful, Spirit-led constancy of purpose in fulfilling a God-given, mutually-accepted mission, facilitated by a process for ongoing collaboration among the presbyteries, congregations, and ministries of the Synod, is the key to achieving such a shared sense of accountability.**

3. Mission.

In order to serve as an effective rallying point for the ARP Church, our mission must be Christ-centered, clear, cohesive, and compelling. The ARP Church already has such a mission. In our 2011 Interim Report, the SPC referred to Chapters I.A. and I.B. of the *Form of Government* in describing who we are as a church. We identified ourselves as a branch of the “one church of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world.” However, we did not refer to Chapter I.C., and it was not until we began to consider the critical importance of mission to evaluation and strategic planning that we took note of it.

Here is what it says:

C. MISSION AND MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH

1. *The mission of the Church is a mission of witness and ministry. Christ called the people of the Church “witnesses.” Paul saw God as giving gifts to equip the Church’s people for the work of ministry.*
2. *All that the Church says and does is to be a witness to Jesus Christ, God’s living Word, as He is spoken of in the Holy Scriptures, God’s written Word. God has sent His Church into the world that the Church will present Jesus Christ through preaching, witnessing, teaching, sacrament, worship and both individual and corporate Christian living and action. All of the Church’s people in every phase of*

their living are to be God's ministers to the world by being servants of His son, the King of the Church.

3. *God the Father has given the Holy Spirit through Christ to the world to reveal and make the ministry of the Church effective.*
4. *The message of the Church's ministry is the ministry of reconciliation. Through the varieties of its ministry, the Church is to bear witness that "...God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself..." (2 Corinthians 5:19) to the end that all people might be reconciled to God and to one another.*

There are a number of things that can be said about this statement of mission and message. It clearly points to the supremacy of Christ and the centrality of the gospel, but it does not engage in a reductionistic "gospel-only" definition of the mission. Paragraph 2 makes it clear that the mission and message are not just a matter of the content of our confession, but the content of our character and the character of our conduct. The repeated use of the words "all" and "every" speak to the all-encompassing nature of the mission and message. It may very well be true that the mission and message of the ARP Church involves more than what is listed in Chapter I.C., but it can hardly be said to involve anything less. Chapter I.C. can also be faulted for being too wordy to be memorable, and discussions at our joint meeting in March 2012 spoke to the need for some briefer statement to capture the essence of the mission. However, what we have now in the Chapter I.C. in the *Form of Government* is a crucial part of what ministers, elders, and deacons affirm to accept in their ordination vows. The SPC believes that the integrity of the ARP Church requires that we either affirm our commitment to implementing the "mission and message" described in Chapter I.C. or replace it with something we can affirm.

4. Keeping the Vision.

Over the last 25 years or more, there seems to have been a persistent sense that the ARP Church must come together in a more unified and cooperative way if it is to fulfill its mission and calling. A number of significant efforts have been made toward this.

We have attempted several reorganizations and for some years had a Coordinator in an effort to unify the work of our various boards, committees, and agencies. Still sensing that we were falling short, a Vision committee was appointed in 2005 to provide a unifying vision for the work of the ARP Church in all its ministries. In 2007 that committee recommended the appointment of a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a plan for the church that would carry us into the future. **As this committee has wrestled with this responsibility, we have concluded that the plan we need is not one developed by a single committee for the whole church, but a plan that emerges from the church as each of the church's parts engages in mission and cooperative works with the other parts.** The work of the General Synod, through its boards, committees, and agencies, cannot go forward without the active support of our congregations and presbyteries. Working for a common mission in cooperative ways will require more than the development of a plan which is approved by Synod. There will have to be on-going work to refine our plans and coordinate our labors. Your committee believes, therefore, that on-going responsibility for keeping the vision must be vested in an entity that is in touch with all parts of our church and has the responsibility for encouraging and facilitating the work. Such an entity already exists among us, the Executive Board of Synod. Its stated authority in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* includes the following (p. 14, Authority):

The Executive Board of the General Synod is the agency empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of Synod, and is the agency responsible for presenting to the General Synod organizational and administration changes to enhance the capability of the General Synod to fulfill its primary responsibility (*Form of Government*, Chapter XIII,B.1).

Among the specific duties assigned to the Executive Board are the following (p. 14, Duties):

2. To implement all directives of Synod not specifically assigned to another board or committee.
3. To coordinate the total work of the General Synod.

4. To supervise the Office of Central Services and, through it, to provide administrative support for all boards, committees, and operating agencies of the General Synod.
5. To promote the work of General Synod.

It is the Executive Board of Synod that is empowered and positioned in the life of the ARP Church to keep the vision and mission of the church. The SPC has a number of ideas to present to the Executive Board on how the board might function to facilitate and implement an ongoing strategic planning process within the church, engaging all its parts. The SPC is therefore requesting one more year to complete its work, which will be spent in dialogue with the Executive Board on how the mission of the ARP Church might be more effectively communicated, supported, and accomplished.

Recommendations:

1. That the 2012 meeting of the General Synod reaffirm its commitment to implementing the Mission and Message of the Church as set forth in Chapter I.C. of the *Form of Government (FOG)*.
2. That a new paragraph, "6. Mobilization for World Missions," be approved and added to the list of Emphases approved by the 2011 General Synod.
3. That, in lieu of a fixed strategic plan, the General Synod approve the concept of instituting a strategic process involving the ongoing mutually-supportive collaboration among the congregations, presbyteries, and ministries/agencies of the ARP Church and the accountability of presbyteries, congregations, and ministries for implementing the Mission and Message of the Church as set forth in Chapter I.C. of the *FOG*.
4. That the sessions, presbyteries, and ministries/agencies of the ARP Church evaluate their missions, plans, and activities for alignment with the Mission and Message of the ARP Church (Chapter I.C., *FOG*) as informed by the Vision, ministry criteria, and emphases included with this report.
5. That the ministries/agencies of the ARP Church actively seek out ways to help enable and empower the presbyteries and congregations of the Church to implement the Mission and Message of the Church (Chapter I.C., *FOG*).
6. That the sessions of the ARP Church devote prayer on an at least monthly basis to the Mission and Message of the ARP Church and seek means of collaborating with other presbyteries, congregations,

and ministries/agencies of the General Synod as well as other like-minded members of the Body of Christ in implementing the Mission and Message of the Church (Chapter I.C., FOG).

7. That future moderators of the ARP Church give serious consideration to planning their annual emphases around understanding and implementing the Mission and Message of the Church (Chapter I.C., FOG).
8. That the moderator and the Executive Board of Synod collaborate with the Special Committee on Strategic Planning in developing a means for facilitating, monitoring, and evaluating progress toward the implementation of the Mission and Message of the Church (Chapter I.C., FOG) in order to provide for continuity of focus after the SPC completes its work in 2013.
9. That the Special Committee on Strategic Planning be continued for one more year.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas W. Petersen,
Chairman

APPENDICES

ITEMS FROM THE 2011 REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

Vision Statement

As sinners being saved by the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, Associate Reformed Presbyterians are compelled by His grace to give glory to God in worship, life and witness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we aspire to be a people gathered into churches, who are living obediently to the word of God; growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; loving one another as Christ has loved us; proclaiming joyfully the gospel of grace freely to all; making disciples among all the nations; and working in unity with all who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Criteria for Strategic Plan

1. It must be *gospel-centered and gospel-driven*. The goal of the ARP Church and its agencies must be the proclamation, teaching, and living of the gospel, not the perpetuation of ministry forms and structures for their own sake.

2. It must *empower the people of God to accomplish God's purposes in God's way*. Gospel ministry must be done with gospel methods, rather than be using the weapons of the world (see 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
3. It must *marshal the resources of the church in a wise and prudent manner* so that opportunities for cooperation and synergy are seized, and so that the God-given resources of the church are not wasted (see Matthew 25:14-30).

Emphases

1. **Powerful Gospel-Centered Preaching** - Our Reformation heritage highlighted the centrality of preaching for the church. Moreover, this is a genuinely biblical emphasis (Romans 10:14-15; 1 Corinthians 1:21-25). Indeed the great periods of revival and reform in the church have invariably been accompanied by the powerful preaching of the Word of God. Today, however, the ARP Church is not particularly known for its emphasis on the powerful preaching of the Word. As the Vision Committee report (2007 Minutes of Synod, p. 19-25) aptly noted, "Impotent pulpits produce impotent churches."
2. **Church Planting** - The New Testament church expanded through the planting of churches throughout the Mediterranean world as the Apostles were obedient to the Great Commission. Today the ARP Church has a preponderance of small, rural churches. Some of these congregations are unlikely to survive the ongoing shifts in population patterns. That being said, the impetus for church planting must come, not from a desire to perpetuate the ARP Church for its own sake, but rather from the recognition that the ARP Church has something of great value to offer to the world, from the fact that the gospel involves the extension of the church, and that the New Testament model for this extension entails the planting of churches.
3. **Christian Education** - We live in an age when many Christians are woefully ignorant of the Bible and of the Christian tradition. As the Vision Committee report noted, "A major focus of the church must be the training of people in biblical knowledge and Christian doctrine. All Boards, Agencies, and Committees of the Church on the General Synod, Presbytery, and Congregational levels should make it their focus to communicate and exemplify a biblical and Reformed worldview in their respective work."

4. **Multi-Generational Ministry** – Membership trends and patterns of the ARP Church in recent decades suggest that a significant problem we face is the loss of the younger generations. Some of these younger people have gone on to become vital members of other Evangelical churches. Sadly, others have not. As the Vision Committee report observed, “A Reformed ecclesiology embraces every generation. The church is perhaps the one place where multiple generations gather on a regular basis. Yet we are in danger of losing a significant portion of the younger generation. The ministry of the ARP Church must be intentionally multi-generational as it seeks to equip mature adults, younger adults, adolescents, and even very young children with instruction in God’s Word and in Christian truth that is appropriate to every age group. Conferences and educational materials should emphasize the relevance of the Gospel for all generations.”
5. **Culturally-Responsive Ministry** – We live and work in a time of rapid and radical cultural change. Many have rightly argued that our broader culture has entered a “post-Christian age.” Though this fact is somewhat obscured by the “Bible-belt” sensibilities evident in the communities where many ARP congregations are located, nevertheless we can no longer assume much cultural congruence between the church and the world, and the culture of the church seems increasingly strange and alien to many in our country. The challenge of being “in the world but not of it” has never been so great for American Christians. As the Vision Committee report noted, “The ARP Church, through its educational ministries, should seek to produce disciples who are able to communicate the truth of the Gospel in both the context of the church and in the world.” At the same time, our response to the broader culture must be driven by biblical principle. We must equip the saints to discern the threats to Christian belief and practice, and to apply God’s Word with integrity to their situation.

Synod adjourned with the closing prayer by Philip Bunch and the Benediction by Jeff Kingswood.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 7:00 A.M.

Earl Linderman led the informal coffee and Psalm sing on the Dining Room porch.

Following the Prelude by Greg Reynolds, Henry Bartsch led the opening worship service.

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

Robert Patrick nominated Jeff Kingswood, and Andy Putnam seconded the nomination.

A motion carried to elect Mr. Kingswood by acclamation. Moderator-Elect Kingswood addressed the Synod. Mr. Patrick led the Synod in prayer for the Moderator-Elect.

The **Report on Memorials** was presented.

MEMORIALS

CANADIAN PRESBYTERY:

Memorial For Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire For the Committee on Nominations

Whereas it has been of concern that the present guidelines contained in the description of belief and adherence to the basic doctrines of evangelical Christianity for the evaluation of nominees for all the boards and committees of Synod are helpful but substantially limited in ascertaining the broader scope of doctrinal beliefs of potential nominees in relation to those of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Canadian Presbytery hereby memorializes Synod to:

- (1) Instruct the Committee on Nominations to have all prospective nominees additionally complete, sign and date the attached "Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire" (See Appendix A) prior to evaluation by the Committee on Nominations.
- (2) Instruct the Committee on Nominations to include the respective answered copies of this questionnaire (by those nominees proposed by the Committee on Nominations to the General Synod) in the report of the Committee on Nominations to the General Synod, thereby allowing Synod delegates to have a more fully informed understanding of the doctrinal commitments of nominees presented prior to Synod taking action on the report of the Committee.
- (3) Encourage all those individuals, committees, and boards who seek to make nominations from the floor of Synod to be prepared to provide a copy of this form, completed by the nominee, to the Synod as a body in order to enable an equal consideration of the nominee.

Appendix A:

Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire for Nominees to all the Boards and Committees of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church General Synod

- (1) Have you read the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms)?

Yes

No

- (2) Do you agree to the doctrine contained in the subordinate standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms) as a faithful summary of the teaching of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament?

Yes

No

- (3) Do you agree to the commitment of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to the doctrine of the inerrancy of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Yes

No

- (4) Are you committed to promoting and upholding these doctrines in service to the Lord Jesus Christ as King and Head of His Church, and the particular denomination of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church?

Yes

No

- (5) Do you have any objections to, disagreements or concerns with any part(s) of above doctrinal standards and commitments of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church?

Yes

No

If so, please explain. Where you have differences or concerns please also briefly explain how these will influence or impact your particular service to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (If necessary, attach a separate sheet with your answer to this question.)

- (6) If your commitment to any of the above stated doctrinal standards

and commitments of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church changes during the term of your service, will you notify the chair of your committee or board, and either demit your position or submit to the processes and internal bylaws of the committee or board of whom you are a member, as well as the higher authority of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, where it deems appropriate as the appointing body, in reassessing your term of service?

Yes

No

- (7) If you are considered delinquent in your stated duties and/or doctrinal commitment as a committee or board member, will you submit to the processes and internal bylaws of the committee or board of whom you are a member, as well as the higher authority of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, where it deems appropriate as the appointing body, in reassessing your term of service?

Yes

No

- (8) If deemed appropriate by the board or committee of whom you are a member, due to either changed doctrinal commitments, or delinquency in stated duties and/or doctrinal commitment, and following internal review according to established bylaws where such exist for the board or committee, or upon review by the higher authority of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, where it deems appropriate as the appointing body, will you submit to your removal from your position of service on the committee or board to which you are nominated?

Yes

No

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

FIRST PRESBYTERY:

Memorial #1:

WHEREAS it is a Presbytery's responsibility to ordain men to gospel ministry;

And WHEREAS, a Presbytery cannot ordain without an approved call from an acceptable agency/body;

And WHEREAS, First Presbytery has ordained men to positions other than a call from a local church (i.e., seminary professors and chaplains for the military, hospitals and prisons);

And WHEREAS, First Presbytery has occasionally wrestled with whether or not certain bodies can issue legitimate calls under our *Form of Government*;

THEREFORE, First Presbytery memorializes the General Synod and requests it to instruct Synod's Moderator to form a committee to study the historical practice of ordination and the question of what constitutes a legitimate calling body (i.e., Presbytery, Synod, Outreach North America, World Witness, Chaplains Commission, etc.) and that this committee bring its recommendations to the 2013 Meeting of the General Synod.

Memorial #2:

Certification of Amendments

WHEREAS, the meaning of "the General Synod shall certify the vote at its next meeting" (see *Form of Government* XV.A.1. And XV.A.2. and *Rules of Order* IX) is ambiguous; and

WHEREAS, current practice does not provide for the implementation of *Form of Government* XV.C.5. that the Synod may make minor verbal changes to amendments;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the certification of the vote of the Presbyters shall be obtained by the simple majority vote of the Synod affirming the vote of the Presbyteries. Subsequent to the Report of the Principal Clerk that an amendment to the *Confession of Faith and Catechisms* (FOG XV.A.1.), an amendment to the *Form of Government*, the *Rules of Discipline*, and the *Directory for Worship* (FOG XV.A.2.), or the *Rules of Order* (IX) has received the required majority votes of the Presbyters, the Moderator shall put the question: "Shall the vote of the Presbyteries in the amendment be certified?" The vote shall be taken in accordance with *Rules of Order* VI.C.1. Before the vote is taken, it is permissible that members of the Synod may offer minor verbal changes to the amendment in accordance with *Form of Government* XV.C.5.

Memorial #3:

Former Ruling Elder Moderators

WHEREAS, the General Synod of 2011 adopted a motion to grant ruling elders who are former moderators of Synod the right to sit as members of subsequent Synods; and

WHEREAS, the motion stipulated that the rules of General Synod and all other procedures as necessary be changed to provide this standing (see 2011 *Minutes of Synod*, page 42); and

WHEREAS, it was not realized that *the Form of Government* XIII.C.1. (page 219) concerning the composition of the General Synod would need to be amended;

THEREFORE, be it resolved First Presbytery memorializes the General Synod to send the following amendment to *Form of Government* Chapter XIII.C.1. to the Presbyteries for approval:

“Those entitled to sit as members of this court also shall include at least one ruling elder from each congregation, the vice-moderator, if he should be a ruling elder, and the retiring moderator, should he be a ruling elder, and all ruling elders who are former moderators of the Synod who are present and who are in good standing as members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.”

And, that this amendment be incorporated into the new proposed *Form of Government* in the appropriate chapter pertaining to the General Synod.

Memorial #4:

Whereas 1 Corinthians 12 teaches that the body of Christ has many parts, each being essential;

Whereas it is in the best interest of any court to balance continuity of leadership with a variety of giftedness; and,

Whereas there is wisdom in policies which encourage broader participation in activities of leadership and service to the court;

Therefore, First Presbytery memorializes the General Synod

- I. To amend the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* where required to include the following provision for each of Synod's nine elected officers: "No officer of the court shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any single office."
- II. To amend the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* where required to include the following provision for the elected officers of each of Synod's Boards and Agencies: "No officer of the board/committee shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any single office."

III. For the purposes of these provisions, all current or newly-elected officers shall consider the term beginning or including July 1, 2012 as their first term.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRESBYTERY:

Memorial on the Historicity of Adam

WHEREAS, the theory of evolution is a source of much debate and confusion in society, educational institutions, and churches today,

WHEREAS, the historicity of Adam has come under attack not only from secular groups and liberal churches, but also from professed evangelical individuals and institutions,

WHEREAS, the Old Testament Scriptures plainly teach that Adam and Eve, as the first man and woman, were the special creation of God, being made in His image (Gen. 1:27; 2:7, 22),

WHEREAS, the New Testament Scriptures confirm that Adam and Eve were real, historical human beings (e.g.. Matt. 19:4-5, Luke 3:38, Rom. 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:45; 1 Tim.2:13-14),

WHEREAS, the confessional standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church also affirm these truths about Adam and Eve (e.g.. WCF 4:2, 7:2; WLC Q. 17; WSC Q. 10),

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Mississippi Valley Presbytery hereby memorializes the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to adopt the following affirmations and denials:

- 1) We affirm that Adam and Eve were special, unique direct creations of God, created in His image, with Adam being formed from the dust of the ground and Eve being made from his side; as such, they were real human beings and the first man and woman;
- 2) We affirm that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is history;
- 3) We deny any teaching that claims that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is mythology;
- 4) We deny any theory that teaches that Adam and Eve descended from other biological life forms and that such a theory can be reasonably reconciled with either the *Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church* or Holy Scripture.

NORTHEAST PRESBYTERY:

Memorial #1:

Northeast Presbytery respectfully memorializes the General Synod to forward to the Special Committee to Revise the *Form of Gov-*

ernment a request that the new *Form of Government* include the position of "Assistant Pastor." The following provision should be considered:

1. An Assistant Pastor would be an ordained minister, and would be a member of the Presbytery to which the Church, where he serves, belongs;
2. An Assistant Pastor would be examined, [ordained] and installed by the Presbytery;
3. Dissolution of the relationship would be by action of the Presbytery, at the initiation of the Assistant Pastor, the Session or the Presbytery; the process would follow the guidelines of FOG X. F.
4. An Assistant Pastor would be eligible for denominational health and retirement benefits;
5. An Assistant Pastor would be called by the Session (with the permission and approval of Presbytery) and not by a congregational vote;
6. An Assistant Pastor would serve according to the terms of the call prepared by the Session;
7. An Assistant Pastor would not be a member of the Session but may be invited to attend and participate in discussion without vote;
8. An Assistant pastor may be appointed on special occasions to moderate the session;
9. An Assistant Pastor would be allowed to continue to serve a congregation when the pastoral relation of the senior pastor is dissolved, but he would not normally succeed the senior pastor without an intervening term of service in a different field of labor.

Grounds:

1. Allowing for Assistant Ministers is a practice that is embraced by sister, reformed denominations; e.g. the PCA currently allows for Assistant Pastors. It is not contrary to reformed polity.
2. An increasing number of Korean Presbyterians are choosing to join the ARPC. The polity of Korean Presbyterianism includes the position of Assistant Pastor. Making this change, would make the ARPC a more inviting spiritual home for Korean Christians.

3. Embracing this addition to our *Form of Government* would allow congregations more freedom to organize their local government and ministry in ways that they consider most expeditious.

Memorial #2:

Northeast Presbytery respectfully memorializes the ARPC General Synod asking that the boundaries of Northeast Presbytery be redrawn so that all counties in Virginia (but currently within the boundary of Northeast Presbytery) – with the exception of Fairfax County and the independent city of Alexandria – be removed to Virginia Presbytery.

TENNESSEE-ALABAMA PRESBYTERY:

In response to the action taken by the 2011 General Synod:

1. That the first draft of the work of the Special Committee to Revise the *Form of Government* be received at the 2011 Meeting of the General Synod and be considered as the first reading.
2. That Sessions (and individuals) review the draft, compiling suggestions and comments.
3. That these suggestions and comments be sent to the presbytery's Stated Clerk before the time of their fall presbytery meeting.
4. That presbyteries discuss these suggestions and comments and develop a list to be sent to the Special Committee by December 12, 2011. (Other representatives from the committee will meet with the presbytery if requested.)
5. That the Special Committee review the entire draft in light of the suggestions and comments.
6. That the Special Committee put together a final draft that will be sent out in the packet for General Synod 2012.
7. That the Special Committee's draft will be presented to the 2012 Synod for its adoption. (Minutes of the 2011 General Synod, page 25)

The Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery petitions the 2012 General Synod to refer the *Revised Form of Government Draft 2011* document back to the Special Committee on the Revision of the *Form of Government* for further consideration. The committee will then present another draft of the Revision of the *Form of Government* to the 2013 Gen-

eral Synod for consideration and comment by Sessions and Presbyteries until the 2014 General Synod, where the final draft will be presented and put to vote for ratification by the Presbyteries.

Rationale:

WHEREAS the revision of the *Form of Government* will be a durable document in use by the Church for the foreseeable future, and IN APPRECIATION of the Special Committee's hard labor heretofore, and IN ENCOURAGEMENT to the committee to persevere in this crucial task, and

WHEREAS the document presented to the 2011 General Synod was not a final draft, in that it contains errors in grammar and usage, and could benefit from organizational refinement; and that corrections were appended to the document, rather than included in the text, and

WHEREAS the committee provided no comparison document that outlines the proposed revisions and additions over against the text of the current *Form of Government*, and

WHEREAS such a comparison outline would be a valuable aid for use in the identification and consideration of material changes, and

WHEREAS the time between the conclusion of the 2011 General Synod Meeting and the Fall Stated Meeting of Presbytery was not sufficient to allow due consideration by Sessions, and

WHEREAS referrals made by the 2011 General Synod for consideration or inclusion into the revision of the *Form of Government* were not available in the document that sessions and presbyteries were asked to review until the *Minutes of the 2011 Synod* were published in mid September, 2011, and

WHEREAS the document proposes changes that are of such a magnitude that they should be accompanied by supporting biblical, confessional and theological references, with a rationale for their inclusion, e.g., civil incorporation, the practice of tithing, the admonition of civil authorities for error, the omission of baptism as a requirement for non-communicant membership, the expansion of authorities to ministers called to do the work of evangelist, and other such significant additions or changes, and

WHEREAS such references and supporting materials were not provided in the draft under consideration:

THEREFORE, the Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery requests the 2012 General Synod to consider and adopt this memorial.

VIRGINIA PRESBYTERY:

WHEREAS there is an area in Northern Virginia which is currently within the bounds of Northeast Presbytery; and

WHEREAS the official boundaries of Virginia Presbytery are described as "The Boundaries of Virginia Presbytery (as redrawn in 1987) include the State of Virginia, except for those counties to the east and north of the boundary formed by the western boundaries of Fauquier and Loudoun Counties and the Rappahannock River; and the State of West Virginia except for the counties north of the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie, and Wood Counties"; and,

WHEREAS the official boundaries of Northeast Presbytery are described as: "Constituted January 1, 1987, it was formed by the division of Virginia Presbytery. It now includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; those counties in Virginia to the east and north of the boundary formed by the western boundaries of Fauquier and Loudoun counties and the Rappahannock River; and in West Virginia those counties north of the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie and Wood counties;" and,

WHEREAS, for purposes of church development, it seems beneficial to Northeast Presbytery and to Virginia Presbytery that this area of northern Virginia be included within the bounds of Virginia Presbytery; and

WHEREAS there are two congregations of Northeast Presbytery in the County of Fairfax Virginia, and the independent city of Alexandria,

THEREFORE, Virginia Presbytery joins with Northeast Presbytery respectfully to memorialize the General Synod to ask that the Presbytery boundaries of Northeast Presbytery and Virginia Presbytery be redrawn so that all counties in Virginia that are currently within the bounds of Northeast Presbytery, with the exception of Fairfax County and the independent city of Alexandria, be removed to Virginia Presbytery, and

THEREFORE, the boundaries of Virginia Presbytery shall be described as: "The Boundaries of Virginia Presbytery include the State of Virginia, except for the County of Fairfax and the independent city of Alexandria," and the State of West Virginia except for the "counties north of the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie, and Wood Counties"; and,

THEREFORE, the boundaries of Northeast Presbytery shall be described as: "Constituted January 1, 1987, it was formed by the division of Virginia Presbytery. It now includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; and in Virginia the County of Fairfax and the independent city of Alexandria, and in West Virginia those counties north of the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie and Wood counties."

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

1. That the memorial from Canadian Presbytery titled "Memorial for Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire For the Committee on Nominations" not be approved.
2. That the General Synod (1) Instruct the Committee on Nominations to have all prospective nominees additionally complete, sign and date the "Doctrinal Commitments Questionnaire" (as amended by the removal of question #8) prior to evaluation by the Committee on Nominations; (2) Instruct the Committee on Nominations to include the respective answered copies of this questionnaire (by those nominees proposed by the Committee on Nominations to the General Synod) in the report of the Committee on Nominations to the General Synod, thereby allowing Synod delegates to have a more fully informed understanding of the doctrinal commitments of nominees presented prior to Synod taking action on the report of the Committee; (3) Encourage all those individuals, committees, and boards who seek to make nominations from the floor of Synod to be prepared to provide a copy of this form, completed by the nominee, to the Synod as a body in order to enable an equal consideration of the nominee.
3. That Memorial Number 1 from First Presbytery (*That Synod's Moderator form a committee to study the historical practice of ordination and the question of what constitutes a legitimate calling body (i.e., Presbytery, Synod, Outreach North America, World Witness, Chaplains Commission, etc.) and that this committee bring its recommendations to the 2013 Meeting of the General Synod.*) not be approved.
4. That the Synod instruct the Committee on the Minister and His Work to study the historical practice of ordination and the question of what constitutes a legitimate calling body (i.e., Presbytery, Synod, Outreach North America, World Witness, Chaplain's Commission,

etc.) and that the committee bring its recommendations to the 2013 Meeting of the General Synod.

5. That Memorial Number 2 from First Presbytery (*That the certification of the vote of the Presbyters shall be obtained by the simple majority vote of the Synod affirming the vote of the Presbyteries. Subsequent to the Report of the Principal Clerk that an amendment to the Confession of Faith and Catechisms (FOG XV.A.1), an amendment to the Form of Government, the Rules of Discipline, and the Directory of Public Worship (FOG XV.A.2), or the Rules of Order (IX) has received the required majority votes of the Presbyters, the Moderator shall put the question: "Shall the vote of the Presbyteries in the amendment be certified?" The vote shall be taken in accordance with Rules of Order VII.C.1. Before the vote is taken, it is permissible that members of the Synod may offer minor verbal changes to the amendment in accordance with FOG (XV.C.5) be approved.*)
6. That Memorial Number 3 from First Presbytery (*That General Synod send the following amendment to Form of Government Chapter XIII.C.1. to the Presbyteries for approval: "Those entitled to sit as members of this court also shall include at least one ruling elder from each congregation, the vice-moderator, if he should be a ruling elder, and the retiring moderator, should he be a ruling elder, and all ruling elders who are former moderators of the Synod who are present and who are in good standing as members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church." And, that this amendment be incorporated into the new proposed Form of Government in the appropriate chapter pertaining to the General Synod.) be approved.*)
7. That Memorial Number 4 from First Presbytery (*that Synod: I. Amend the Manual of Authorities and Duties where required to include the following provision for each of Synod's nine elected officers: "No officer of the court shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any single office." II. Amend the Manual of Authorities and Duties where required to include the following provision for the elected officers of each of Synod's Boards and Agencies: "No officer of the board/committee shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any single office." III. (For the purposes of these provisions), all current or newly-elected officers shall consider the term beginning or including July 1, 2012 as their first term.) be approved.*)
8. That Memorial Number 1 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery (*That The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church adopt the following affirmations and denials: 1) We affirm that Adam and Eve were special, unique direct creations of God, created in His image, with Adam being formed from the dust of the ground and Eve being made from his side; as such, they*

were real human beings and the first man and woman; 2) We affirm that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is history; 3) We deny any teaching that claims that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is mythology; 4) We deny any theory that teaches that Adam and Eve descended from other biological life forms and that such a theory can be reasonably reconciled with either the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church or Holy Scripture) not be approved.

9. That the General Synod instruct the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns to study the following statement and make recommendations to the General Synod at its 2013 meeting: *1) We affirm that Adam and Eve were special, unique direct creations of God, created in His image, with Adam being formed from the dust of the ground and Eve being made from his side; as such, they were real human beings and the first man and woman; 2) We affirm that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is history; 3) We deny any teaching that claims that the account of creation as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is mythology; 4) We deny any theory that teaches that Adam and Eve descended from other biological life forms and that such a theory can be reasonably reconciled with either the Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church or Holy Scripture.*
10. That the memorial from Northeast Presbytery concerning forwarding the language of Assistant Pastors to the Special Committee on the Form of Government not be approved.
11. That the General Synod recognize the addition of the position of "Assistant Pastor" and include the following language in the appropriate sections of the Form of Government after approval by the presbyteries:
 1. *An Assistant Pastor would be an ordained minister, and would be a member of the Presbytery to which the Church, where he serves, belongs;*
 2. *An Assistant Pastor would be examined, [ordained] and installed by the Presbytery;*
 3. *Dissolution of the relationship would be by action of the Presbytery, at the initiation of the Assistant Pastor, the Session or the Presbytery; the process would follow the guidelines of FOG X. F.*
 4. *An Assistant Pastor would be eligible for denominational health and retirement benefits;*
 5. *An Assistant Pastor would be called by the Session (with the permission and approval of Presbytery) and not by a congregational vote;*
 6. *An Assistant Pastor would serve according to the terms of the call prepared by the Session;*

7. *An Assistant Pastor would not be a member of the Session but may be invited to attend and participate in discussion without vote;*
8. *An Assistant pastor may be appointed on special occasions to moderate the session;*
9. *An Assistant Pastor would be allowed to continue to serve a congregation when the pastoral relationship of the senior pastor is dissolved, but he would not normally succeed the senior pastor without an intervening term of service in a different field of labor.*
12. That Memorial Number 2 from Northeast Presbytery (*That the boundaries of Northeast Presbytery be redrawn so that all counties in Virginia (but currently within the boundary of Northeast Presbytery) – with the exception of Fairfax County and the independent city of Alexandria – be removed to Virginia Presbytery*) AND Memorial Number 1 from Virginia Presbytery (*that the Presbytery boundaries of Northeast Presbytery and Virginia Presbytery be redrawn so that all counties in Virginia that are currently within the bounds of Northeast Presbytery, with the exception of Fairfax County and the independent city of Alexandria, be removed to Virginia Presbytery, and THEREFORE, the boundaries of Virginia Presbytery shall be described as: “The Boundaries of Virginia Presbytery include the State of Virginia, except for the County of Fairfax and the independent city of Alexandria,” and the State of West Virginia except for the “counties north of the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie, and Wood Counties”; and, THEREFORE, the boundaries of Northeast Presbytery shall be described as: “Constituted January 1, 1987, it was formed by the division of Virginia Presbytery. It now includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; and in Virginia the County of Fairfax and the independent city of Alexandria, and in West Virginia those counties north of the southern boundaries of Preston, Taylor, Harrison, Doddridge, Ritchie and Wood counties.”*) be approved.
13. That the county of Arlington be added to the list of Virginia counties excluded from the description of Virginia Presbytery and included in the description of Northeast Presbytery. The amended sections would read: “...with the exception of Fairfax and Arlington counties and the independent city of Alexandria...” and “...and in Virginia the Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, and the independent city of Alexandria...”

Following the recommendations of the **Moderator's Committee on Memorials**, Recommendation #1 was **adopted**. Recommendation #2 was debated and **adopted**. Recommendations #3-5 were **adopted**. Recommendation #6 was **not adopted**. Recommendation #7 was **adopted**. Recommendation #8 was presented. An amendment was offered by Tim Phillips:

That item #2 be amended to read, "We affirm that the account of creation of Adam and Eve as found in Genesis 1 and 2 is history."

That item #3 be amended to read, "We deny any teaching that claims that the account of creation of Adam and Eve, as found in Genesis 1 and 2, is mythology."

Recommendation # 8, as amended, was **adopted**. Recommendations #9, 10 and 11 **were withdrawn**. Recommendations #12 and 13 were **adopted**.

An amendment to recommendations #12 and 13 made by Frank Miller carried:

To add "Washington, DC and Falls Church, VA;" to the list of Northeast Presbytery.

A motion made by Ken McMullen carried:

That the docket be amended to allow consideration of the Report of the Executive Board and then the Board of Erskine to follow immediately after the report of Moderator's Committee on Complaints.

The Report of the **Moderator's Committee on Complaints** was presented and adopted.

With reference to the Complaints, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

1. That Complaint Number 1 (*Complaint against Second Presbytery*) be referred to the standing Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs.

2. That Complaint Number 2 (*Complaint of Mr. Danny Wyatt against First Presbytery*) be referred to a judiciary commission appointed by the Moderator.

A motion made by Ken McMullen carried:

That the Moderator appoint a committee to study and revise the Book of Discipline and to report yearly until finished.

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

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 2011 meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects the actions and activities of the Executive Board and presents recommendations of the Executive Board to the General Synod. In its duty to implement directives of the General Synod, coordinate the work of the Synod and supervise Central Services and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, the Executive Board reports the following:

Actions of the board:

The Board heard a presentation by Synod's attorney, Dan Eller, with regard to the Board Member Removal Policy.

A brief presentation with regard to the matter of Pacific Presbytery was heard.

The Executive Board approved the Central Services mission statement as follows: "Central Services, the agency of the Executive Board of General Synod, exists to support and encourage churches, pastors, agencies, and boards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Together we share the Gospel with the world. The ministries of Central Services include: Administrative Support, Finances, Human Resources, Employee Benefits, Publications, and Promotion."

Three suggestions from the Executive Board were adopted and sent to the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian* for possible inclusion in its report to General Synod.

The Executive Board approved a new "Good Samaritan Offering."

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING

When natural disasters occur throughout our nation or world, many people in the local churches throughout our Synod would like the opportunity to respond to those needs, not only through prayer, but with financial assistance. In the past there has been no established method to accomplish this response. Boards often feel that if they assume the leadership in asking for monetary gifts it could possibly decrease the amount of support received for the work of their board, and rightly so. Desiring to avoid complications for boards and at the same time reach out to others in the name of our Synod, the Good Samaritan Offering is proposed as follows:

THE GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING

The Good Samaritan Offering is an outreach of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to assist those in our nation and throughout the world whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornados, etc. Christ teaches: "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." {Matthew 25:40 (NIV)}

PROVISIONS FOR THE GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING

The Good Samaritan Offering will be received only when natural disasters occur. Along with prayer, this offering shall be a means of reaching out as a Synod in the name of Christ.

OVERSEEING THE OFFERING

The Executive Director of Central Services, the Principal Clerk of General Synod, the Treasurer of General Synod and the current Moderator of General Synod shall compose a Steering Committee to oversee the receiving and disbursing of the Good Samaritan Offering.

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

The Executive Director of Central Services shall be the convener of the Steering Committee and shall present to the Committee the need for the offering to be received. If the Steering Committee concurs, the Good Samaritan Offering will be publicized as soon as feasible throughout the General Synod for those who wish to participate.

The Good Samaritan Offering will be received by the Office of Central Services.

DISBURSING THE OFFERING

The Steering Committee will research and determine the agency

to disburse the offering when it has been received. A report shall be made to the General Synod through the ARP Magazine and by email as to how the offering is disbursed.

The proposed budgets for ARP Center Facility, Central Services and the Executive Board were approved for submission to General Synod.

The Executive Board approved the monthly emphases submitted by the Moderator-Elect for submission to General Synod.

The Synod Program for 2012 was approved.

A proposed amendment to the Rules of Order was presented, discussed, and adopted for submission to Synod.

The ARP Women's Ministries president, Elaine Pace-Reed, made the report of Women's Ministries.

Oral reports from Synod officers, the Special Committee to Revise the *Form of Government*, the boards and committees of Synod, and the presbyteries were received as information.

Motions from Virginia and Catawba presbyteries were opened. As Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery also has a memorial which will be submitted to General Synod on the same matter, the Executive Board did not choose to declare the matter an emergency, and did not consider the motions of the two presbyteries.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposed budgets for ARP Center Facility, Central Services and the Executive Board be approved.
2. That the Emphasis for 2012-2013 be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination.
3. The Executive Board recommends to General Synod the establishment of a committee, appointed by the Moderator, to gather information with regard to the incorporation of its boards and agencies that would enable us to evaluate properly the legal status of our relationship, assess the potential liabilities, and bring this report to the next meeting of the Executive Board.
4. The Executive Board recommends that at the June 2012 Annual Meeting of General Synod, Pacific Presbytery be dissolved. Further, that General Synod allow any of the former Pacific Presbytery churches desiring membership in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to be aligned with the nearest ARP Presbytery.
5. The Executive Board recommends that Synod's Rules of Order, VI (A) be amended to read: "VI. Matters to be Considered by the Court.

- A. Reports from boards, standing committees, and special committees of the Court and reports and memorials from lower courts will be filed with the Bill Clerk prior to the close of the first business session. These reports should be submitted in typewritten form, in triplicate, signed as an electronic file that includes a scanned signature by the Chairman, Secretary, Moderator or Clerk. These communications will be considered in the ordinary routine of business."

[IX. Amendment of Rules. Amendments to the Rules of Order shall be proposed by the General Synod to the Presbyteries and must be approved by a majority of all those voting in all the Presbyteries. The General Synod shall certify the vote at its next meeting.]

Respectfully submitted,
A.K. Putnam, Moderator
C.R. Beard, Principal Clerk

CENTRAL SERVICES

	<u>2012</u> <u>Synod</u> <u>Approved</u>	<u>2013</u> <u>Proposed</u>
Revenues		
Current Funds		
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 283,729	\$ 278,054
Additional Allocation Needed	0	10,530
Agency Support (AS) Copier & Postage	22,400	26,500
Total Current Funds	\$ 306,129	\$ 315,084
Agency Support		
Board of Benefits	\$ 137,108	\$ 143,724
ARP Foundation	3,750	4,750
W. H. Dunlap Fund	4,250	4,250
Total Agency Support	\$ 145,108	\$ 152,724
Total Revenues	\$ 451,237	\$ 467,808
Expenses		
Total Salary and Benefits	\$ 402,338	\$ 417,441
Staff & Program		
Worker's Compensation	\$ 2,013	\$ 2,076
Director Travel & Expenses	2,000	2,000
Staff Travel & Expenses	500	500
Training	2,000	2,000
Organizational Dues	425	425
Total Staff & Program	\$ 6,938	\$ 7,001
Equipment		
Lease		
Copiers (AS Exp Reimb)	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,893
Postage Meter/Scales (AS Exp Reimb)	3,000	3,000
Equipment Purchase	1,500	1,500
Equipment Maintenance	-	200
Total Equipment	\$ 12,900	\$ 13,593

MINUTES OF SYNOD

	<u>2012</u> Synod Approved	<u>2013</u> Proposed
General Office		
Software Maintenance	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,700
Internet	1,000	1,400
Bank Fees	0	0
Basic Telephone	2,450	3,194
Long Distance	50	50
ARP Synod Web Page design & maint	250	-
Office Supplies	11,000	11,000
Postage (AS Exp Reimb)	11,500	14,000
UPS (AS Exp Reimb)	2,000	4,500
Paper (AS Exp Reimb)	1,200	1,200
Total General Office	\$ 34,850	\$ 41,044
Total Expenses	\$ 457,026	\$ 479,079
Net Income (Loss)	(\$5,789)	(\$11,271)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$11,271
Ending Fund Balance	(\$5,789)	\$0

ARP CENTER FACILITY

	<u>2012 Synod</u> Approved	<u>2013</u> Proposed
RECEIPTS		
General Synod Allocation	\$14,688	\$19,390
<u>Rent</u>		
CEM	10,496	10,893
Outreach North America	9,798	10,092
The ARP	6,299	3,209
World Witness	20,712	21,376
Non-Synod Agencies		
201	1,751	1,804
202	6,295	6,484
204	-	0
Interest and Miscellaneous		
Interest	10	10
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$70,049	\$73,258
Expenses		
Facility Management		
Staff & General Office	\$2,300	\$2,198
Facility Maintenance		
Expendable Supplies	1,000	1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	4,000	8,000
Facility Management	\$7,300	\$11,198
<u>Facility Maintenance</u>		
Garbage Pick-Up	\$1,400	\$1,400
Yard Maintenance	5,000	6,250
Heating & Air Conditioning	6,200	6,200
Janitorial Services	12,000	12,000
Security Monitoring Fees	660	350
Pest Control	360	360
Facility Maintenance	\$25,620	\$26,560

MINUTES OF SYNOD

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	<u>2012 Synod Approved</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
<u>Utilities</u>		
Electricity	\$20,500	\$20,500
Gas	13,500	12,000
Water & Sewer	1,300	1,500
Utilities	\$35,300	\$34,000
<u>Building, Equipment & Furniture</u>		
Equipment	1,500	1,500
Building, Equipment & Furniture	\$1,500	\$1,500
Contingency	629	0
Depreciation - Current Period Adjustment	0	0
TOTAL Expenses	\$70,349	\$73,258
Net Income (Loss)	(\$300)	\$0
Beginning Fund Balance	\$9,256	\$10,324
Ending Fund Balance	\$8,956	\$10,324

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF SYNOD

	<u>2012 Synod Approved</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
General Synod Allocation	\$ 92,053	\$ 90,212
General Synod Reserve-Additional Amount	(1,841)	32,656
Ersine Campus Ministry DM Allocation-From Ersine	-	69,777
Minutes of Synod Sales Income	50	50
Plan Book Sales	500	500
General Synod Registration	25,440	22,000
Total Revenues	\$ 116,202	\$ 215,195
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>General Synod Officers</u>		
Moderator	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Vice-Moderator	500	500
Moderator-Elect	1,000	1,000
Vice-Moderator Elect	500	500
Principal Clerk	5,000	5,000
Treasurer	3,675	3,675
Total General Synod Officers	\$ 14,675	\$ 14,675
Total Synod Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -
<u>General Synod Meeting</u>		
Program & Preparation	\$ 8,390	13,760
Honorariums	2,000	2,000
Pre-Synod Conf Honorariums	3,200	1,800
Multi-Cultural Training	-	1,200
Staff Expenses	400	450
Synod Planning	300	300
Synod Room & Board	19,410	25,990
Total General Synod Meeting	\$ 33,700	\$ 45,500

MINUTES OF SYNOD

	2012 Synod Approved	2013 Proposed
Executive Board Meeting & Office		
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,300
Strategic Planning Committee	2,000	5,000
General Office & Miscellaneous	1,050	500
Bank Service Fees	1,200	100
Executive Board-Legal	-	500
Committee to Plan Emphases	550	-
Special Committee to Oversee Campus Ministry	-	2,500
Total Executive Board	\$ 13,800	\$ 16,900
Erskine Campus Ministry		
Total ECM Salary & Benefits	\$ -	\$ 82,060
General Synod Contingency		
Unallocated	\$ 20,167	\$ 25,000
Multi-Cultral Committee	500	500
Special Committee to Revise FOG	3,000	-
Total General Synod Contingency	\$ 23,667	\$ 25,500
Promotion & Services		
Workers Compensation	\$ 60	\$ 60
Umbrella Liability	1,700	1,600
Multi-Peril Insurance	4,700	5,000
Total Insurance	\$ 6,460	\$ 6,660
Orientation Program	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Historical Concerns		
Historian Honorarium	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Curator of ARP Materials	500	500
Historical Records-materials preservation	500	500
Total Historical Concerns	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
New Mission Subscriptions-THE ARP	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Total Promotion & Services	\$ 18,460	\$ 18,660
Minutes of Synod		
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
Printing	6,000	6,000
Total Minutes of Synod	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
Plan Book		
Preparation & Distribution	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400
Printing	2,100	2,100
Total Plan Book	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Total Expenses	\$ 116,202	\$ 215,195
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 0	\$ 0
ARP Women's Ministry-Reimbursed		
Reimbursement for ARPWM Admin Salary & Tax	\$ 21,130	\$ 21,780
Total ARPWM Expenses	\$ 21,130	\$ 21,780
Net Income (Loss)-ARPWM	\$ -	\$ -
Erskine Campus Ministry		
Total ECM Contributions-Includes \$21,717.24 Transfer	\$ -	\$ 48,890
Total Erskine Campus Ministry Expenses	\$ -	\$ 48,890
Net Income (Loss)-ECM	\$ -	\$ -

The **Moderator's Committee on the Executive Board** recommended that Synod:

Approve Recommendation 1 (*That the proposed budgets for ARP Center Facility, Central Services and the Executive Board be approved.*)

Approve Recommendation 2 (*That the Emphasis for 2012-2013 be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination*)

Approve Recommendation 3 (*That the General Synod establish a committee, appointed by the Moderator, to gather information with regard to the incorporation of its boards and agencies that would enable us to evaluate properly the legal status of our relationship, assess the potential liabilities, and bring this report to the next meeting of the Executive Board*)

Approve Recommendation 4 (*The Executive Board recommends that at the June 2012 Annual Meeting of General Synod, Pacific Presbytery be dissolved. Further, that General Synod allow any of the former Pacific Presbytery churches desiring membership in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to be aligned with the nearest ARP Presbytery*)

Approve Recommendation Number 5 [*That Synod's Rules of Order, VI(A)] be amended to read:*

"VI. Matters to be Considered by the Court

A. Reports from boards, standing committees, and special committees of the Court and reports and memorials from lower courts will be filed with the Bill Clerk prior to the close of the first business session. These reports should be submitted in typewritten form, in triplicate, signed as an electronic file that includes a scanned signature by the Chairman, Secretary, Moderator or Clerk. These communications will be considered in the ordinary routine of business."

[IX. Amendment of Rules. Amendments to the Rules of Order shall be proposed by the General Synod to the Presbyteries and must be approved by a majority of all those voting in all the Presbyteries. The General Synod shall certify the vote at its next meeting.] This note provided for reference.

Recommendations #1 and 2 of the **Moderator's Committee on Executive Board** were **adopted**. Recommendation #3 was

adopted. Recommendation #4 was referred back to the Executive Board. Recommendation #5 was **adopted.**

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

REPORT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE AND ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fathers and Brethren:

Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are ministries of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) in the field of higher education through their historic, unique, mutually beneficial, and purposeful relationship. Erskine is an academic community that exists to glorify God by equipping students to flourish as whole persons for lives of service. Specifically, 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.

And, the mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church.

The Board of Trustees is committed by God's grace to fulfilling the institutional mission and faithfully stewarding Erskine according to our established responsibilities. These are most clearly set forth in the 1977/78 Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education (SPCHE). This statement continues to guide the Board in all its activities.

Part of these responsibilities includes annually compiling this report from Erskine's Board of Trustees to the General Synod. This report is intended to enhance understanding and to improve communication within the ARPC. Additionally, this is one of the tools by which some insight can be gained as to the significant impact your support and prayers are having upon the lives of so many. As you read through and consider the information provided it will be important to be mindful of our context and those aspects that directly impact the work of the Board and the President: (1) the stress and anxiety that necessarily comes when changes are made and best practices are implemented; (2) the persistent, public relational strain within the denomination and the various constituencies of Erskine (e.g. ARPC, faculty, staff, alumni, donors); (3) the slow recovery of the economy; and

(4) the cultural indifference to the importance of a Christian liberal arts education. These are the environmental realities that we must confront as we seek to advance Erskine in accordance with its mission, vision, and theological foundations.

There are also positive factors that are present which help to accelerate progress. We are grateful for Synod's support and encouragement, as well as its forbearance toward the Board in the exercise of its governance and leadership. We have seen a larger measure of civility within our constituencies as we engage issues for the sake of resolution and reconciliation. We are seeing the early first fruit that is born from improved management practices accompanied with strong leadership – for which we thank God. The mission of this institution is worthy of the sacrifices made by the generations that have gone before us and of those required of us today. At times the work is hard, but we rejoice that the Lord allows us to see the Gospel transform the lives of college and seminary students while being pleased to sustain this institution that is his. We, the Board and President Norman's administrative team, are humbled and moved by the privilege we have been given to serve Erskine College and Theological Seminary and count it all a very high calling.

The Board of Trustees takes seriously the concerns raised in recent years by the General Synod and others, and we along with President David Norman have been working tirelessly to address them. While much remains to be done, significant steps have been taken toward better executing and implementing the vision for Erskine that was so plainly defined in the 1977/78 Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education (SPCHE), adopted by the General Synod for its mission in higher education as well as other governance guidelines established in the late 70's and early 80's.

This year's report is presented as a progress report to Synod on what has occurred since the last meeting of the General Synod. This report is divided into three sections: (I) Progress Report on General Synod's 2011 Motions; (II) Progress Report on the Ten Areas of Responsibilities Identified in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*; and (III) Progress Report on Institutional Data and Statistics.

I. Progress Report on General Synod's 2011 Motions

During the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in June 2011, several motions were passed specifically concerning Erskine College and Theological Seminary. Erskine's response to, or implication for, each motion is defined below. The order of the re-

sponse is consistent with the list the Board of Trustees received from the Principal Clerk.

Motion – Board of Stewardship Allocation (2011 Minutes of Synod, pg. 93, Rec #3)

Since General Synod votes to approve all of its allocations and does not deal with them individually, the actual language for this motion is not included in this section. The result of the motion passed was that the Board of Stewardship allocated to Erskine the following: \$518,163 to Erskine and \$500 to the ARP Student Union.

One of the purposes of this report is to aid the denomination in understanding the value of the investment made each year, but more importantly appreciating the compound effect that Synod's contribution has made throughout Erskine's 175 year history. To comprehend this and the information in this report fully, the funding allocation needs to be highlighted. Erskine is most grateful for the ongoing support of the ARPC. While the motions in this report are presented in the order that General Synod dealt with them during the meeting, it is appropriate that this motion is listed first in this report.

Motion – Campus Minister (Index 13) (2011 Minutes of Synod, pg. 31)

1. *That effective July 1, 2011 the Erskine Campus Minister be made a direct employee of the General Synod.*
2. *That a permanent standing committee be elected to provide ecclesiastical oversight and support to the Campus Minister and ministry, and that the President of Erskine College be an ex officio member of the committee.*
3. *That the current Committee on Erskine Campus Minister and Ministry be extended one year to complete remaining details of this transition, and to give Synod's Committee on Nominations adequate time to obtain nominations for a permanent standing committee which will be elected at the 2012 meeting of General Synod.*
4. *That the attached Overview of Erskine Campus Ministry be approved.*
5. *That the terms of call attached to this report be approved and extended to Rev. Paul Patrick.*
6. *That the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church enter into an affiliation agreement with Reformed University Ministries for the purpose of reaching students for Christ and equipping students for services on the Erskine College campus.*
7. *That appropriate revisions be made to the Manual of Authorities and Duties to reflect the duties and structure outlined in this report.*

As per this motion Paul Patrick, current Campus Minister, became an employee of the General Synod on July 1, 2011. The committee es-

tablished in this motion has requested the President move from serving in an *ex officio* capacity into an advisory role, indicating that the President would only be called upon when needed and would not regularly participate in the meetings of this standing committee for ecclesiastical oversight and support to the Campus Minister and ministry.

Motion – Board Member Removal for All Agencies (2011 Minutes of Synod, pg. 41)

1. *That the Policy on [Board] Member Removal be adopted and added to the Manual of Authorities and Duties for immediate implementation;*
2. *That the Policy on [Board] Member Removal be given to the Form of Government Revision Committee with the instructions to include it in the Form of Government revisions.*

At last year's meeting of the General Synod, there were several motions regarding Synod's authority to remove members of the Erskine Board for cause. The responses to this motion and the others are included in the explanation that corresponds with Motion E. Please refer to Motion E.

Motion (2011 Minutes of Synod, pg. 39)

That the Board Member Removal Policy be amended to include contact-ing defendant immediately, in the context of Matthew 18:15-17 (also see Book of Discipline).

This is an amendment to the former motion and again, Erskine's response to trustee removal by Synod for cause is included in Motion E. Please refer to Motion E.

Motion – Strategic Plan (2011 Minutes of Synod, pg. 23)

Note: There were several recommendations included in the Strategic Plan, but only #1 & #3 related to Erskine.

1. *That first of all, following I Tim. 2:1-2, regular and special times be appointed for supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings to be made for all who serve the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, its presbyteries, sessions, boards, agencies, commissions, committees, and churches, that we might lead lives that are faithful under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the service of the gospel of grace freely offered to all.*
3. *That the individual Boards and Agencies of the ARP Church be instructed to give careful consideration to the Vision, ministry criteria, and five emphases outlined in this Report, and that representatives of these Boards and Agencies provide a detailed written report to the Strategic Planning Committee as a basis for further discussion as to how their ministry is consistent with*

and can work to further these goals. These reports shall be submitted by December 1, 2011.

The college and seminary continue to covet the prayers of the denomination and ask that the delegates to Synod and their congregations take seriously such recommendations when they are passed.

Synod's Strategic Planning Committee has hosted three joint meetings throughout this year with the executive directors and board leadership from Erskine and Synod's agencies. Erskine has participated in all of these meetings and has responded as requested by the committee.

Motion – The Erskine Report

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

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.

4. To commend the Board of Erskine College and Seminary, its administration, President and faculty on its competent and wonderful work under extreme pressure during this last year.

5. That the General Synod recommend to the Erskine Board to make amendments to the bylaws that reflect the Board Member Removal Policy as adopted by the 2011 General Synod.

Throughout this report we give thanks for what God is doing in our midst in continuing to transform the lives of Erskine students while they are receiving an academically rigorous education. Tangible expressions of effectual prayer are a great source of encouragement to us and we pray that it will be for the General Synod as well. Thank you for interceding on Erskine's behalf. The response to number five is specifically answered in the explanation that accompanies Motion E.

Motion E (2011 Minutes of Synod, pg. 127)

WHEREAS the Synod desires for Erskine College and Seminary to flourish as the Church's agency of higher education;

WHEREAS the Synod reaffirms its commitment to Erskine College's success as a premier, accredited, Christian liberal-arts institution;

WHEREAS the Synod reaffirms its commitment to Erskine Seminary's success as a faithful, accredited, confessional seminary;

WHEREAS no language currently exists in the Erskine College and Seminary charter which clarifies the nature of the relationship between the Synod and its institutions of higher learning;

WHEREAS the presence of such language promotes the peace of the church, the advancement of the mission of the institutions, the interests of the ARP Church, and the protection of the institution's accreditation;

Therefore the Synod offers the following statement to the Erskine College and Seminary Board of Trustees. [The statement follows below in italics.] This preliminary language is given to the Board for their consideration and review as a future amendment to the institution's charter. The Board is asked to provide the Synod with its feedback and proposed amendments in time for distribution and consideration at the Synod's 2012 meeting, after which, an official proposal of amendment to the charter may be sent to the Board for consideration.

Recognizing the historic and organic relationship between Erskine College and Seminary ('the Institution') and the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church ('the Synod'), the Institution recognizes the right of the Synod to a) through its Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and 'Definition of an Evangelical,' delineate the Synod's aspirations for the institution; b) appoint all trustees to the Board of the Institution; and c) remove trustees for cause by a process set forth in governing documents of the ARP Church.

All Erskine Board members, faculty and administrators shall give affirmation that the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and the Synod's Definition of an Evangelical are in accordance with their own views and commitments. In its oversight of the Institution through the Board of Trustees, the Synod shall seek to act in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, its own Philosophy of Christian Higher Education, and the laws of the State of South Carolina."

The first part of the above statement identifies three rights Synod would like recognized by Erskine and these are:

a) *through its Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and 'Definition of an Evangelical,' delineate the Synod's aspirations for the institution;*

- This is already being done. Both of these statements help to insure Erskine stays true to its founding principles and priorities. These statements have been and continue to in form how our theological commitments find expression in the field of higher of education. As set forth in Synod's *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, the Committee on Nominations requires affirmation of these statements for all nominations to the Board of Trustees, and the Erskine administration requires affirmation by all newly appointed administrative or teaching employees.

b) *appoint all trustees to the Board of the Institution;*

- The General Synod has the authority to elect the Trustees. That authority remains with the General Synod, as provided for in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* and in the Bylaws for the Erskine Board.

c) *remove trustees for cause by a process set forth in governing documents of the ARP Church.*

- The action of the March 2010 Synod resulted in negative actions from both of Erskine's accrediting agencies, SACS and ATS. It also raised questions in civil law and in ARP standards and rules. The agreement reached at the June 2010 Synod and the revisions of the bylaws by the Erskine board have found favor with both SACS and ATS. The negative actions taken against us have now been removed, though the agencies are requiring followup reports. They continue to monitor our situation. The issue was a major area of focus and concern in the recent routine visitations from both agencies for Erskine's ten year reaffirmation of accreditation. From the board's research as outlined below, it is very clear that making this change would jeopardize our accreditation with both SACS and ATS.
- For the better part of eight months an *ad hoc* committee of the Board researched, reviewed, studied, and discussed trustee removal policies, institutional charter documents, and other governing documents in light of the singular relationship that is Erskine and the ARPC. Other institutions of Christian higher education were examined with particular attention given to Covenant College and its relationship with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) denomination. The accrediting agencies were consulted, the legal issues were reviewed, and a search was conducted to see if there was any institution whose sponsoring denomination could remove trustees for cause. None were found. To our knowledge, no denomination with schools within the SACS and ATS membership has this power.
- The members of the *ad hoc* committee were: Bill Cain, Ray Cameron, David Conner (Chair), Andy Lewis, Andy Putnam, Steve Suits, and Ann Marie Tribble. The advisors were Brooks Kuykendall, David Norman, and Bill Patrick.
- The Board's response was previously circulated to the members of the General Synod. It is also included here as Attachment #1,

Response to the Erskine College and Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to the 2011 General Synod's Requests. As you read through this response please be mindful of several things:

1. As a mission of the ARPC, Erskine greatly values its relationship and cherishes its history with the denomination. We count it a high privilege to serve as your mission in the field of Christian higher education, and we are profoundly grateful for the support and significant financial investment that is made annually. Erskine is stronger for its relationship to the ARPC, and our connection provides for a much greater opportunity for the original mission and vision to be preserved and sustained far beyond our own lifetimes.
2. The Board was asked to respond to specific motions from Synod related to trustee removal. As referenced earlier Attachment #1 is the Board's approved response. This response is not an attempt to remove ourselves from the denomination, and the Board has clearly indicated this point in the document. However, some facets of the removal issue are legal in nature. At times sections of the response may seem cold and distant because the emphasis is more of a technical and legal explanation. Unfortunately, this can be wrongly understood as a desire for a separation of the relationship – this would be a gross misrepresentation of the intent and the tremendous and thoughtful effort that has attended every step of this response.
3. In broad general terms there are really two parts to Motion E, and this is reflected in our treatment of them. The first part is a request for authority that currently is not in the charter – to grant the General Synod the power to remove trustees for cause. Attachment #1 deals primarily with this one issue. The second request is of a different nature. It deals with the requirement for the affirmations that should be made by the Board, administrators, and faculty. We believe these are essential imperatives. The Board believes that these matters are most appropriately addressed by Erskine in the Bylaws, Board Policy Manual, and/or Employee Handbooks. Likewise, General Synod's aspirations and requirements should continue to be addressed in General Synod documents. In recent years Erskine has reviewed all documents and processes by which Trustees, administrators, and faculty are recommended or hired to ensure that we are clear about what we believe, that we have appropriately set ex-

pectations, and that all those filling administrative and teaching positions must affirm their commitment and understanding of the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and Synod's definition of an evangelical.

4. In an attempt to improve communications and restore relationships, David Conner, chairman of the *ad hoc* committee that reviewed this issue, with the encouragement and endorsement of the Board, has made himself available to meet with interested groups to provide further explanation and promote understanding of the Board's conclusion. At the time of this report he had met with: Executive Board of General Synod, 2012 Spring Orientation (of the ARPC), and Erskine's Alumni Board.

II. Progress Report on the Ten Areas of Responsibilities Identified in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*

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

The Board of Trustees is responsible to lead in a manner that fulfills the stated mission and to ensure appropriate levels of accountability and transparency. The primary means of exercising this general oversight are the establishment of policy and the selection of a president. Dr. David Norman took up his calling as president of Erskine College and Seminary on July 1, 2010 with great passion and conviction. He continues to demonstrate his passion for Erskine's mission, provide steadfast leadership, and strictly enforce the policies of the Board.

This past year, there has been a tremendous amount of diligent effort and critical analysis of the key governing documents of the board – the Charter, the Bylaws, and the Board Policy Manual. The review of the Charter was prompted by a request for consideration from the General Synod 2011. (See Motion E and the related explanation that can be found in the first section of this report.) On May 20, 2011 the Board of Trustees adopted new Bylaws that represented substantial revisions in an attempt to improve the overall effectiveness and responsiveness of the Board. These were included in the supplemental report at last year's meeting of the General Synod. With regards to the Policy Manual, significant progress is being made in the gathering, assessing, and revising 175 years of institutional policies. The Board's Policy Committee has not completed its work, but anticipates bringing its work to a close in the near future. Reviewing and updating our governing documents is a huge endeavor, but we believe it is an important one that will result in a stronger Erskine.

Another focus of this year has been the Seminary, with a view towards better understanding its market, its students, its offerings, and all the logistics that are required in the delivering of a high quality reformed seminary education that will properly inspire and equip our students for service to the church. An ad hoc committee has been appointed. Once the work of this committee is completed and the Board has had the opportunity to consider its findings, additional information will be provided to General Synod.

All Board decisions are to be consistent with federal and state laws, accreditation standards, Erskine's Charter and Bylaws, mission statements, and the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education.

In 2011 the College and Seminary completed required reporting and hosted off- and on-campus reaffirmation visits from our accrediting bodies, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS, March 2012) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS, also in March 2012). The SACS On-Site Visit Committee Report details nineteen recommendations, including two Core Requirements, that Erskine will address by mid-August 2012. The ATS report addresses twenty-four standards and requests three follow-up reports to be submitted over the next 3+ years. In both cases, accreditation of all College and Seminary programs is expected to be reaffirmed for ten years (2012-22).

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

The faculties of the college and seminary establish admission and graduation requirements. Both have admissions committees made up of faculty and staff. The Board receives recommendations for graduation from the faculties of the college and seminary, and approves candidates for degrees. The Board retains the right to reject the recommendations of the faculties, but it has not done so this year.

3. To determine all financial charges made to students.

This process is two-fold. Each year a budget is prepared by the administration, with the help of faculty and staff, and is submitted to the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board for review and revision. Prior to adoption by the Board, the Vice President for Finance and Operations reviews key metrics which characterize the budget and entertains questions from Board members.

The second part of the process is an ongoing activity that runs concurrently with the construction of the budget, the adoption of the budget, and the implementation of the budget. This activity is the regular review by the Board and the continuing education of the Board on those critical aspects of the budget that are comprised of established key performance indicators. At every Board meeting a comparative analysis of these financial indicators that address specific financial goals is presented and discussed. These metrics provide the context by which the Board is able to set student charges in light of the full budget. Once approved by the Board, the President informs students and parents of the financial charges, including, but not limited to, tuition, boarding, and fees. Financial charges made to students in the College and Seminary during the 2011-2012 academic year are included. (See Attachment #2.)

4. To establish curriculum.

The overall purpose of a Christian liberal arts education is to educate whole persons for life. With this in mind, the curriculum and pedagogy need to reflect Erskine's dual focus of Christian and liberal arts. The curriculum is primarily shaped by the faculty and submitted to the Board for approval. The Board approves all new academic programs and degrees.

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

The Campus Minister, along with a wide range of student-led ministry groups, offers a variety of spiritual development opportunities for the campus community. Weekly meetings, small groups, retreats, and special events all work together to engage the heart and mind while nurturing the soul, deepening one's understanding of the Scriptures, and connecting God's truth to daily living. Convocation and chapel services are additional opportunities to reinforce these things. In the midst of these gatherings, often there is the free offer of the Gospel to all. As God has done in the past, once again he, by his grace, has been pleased to use these times to call students to himself. These are times of great rejoicing and much gratitude.

Since becoming president, Dr. David Norman has articulated a vision for his administration that incorporated three pillars: academic integrity, financial sustainability, and human restoration. Over the 2011-12 academic year, a presidential initiative called THRIVE has been taking shape as members of the Erskine community organized to begin cultivating a dynamic of human restoration and service at Erskine.

It is our hope and intent that as THRIVE moves forward, it will provide the catalyst to produce more curricular and institutional structures that will enable Erskine to be characterized by its robust understanding of, and engagement in, all aspects of service to the poor, human restoration and human flourishing.

The Office of Student Services, in conjunction with various student organizations, provides quality programming designed to engage students in all aspects of collegiate life. The Erskine College Department of Athletics creates an environment in which student athletes can be competitive on the NCAA and Conference Carolinas fields of play. The Campus Minister, the Vice President for Student Services, and the Athletic Director all work with the Student Services Committee of the Board.

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.

Each year a budget is prepared by the administration, in consultation with faculty and staff, and submitted to the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board for review and revision. The budget is brought before the entire Board for adoption. In October 2011 the Board received Erskine's audited annual report from Elliott Davis, LLC which included an unqualified (clean) opinion and statement that no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were noted in the institution's internal control structure. The budget for 2012-13 fiscal year will be presented to the Board at the May 2012 meeting. Once a budget is adopted, it will be provided in the Erskine supplemental report.

The Advancement and Alumni staff raises more than \$2 million for the Annual Fund and secures many other gifts through estate planning. In July 2011, David Earle was hired as Vice President for Advancement. He assists the Board in its review of development activities.

A staff of approximately 32 employees (with Aramark – includes management) maintains the physical facilities and Erskine's approximately ninety-five acre campus.

7. To hold in trust all endowments and title 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. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney serves as an investment consultant and assists the In-

vestment Committee with its oversights and monitoring of the investment managers implementing the approved Investment Policy Statement. The Board Investment Committee meets quarterly with representatives from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney to review the market and our investments. The current value of the endowment is approximately \$42.2 million as reported at the end of the first quarter.

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 restricted funds for designated purposes, such as scholarships and professorships. This year one of the best practices that Erskine has committed to is investing in a new software program, Fundriver. This will give us greater capacity to account for and track individual funds within the endowment in accordance with new accounting guidelines. SunTrust serves as investment manager of Erskine's planned/deferred giving.

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 appoints the President, the Executive Vice President and Dean of the College, and the Executive Vice President of the Seminary, and the Treasurer. The size of the administration and faculty is controlled by the Board-approved budget. In May 2008, the Executive Committee approved the following policy:

"It shall be the policy of the Board of Trustees to employ as new faculty members and new staff members at the management level (director or above) only Christians who have consented in writing to the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education, including its definition of an evangelical Christian, and the appropriate College or Seminary mission statement. Implementation of this policy shall be the responsibility of the President of Erskine College and Seminary." (Executive Committee Conference Call, May 1, 2008)

The Executive Committee also establishes the salary of the President, who in turn sets the salaries of all administrative staff and faculty of the College and Seminary. In 2010 the Interim Vice President and Dean of the College established a Faculty Personnel Committee, which conducts an institutional, mission-fit interview with every finalist for an open faculty position. The President also meets with every finalist. In 2011 the online application for faculty positions was revised

to streamline and foreground the college mission statement, the SPCHE, and the candidate's required essay on faith-learning integration.

9. To submit nominations to Synod's Committee on Nominations (1986 Minutes of Synod, p. 86).

The Committee on Trustees receives suggestions for Board service from Board members and other Erskine constituencies. The committee considers the particular skills or needs for the Board and determines the nominees best suited to fill these positions. The names of persons recommended for service are submitted to the Board for consideration. If approved by the Board, the persons are contacted by the President and Board Chairman to determine their interest and willingness to serve. If the nominee agrees to serve, he/she completes the necessary forms and paperwork for the Synod's Committee on Nominations including a response to the question, "What do you understand to be the role of a trustee of Erskine College and Seminary?" When this process is complete, the Board Chairman submits the names to Synod's Committee on Nominations.

The process outlined above has been under review. A significant amount of time has been invested by a joint ad hoc committee between Synod's Committee on Nominations and Erskine's Committee on Trustees. The overall goal is to improve communications, relationships, and trust with the end result being to seat the best possible trustees.

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 (SPCHE).

In the midst of all the difficulties, confusion, and frustrations of the past several years in particular, the SPCHE has been an important benchmark for all. This document has been revisited and affirmed on multiple occasions in recent years by both President David Norman and the Board of Trustees.

Erskine's Trustees are aware of the high standards set for trustees in the SPCHE and are honored that, by their appointment, the ARP General Synod has judged them to be individuals who meet these standards. Although Trustees have not taken this honor upon themselves, they seek to follow Paul's directive from Philippians 3:16 to "live up to what you have already attained."

The SPCHE notes that the Board should be "kept informed of the Church's position and purposes." To this end, the Board of Trustees circulated and discussed the motions and memorials of the 2011 Synod relating to Erskine in June and July 2011. The Chair appointed an ad

hoc committee to investigate thoroughly and diligently the relevant issues and develop a response for the full Board to consider. The ad hoc committee completed its work in time for the full Board to consider and vote on the proposed response at its February 2012 meeting. Shortly after the Board voted and established its response to Synod, the Chair published the response to ministers and elders of the ARPC. Our prayer is that the months between February and June will allow ample time for Synod delegates to read and understand the complex issues involved and the clear reasoning for the Board's response. We also hope that the document can stand as the definitive articulation of the current governance relationship between the ARPC and Erskine and why that relationship should not be changed.

III. Progress Report on Institutional Data and Statistics

Erskine Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is transitioning to a smaller Board composed of twenty-five members after this year's retiring class finishes their term June 30, 2012. The new number or percentage of Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers is in discussion but the Board currently has 12. Over half of the Trustees are alumni of the College and/or Seminary. Going forward, each class of five (5) new trustees serves for five (5) years.

Ex-officio members will include the President of the Erskine Alumni Association and the Moderator of Synod. Currently a representative designated by ARP Women's Ministries is also serving out her term through June 30, 2014 as prescribed in the Bylaws under Article XV – Effective Dates.

Advisory members are the President, all Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, a delegate from the Seminary Faculty, a delegate from the College Faculty, the President of the Student Government Association, the President of the Seminary Student Body, the Director of the Board of Christian Education Ministries of the ARP Church, the Executive Director of Central Services of the ARP Church, the President-Elect of the Erskine Alumni Association, the Moderator-Elect of the ARP Church, and the Chair of the Board of Counselors.

Officers of the Board for 2011-2012 are Chairman Joe Patrick, Vice Chairman Bill Cain, Secretary Max Bolin, and Treasurer Gregory Haselden. The Board has the following standing committees: Academic, Enrollment, Finance and Facilities, Development, Student Services and Athletic, Seminary, Trustees, Honorary Degrees, and Executive. There are four (4) ad hoc committees: Nominating Committee, Board Policy Committee, Seminary Review Committee, and Synod

Requests Committee. The Board meets in August, October, February, and May.

Erskine Administration

Dr. David Norman, President of Erskine College and Seminary
Dr. Robyn Agnew, Vice President for Student Services
Dr. Brad Christie, Interim Vice President and Dean of the College
Mr. David Earle, Vice President for Advancement
Mr. Greg Haselden, Vice President for Finance and Operations
Dr. Steve Lowe, Interim Vice President of Erskine Theological Seminary
Mr. Cliff Smith, Vice President for Communications

2011-12 Budget Information

The 2011-12 budget was revised in September 2011 by the Administration, and the Board approved the revised budget at the October 2011 meeting. The most significant revision was made in college enrollment. Faculty and staff salaries remained frozen during the 2011-12 academic year, and senior administrators maintained a 3% reduction that became effective in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

New Faculty

Mr. Michael Burriss, Visiting Instructor of Spanish
Dr. Thomas Farmer, Visiting Assistant Professor of History
Dr. Mark Nabholz, Assistant Professor of Music

Enrollment Data Fall 2011

163 freshman students
13 transfer students
TOTAL: 176 new students (All together, the college enrolled 553 students for Fall 2011.)

Athletic Highlights

Academic success among our student athletes has continued to be strong. This year, 45% of our juniors and seniors were named to the Conference Carolinas All-Academic Team (3.25 GPA or higher). Senior tennis player and cross-country runner Vincent Chauvette was named the Conference Carolinas "Murphy Osborne Award" recipient. The award is given each year to the top student athlete in Conference Carolinas. With over 3000 student athletes in the conference, this is quite an achievement. It marks the 5th time in nine years an Erskine student

athlete has won the award and the first time ever a school has had back-to-back winners, with Jocelyn Smith winning last year. Senior women's basketball player Porsha Morgan became the first female athlete at Erskine to be named to the All-Conference Carolinas First Team all four years at Erskine. Porsha was also recently named as an NCAA Division II All-American. Porsha, along with senior volleyball player Sandra Campbell, were named the conference's "Players of the Year."

Recommendations:

The significance of General Synod's faithful and generous support over the years cannot be overstated. We are most grateful for it and humbled by it. Historically, Erskine's ability to fulfill its vision is dependent upon the vital resources the Synod has provided, whether that is prayer, people, or finances. This year is no exception, and the environmental realities stated in the outset of this report further underscore the need. The following recommendations are made with the hope that the Lord desires to see Erskine and the ARPC continue to labor together for the Kingdom through higher education.

1. That a season of prayer and fasting for Erskine College and Seminary be held in the churches of the presbyteries in the ARP Synod;
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 the institution can be received;
3. That Synod track and report back to Erskine those churches that participated in the two opportunities mentioned in Recommendation #1 and #2.
4. That its budget request presented through the Board of Stewardship be approved as follows:

∞ \$518,000 operating funds

∞ \$500 ARP Student Union

As a ministry established by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, it is Erskine's desire to submit a report to General Synod that is informative, is beneficial, and is a source of encouragement to understand more fully how God is using your resources that you entrust to Erskine. This report is designed to address substantively the particular areas as identified in the *Manual Authorities and Duties*, to document progress on specific concerns raised by Synod, and to benchmark

the vision with the Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education.

We greatly appreciate and thankfully acknowledge the Synod's call upon churches for a day of prayer and fasting for Erskine this past year. Erskine continues to reap the benefits that come from the faithful prayers of others. While the Lord's hand is evident all around, there is still much to be done. The Board of Trustees is committed to the mission of Erskine College and Theological Seminary and is dedicated to improving the execution of such vision.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Patrick, Chair
Board of Trustees

David A. Norman
President

2012 - 2013

Annual Tuition, Required Fees.

Room and Board

	<u>BOARDING</u>	<u>COMMUTING</u>
TUITION	\$ 27,915	\$ 27,915
BOARD (all meal plans)	4,650	
ROOM *	4,975	
FEES **	1,875	1,875
TOTAL (boarding student)	\$ 39,415	
TOTAL (commuting student)		\$ 29,790

- **New Students:** In addition to the above fees**, new students will be assessed a one-time \$150 matriculation fee and a one-time \$150 orientation fee.
- **Returning Students:** In addition to the above fees**, a \$150 returning student deposit and a \$150 administration fee are required.

- ** Required fees include: activity, artist series/convocation, athletic, computer, medical, and student center fees. (For more information regarding the required fees**, see a copy of the current Erskine College *Catalog*.)
- * Single room charges are an additional \$800 per semester.
- All students are responsible for the purchase of **books and supplies** and should allow between **\$750 and \$1,000 per semester** or **\$1,500 to \$2,000 per year, (fall and spring semesters)** depending on major or coursework taken.

Response of the Erskine College and Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to the 2011 General Synod's Requests

February 17, 2012

The Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Theological Seminary ("Board") prayerfully and respectfully submits this Response to certain requests made of the Board at the 2011 General Synod meeting. This Response deals primarily with the requests regarding removal of Board members, although other requests are also addressed herein. By way of preface and introduction, the Board acknowledges and invokes the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (Sec. I, Ch. 5, "Of Providence"):

God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

I. Response Summary

Erskine College and Theological Seminary is the educational institution of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.¹ As such, the Board has received the General Synod's requests as a genuine expression of great care and concern for the Institution and her mission. For this we are thankful. However, for the reasons discussed in significant detail herein, the Board believes that the requests from the General Synod regarding Charter and Bylaw revisions would neither be in the Institution's best interests nor in the best interests of the General Synod. These reasons include the potential impact on accreditation, the legal liability potentially imposed on the General Synod, the potential impact on academic freedom, and the potential impact on trustees' independence to serve the mission of the Institution.

II. The Institution's Relationship with the Church

Historic, Unique, Mutually Beneficial, and Purposeful; Not Ownership or Control

According to its Institutional Mission Statement, Erskine is an academic community that exists to glorify God by equipping students to flourish as whole persons for lives of service. The specific 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. The specific mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. By and through these mission statements, Erskine expresses its high commitment to the quintessential truth for all Christian scholars, that all truth is God's truth wherever it is found. Thus, it is only in a proper relationship to the divine Creator and Lord that all knowledge, whether regarding nature, society, arts, or sciences, comes into clearest focus. To image

¹ "Erskine" and "Institution" as used herein refer to both Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary except where the context or language indicates otherwise; similarly, "ARPC" and "General Synod" as used herein refer to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination whose legal expression is the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc. The relationship between the Institution and the General Synod is discussed in greater detail below.

God in the fullness of our humanity is, especially in the Reformed tradition, one of our highest callings.²

Discovery of God's truth involves an openness to all of God's self-revelation, which necessitates careful examination of what we believe, what we know, and what we are unsure of. Our Christian commitment both inspires and requires such purposeful learning. Higher education in the West came about as a means of the church to deepen one's faith, knowledge of God, and knowledge of God's creation, holding that since all things came from God, all things could be legitimately studied and understood as a gift from God.³ Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia began this way, and the list of institutions established by the Christian Church prior to the Civil War "includes forty-nine founded by Presbyterians, thirty-four by Methodists, twenty-five by Baptists, and twenty-one by Congregationalists."⁴

Under guise of the oft-misunderstood, misrepresented, and misapplied rubric of academic freedom, many of the schools that originally had a religious purpose for their existence now allow God no significant place. This historic reality, difficult to ignore, is perhaps most personified in the United States by Harvard University's public acknowledgement in the 1950s that it had become a secular university with nothing more than a "tradition of worship."⁵ The on-campus Memorial Church thereafter became primarily an assembly hall.

By contrast, Erskine (along with many other admirable institutions) has reaffirmed and reiterated its commitment to the twin pillars of academic excellence and Biblical truth. As a Christian liberal arts college and a theological seminary, Erskine today perceives its religious and academic programs as parts of a whole that cannot be separated; approaching education from a Christian worldview and examining subject matter from a Christian perspective.

Erskine's historic and continued existence as a Christian institution has been, in large part, because of and through the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church denomination and its predecessors and constituents. Although Erskine's relationship with the ARPC has

²Arthur F. Holmes, *The Idea of a Christian College*, rev. ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1987), 28.

³Harry Lee Poe, *Christianity in the Academy* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), 54.

⁴*The Idea of the Christian College*, 9f.

⁵E. J. Kahn, Jr., *Harvard: Through change and through storm* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co: 1968), 272.

at times perhaps been misunderstood and mischaracterized, the commitment of the Institution to its mission and its success thereon owes much to the denomination. It is therefore an understatement to say there is far more that joins Erskine and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church than separates.

The ARPC's view of the role of the Church in Christian higher education was expressed by the General Synod in 1977 and 1978:

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

We believe this is so because this area of service offers the Church a unique opportunity to present Christ and the Christian viewpoint and to demonstrate in a tangible way the value of life which is lived in right relation to God and man. We believe that only such a life can realize its fullest potential in terms of usefulness to society and inner satisfaction to the individual.

We believe that the Church has a responsibility not only to initiate the organizational structure for such participation, but also a responsibility to continue to nurture that organization and to provide theological and philosophical guidance to it.

[O]ur institutions of Christian higher education have a responsibility to stress Christian doctrine as well as Christian ethics, Christian commitment as well as academic excellence. Our calling in Christian higher education is to create an environment that exposes the college community to the truth of God's redemptive love and equip its members for lives of useful service, whether in the full-time ministries of the Church, or in some other worthy calling.⁶

⁶*Statement of the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church as Adopted by the General Synod, June 8, 1977 and June 7, 1978 (henceforth Philosophy of Christian Higher Education).* One of the requests made in the motion passed at the 2011 ARPC General Synod was that the Institution recognize the right of General Synod to "delineate the Synod's aspirations for the institution." The primary way the General Synod has done this is the *Philosophy of Christian Higher Education*, which the Board gratefully receives as the expression of the General Synod's aspirations for Erskine.

By and through the published *Philosophy of Christian Higher Education* (in addition to other indices including the provision of financial support, prayers, and intangibles too numerous to list), the ARPC acknowledges and expresses its relationship with Erskine. By and through the adoption and maintenance of mission statements and policies that are consistent with the *Philosophy of Christian Higher Education* (in addition to other indices including the acceptance of financial support, dependence on prayers, and intangibles too numerous to list), the Board acknowledges and expresses Erskine's relationship with the ARPC. While humbly expressing its contrition for past shortcomings and failures with respect to aspects of the Institution's mission, the Board today reaffirms the Institution's relationship with the ARPC as clearly historic, unique, purposeful, and mutually-beneficial.

Erskine is a complex entity, with several constituencies that all feel a genuine ownership of and identification with the Institution. Its relationship to the ARPC is in some ways filial: a historic product of the church that was nurtured and sustained, particularly in its early years, almost entirely by the church. The nurture and sustenance has continued to the present day, although Erskine now depends on other constituents and has many of its practical priorities set by the standards of its profession (peer institutions, accrediting agencies, etc.). Erskine may be a "child" of the church, but just as a healthy child matures to adulthood, and a young Christian matures in faith, Erskine has also matured. In these respects, many of the Institution's charter changes over the years may be seen as transitional moments of Erskine's move from "adolescence" into "adulthood" – now a "grown child" who seeks the wise counsel of her elders, but must stand on her own, accountable as an "adult."

The mature relationship between Erskine and the ARPC is not "ownership," but an intimate bond that cannot be broken without damage to both parties. The same sort of relationship also exists between Erskine and its alumni and, as the label *alma mater* indicates, graduates commonly recognize a relationship with their school as that of a child fostered in a maternal relationship. The bonds between Erskine and its alumni are not merely those of annual donations and bequests; the intimacy of alumni commitment to the Institution is a factor which cannot be discounted.

Likewise, current students, faculty, and staff similarly identify themselves with and feel a similar bond for the Institution as they daily embody its mission. Evidencing the outpouring of such an affection for Erskine is the fact that many faculty and staff have devoted

decades—in many cases their entire careers—to furthering the Institution and its goals.

All this notwithstanding, in the eyes of the Institution, the State of South Carolina, and of the accrediting agencies, Erskine is governed only by its Board of Trustees and, in this regard, all of the other constituencies—the ARPC church, the faculty, staff, students, and alumni—are “outside” or “external” to the Board, although certainly not to the Institution. The Board cannot and does not disregard its constituents, as they are essential components of the identity and mission of the school and their loss would fundamentally change Erskine. Input from these constituencies is vital, not only through the officially designated representatives to the Board but also in ad hoc communications. Yet, while all of these parties necessarily and desirably have “due influence” on the Board for all of the reasons discussed herein, the Board must ensure that none of these “external” (in a governance sense) influences compromise the Board’s independence. In such a complex undertaking as Erskine, Board actions taken in the best interests of the Institution as a whole may at times require difficult decisions; thus allowing any vested interests to compromise or prevent such actions would evidence “undue influence,” even when an “external” constituency acted with the best of intentions.

As recognized by the General Synod in 1978,

Autonomy is essential if the college corporation is to act legally and responsibly. It is in the best interests of the church that the Synod protect and defend this autonomy.

Precipitous action of the Synod, creating undue pressure by directing, or commanding, the Board of Trustees or Administration to take certain specific actions can jeopardize the accreditation of the college . . . and seriously impair the church’s mission in Christian higher education.

. . . The hope of successful achievement of the Christian goals and purposes of the college lies in mutual understanding, deference, respect, and a spirit of Christian charity between the Board of Trustees and the General Synod, with both bodies seeking prayer

fully to function wisely and well within the blessing of God, whose we are and whom we serve.⁷

Although a more precise description of the relationship between Erskine and the ARPC sometimes defies reduction to language, the relational bond is one that the Board enthusiastically desires to maintain and strengthen.

III. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church's Relationship with the Board of Trustees

Relationship Expressed Through Appointments to an Autonomous Board"

In 1834, at its annual meeting at Due West Corner, the Synod of the South resolved to 'establish one or more schools or academies' and asked individual congregations to present proposals to that end.... The Synod of 1835 moved to authorize 'a school at Due West Corner' which would provide two years of college training."⁸ By a Special Act of the South Carolina General Assembly in 1850, a charter was established for a body politic and corporate, and "The Trustees of Erskine College" were empowered, "to make such by-laws and rules for the regulation and government of said college as they may deem necessary; provided said by-laws and rules be not repugnant to the Constitution and the laws of this State, or of the United States." Throughout the several charter changes and amendments since 1850, nothing has changed the fact that Erskine is, as recognized by the 1978 General Synod,

... under the laws of the State of South Carolina, a separate corporation, legally distinct from the church and governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is empowered to exercise its independent judgment with reference to the operation of Erskine College and final decisions related thereto lie within the exclusive province of the Board. It is clear to the committee

⁷"Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education," *Minutes of the General Synod*, June 5-8, 1978, 623f.

⁸Lowry Ware, "A History of Erskine College, 1839-1982" in the *Bicentennial Supplement* (Greenville, SC: General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1982), 420f.

that, from a legal standpoint, the Board of Trustees is an autonomous body.⁹

By Charter amendment in 1980, the Board of Trustees granted the right to the General Synod to appoint all members of the Erskine Board of Trustees, with the number of members and their terms in office to be set forth in the Bylaws.¹⁰ The 1980 Charter amendment also states that any change in this section of the Charter must have prior approval of both the General Synod and the Board of Trustees. Thus, it is through its board appointments that the General Synod's relationship with Erskine is expressed and its influence thereon is most directly exercised.¹¹

The autonomy of the Board of Trustees is important, has been confirmed by the General Synod over the years, and serves many purposes, including, (1) the establishment of guardians to hold to immovable fundamentals while adapting to changing environments; (2) the protection of academic freedom in the context of loyalty to God's truth and liberty to think for oneself; and (3) the necessity and desirability of making the college legally and solely responsible for its own acts.¹² The Trustees, in return, acknowledge and pledge to: (1) recognize the distinctly Christian commitment of Erskine, including interpretation and explanation of the needs, interests, and concerns of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in the course of setting institutional purposes, priorities and policies; (2) interpret and explain to church policy makers how the unique nature of an academic enterprise makes it distinct from other church agencies, including its essential commitment to academic freedom; and (3) protect the institution's integrity from unreasonable and unwarranted outside (in a governance sense) interference (from wherever the source) in service of the institution as a whole rather than any special interest.

⁹ "Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education," *Minutes of the General Synod*, June 5-8, 1978, 621f.

¹⁰ The Charter restatement by the Board of Trustees in 1977 stated only that Board membership was pursuant to the then-current Bylaws.

¹¹ The 1980 Charter amendment does not grant to the General Synod the right to remove trustees nor does any other governing document.

¹² Although the Erskine Board is not a "Board of the General Synod" *per se*, even the denomination's *Manual of Authorities and Duties* recognizes the importance of the autonomy of the church's boards, which "shall perform the work entrusted to them without particular instructions, but shall follow the general instructions of the Court." *Manual of Authorities and Duties for Officers and Agencies and Rules of Order* (Greenville, SC: General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 2011), 11.

IV. Removal of Board Members

Vesting Exclusively with Board is in Institution's Best Interests

Under the applicable provisions of the Charter and Bylaws, the right to remove members from the Board of Trustees is vested exclusively with the Board pursuant to a clear and precise due process whereby members may be removed by the Board for cause. Through its passed motion, the 2011 General Synod requested that the Institution recognize the right of the General Synod to remove board members.¹³ Removal of board members by the General Synod or by any other body would not be in the Institution's best interests for several reasons, including undesirable practical results such as: (A) the potential impact on accreditation,¹⁴ and (B) the potential for legal liability imposed on the General Synod; in addition to important core mission issues such as: (C) the potential impact on academic freedom, and (D) the potential impact on trustees' independence to serve the mission of the Institution.¹⁵ Instead, appropriate formal and informal avenues for communication of issues and concerns between the General Synod and the Board of Trustees are in place, which have been and should continue to be respectfully, competently, and successfully utilized.

A. Accreditation

Erskine College and Theological Seminary is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACS). All accredited institutions are required to comply with all SACS Core Requirements before accreditation reaffirmation, one of which is:

C.R. 2.2 The institution has a governing board of at least five members that is the legal body with specific authority over the institution. The board is an active policy-making body for the institu-

¹³The Board of Trustees is responding herein, in the entirety of this Response, to both the General Synod's request that the Board amend its Bylaws to reflect the Board Member Removal Policy as adopted by the 2011 General Synod and the passed motion that the Board consider amending the Charter.

¹⁴For example, a 1973 charter amendment, which was approved to make it clear that the General Synod did not have the right to confirm or annul the appointments of the Board's officers or the school's officers, professors, tutors or instructors, was entered, "as a result of a college self-study and of recommendations by various consultants and accrediting agencies." "Addendum to Report of the Board of Trustees of Erskine College to the General Synod," *Minutes of the General Synod*, June 5-9, 1972, 174.

¹⁵Even if the General Synod had the right to remove trustees, the Board questions, for all of the reasons stated in this Response, whether the exercise of that right would ever be in the best interests of the Institution.

tion and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the institution are adequate to provide a sound educational program. The board is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from it. Both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.

SACS also promulgates detailed Comprehensive Standards and reaffirmation may be denied if an institution is out of compliance with one or more of them, including:

C.S. 3.2.2 The legal authority and operating control of the institution are clearly defined for the following areas within the institution's governance structure: (Governing board control)

- 3.2.2.1 institution's mission;
- 3.2.2.2 fiscal stability of the institution;
- 3.2.2.3 institutional policy, including policies concerning related and affiliated corporate entities and all auxiliary services; and
- 3.2.2.4 related foundations (athletic, research, etc.) and other corporate entities whose primary purpose is to support the institution and/or its programs.

C.S. 3.2.3 The board has a policy addressing conflict of interest for its members.

C.S. 3.2.4 The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence.

C.S. 3.2.5 The governing board has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process.

Erskine College is currently undergoing SACS accreditation reaffirmation, and the Board is happy to report that Erskine has been found to be in compliance with all of the above requirements and standards under the current Charter and the recently revised Bylaws, whereby the Board members are appointed by the General Synod but removed only by the Board for cause. However, after recent actions taken by the General Synod to attempt to remove trustees, SACS placed Erskine College on warning in July 2010 for twelve months for "failure to comply" with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4. In response, Erskine's Board of Trustees took steps to address SACS concerns by revising its Bylaws to make explicit a conflict-of-interest policy, including a section on "undue influence" with procedures to address perceived or actual cases. In May 2011, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the revised Bylaws; the General Synod was thereafter informed of these changes in June 2011; and at the end of that month SACS voted to remove the warning.

Likewise, Erskine Theological Seminary is also accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), which has its own Standards of Accreditation, including:

8.3.1 Governing board

8.3.1.1 The governing board is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the institution's integrity and its freedom from inappropriate external and internal pressures and from destructive interference or restraints. It shall attend to the well-being of the institution by exercising proper fiduciary responsibility, adequate financial oversight, proper delegation of authority to the institution's administrative officers and faculty, engaging outside legal counsel, ensuring professional and independent audits, using professional investment advisors as appropriate, and maintaining procedural fairness and freedom of inquiry.

8.3.1.2 The governing board shall be accountable for the institution's adherence to requirements duly established by public authorities and to accreditation standards established by the Commission and by any other accrediting or certifying agencies to which the institution is formally related.

Erskine Theological Seminary is currently undergoing ATS accreditation reaffirmation, and the Board is unaware of any issues involving these standards; however, the Board has also been informed by ATS that with respect to denominationally-related schools where trustees are appointed/elected by the church, the church may not withdraw appointment of, dismiss, or remove trustees once they are appointed, and that the ATS Board of Commissioners would not consider the allowance of such removal or withdrawal of appointment of trustees by an ecclesial body to be good governance -- because it means that the church is the *de facto* board if it has the authority to remove board members for a variety of causes.

B. Legal Distinctions

Vesting the General Synod with the ability to remove Board members would also raise issues regarding the possibility that the corporate legal distinction between the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Synod, Inc. and Erskine would be ignored by a court of law, thereby exposing the General Synod to Erskine's debts, obligations and liabilities. The degree of control that one entity exerts over another is one of the factors considered by courts in an "alter ego" or "ascending liability" analysis as to whether corporate distinctions should be honored.

The Institution's Charter, amended, restated, and approved by the General Synod in 1977, makes clear that the Institution is its own corporation, established to own, maintain, and operate without profit, as a charitable or eleemosynary corporation, a college which might from time to time include professional and graduate schools. Regarding the issue of legal liability, the General Synod exercised commendable and cautious foresight when, in 1978, the following comment was adopted regarding the 1977 charter:

The committee believes that the intent of the present charter is to make the college legally and solely responsible for its own acts.¹⁶

C. A Healthy Academic Environment

Academic freedom has been given many definitions and is a concept frequently misunderstood and misused. The Board maintains that in the context of a Christian liberal arts education, academic freedom is the recognition that faith and intellect cannot be forced and

¹⁶"Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education," *Minutes of the General Synod*, June 5-8, 1978, 622.

must not be forced if each is to play its part in relation to the other. Arthur Holmes, professor emeritus at Wheaton College, astutely observed,

While Scripture is our final rule of faith and practice, not all truth about everything is fully revealed therein. If that were so we would need no natural or social sciences, no humanities and no theology – just biblical exegesis. Rather, the eternal Logos has left his imprint on nature and human beings and history, and the truth discovered therein is God's truth too. We approach it with reverence and humility, modest and tentative in our pronouncements. If all truth is God's truth, we must be free to explore it. If it ultimately fits into a coherent whole, then our task is to interpret it as such by developing Christian perspectives in the natural and social sciences and the humanities, so as to structure a Christian worldview that exhibits plainly the principle that truth is one and all truth is God's. This requires open eyes and open doors on the world, not blinkers and cloisters and defensiveness about the problem.

The fact is that faith liberates rather than enslaves the mind. It helps me understand myself and my world, it creates a positive attitude toward learning. Christian liberty is neither irresponsible license nor repressive bondage, and academic freedom in the Christian college must rest on this realization.¹⁷

It should also be noted that academic freedom has a special relevance in the Reformed tradition:

The early leaders of the Reformation – Wycliffe, Huss and Luther – were university men and their opposition to Rome developed be-

¹⁷*The Idea of a Christian College*, 63.

cause they refused to think in ruts worn by tradition, superstition, and ignorance.

Religious liberty and academic freedom went hand in hand, insisting on the right to examine the cherished and to improve on the past. Not only reformers were repressed. Aristotle and Aquinas had been banned at Paris; later, elsewhere, Descartes, Newton, and Locke shared the same fate. And remember Galileo. But truth will win out. It cannot be suppressed; for in the final analysis, all truth is God's.¹⁸

The unique but necessary challenge to the Christian college is that academic freedom avoid the extremes of both legalism and license. Because "liberty without loyalty is not Christian [and] loyalty without the liberty to think for oneself is not education," academic freedom is absolutely essential to the academic task on the Christian college campus.¹⁹ Although the Christian campus may not have been their context in deciding the line of cases involving academic freedom, the United States Supreme Court has held, and the Board agrees, that academic freedom involves *institutional* determination of who may teach, what may be taught, how it shall be taught, and who may be admitted to study.²⁰

As discussed above, the Erskine Board of Trustees alone governs the Institution and, as such, is the body ultimately responsible for protecting academic freedom. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the Board must also have the final authority to defend and protect Erskine from influences motivated from the competing viewpoints: (1) that education from a religious perspective lacks objectivity and therefore respectability; or (2) that academic freedom is a license to compromise faith and morals and must therefore be restricted or removed. It must be the Board's ultimate and final responsibility and authority to guide Erskine if Erskine is to be the place where both minds and hearts are opened to God's truth. This responsibility and authority must be undertaken by the Board without reference to, or fear of review by, any other body lest both the authority and responsibility be weakened.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, 65.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, 61.

²⁰ See Widmar v. Vincent, 454 U.S. 263 (1981); Sweezy v. New Hampshire, 354 U.S. 234 (1957).

D. Institutional Mission

Board of Trustee independence is also necessary and desirable for the ultimate accomplishment of the Institution's mission. An independent board should be the most fully enabled and capable of doing what is best for the Institution, because it is to the Institution and its mission alone that board members are held in fiduciary obligation. It is in this respect that the Institution's and the General Synod's best interests are most aligned -- an independent Erskine board is the best means by which the General Synod's desire will be fulfilled that the Institution achieve its mission and commitments. Both the authority of the Erskine Board, which is "empowered to exercise its independent judgment with reference to the operation of Erskine"²¹ and the concomitant ability of the Erskine board to fulfill its recognized duties, would be less than complete and certainly less than confident if an external body had removal authority.

V. Effective and Working Processes Are in Place

For Board Member Removal for Cause; For General Synod to Communicate Concerns

Pursuant to Article VII of the newly revised Bylaws, Board members and corporate officers, acknowledging their fiduciary obligations to the Institution, must exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions and matters concerning the Institution, refrain from conflicts between the interests of the Institution and their own, and refuse submission to undue influence from any external source so that the integrity of the Institution can be protected at all times.²² A new and detailed Bylaw process is in place as described in Article VII regarding how the Board shall deal with any Board member's failure in these regards and in Article II regarding the power of removal and the protection of due process rights of any Board member against whom removal charges are brought. These Bylaw provisions are appropriate and sufficient for dealing with all real and perceived fiduciary failures on the part of any Board member. Further, these requirements and processes should give the General Synod great assurance that the Board's self-governance works and that any such situations properly

²¹"Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education," *Minutes of the General Synod*, June 5-8, 1978, 622.

²²Integrity is also a SACS accreditation Comprehensive Standard, found at C.S. 1.1, which states, "The Institution shall operate with integrity at all times."

brought to the Board's attention will be thoroughly and appropriately investigated and resolved.²³

The inability of the General Synod to remove Erskine's Board members does not mean that the General Synod cannot bring matters of concern to the Erskine Board for response. Effective and efficient communication processes have been in place for many years and the Board reaffirms its commitment thereto, even while acknowledging that these processes may not have been utilized to their best and highest capacity in the past. The 2011 Report on Erskine presented at the 2011 General Synod contains several examples of the communications processes at work in its responses to several motions and a memorial from the 2010 General Synod. In one particular, the 2010 General Synod approved a memorial requesting that the Erskine Board of Trustees look into and report on the MEDCOM program at Erskine Seminary. A Board committee was appointed, conducted an investigation, and made recommendations to the full Board, after which a full report in response to the original memorial was made at the 2011 General Synod. Indeed, this very Response is another example of the communication processes between the General Synod and the Board at work.

The communication processes in place are appropriate to and sufficient for the "due influence" afforded by the historic, unique, mutually beneficial and purposeful relationship between the ARPC and Erskine; and the Board welcomes other appropriate means of communication with the General Synod.

VI. Concluding Summary

The Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Theological Seminary humbly submits this Response and asks and prays that this Response in no way be read or misunderstood to reflect anything other than our expression of the greatest appreciation and respect to

²³Without stating any view or opinion regarding the Board Member Removal Policy adopted by the 2011 General Synod as it applies to Agencies and Standing Committees of the ARPC, which Erskine is neither (see Institution's 1850 charter; revisions and restatements since; also, the "Report of the Special Committee on Christian Higher Education," adopted at the 1978 General Synod meeting), the Board notes that as applied to Erskine, the policy would leave open significant questions regarding the bases for removal "for cause" and would grant an appeal only to the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, a nine-member group which is not the appointing body and has no singular fiduciary obligation to Erskine. To be clear, however, it is on the basis of the much broader concerns expressed in this Response, and not these particular issues about the Board Member Removal Policy, that the Board responds herein.

the General Synod. The Board believes that legitimate concerns from the ARPC about the Institution, its mission, or its Board members, should continue to be presented to the Board through appropriate channels to be dealt with by the Board through the processes established by the Bylaws and Charter.²⁴

²⁴Aspects of the Charter amendment requested in the 2011 General Synod passed motion regarding affirmations to be made by Board members, faculty, and administrators are more appropriately addressed in the Bylaws, Board policies, and/or employee handbooks; likewise, aspects of the requested Charter amendment regarding the General Synod's aspirations should continue to be addressed in General Synod documents rather than the Institution's Charter.

Dear Fathers and Brethren,

Attached is a supplemental report from the Board of Erskine College and Theological Seminary. The annual report contained in your synod packet was prepared following the Board's February meeting in order to meet the deadline for submitting reports to General Synod for inclusion in the packet. Since that time there have been several important developments and the Board has had another meeting.

At its meeting on May 17-18, the board approved a budget for 2012-2013. It is included here.

In March, Erskine received visits from SACS and ATS for our ten year reaffirmation of accreditation. Preliminary reports from these agencies have been received and contain information which is particularly important on the relationship between Erskine and the General Synod. While the notations against Erskine issued in 2010 have been removed by both of these agencies, the visitations revealed that the governance of Erskine is still being closely monitored by both SACS and ATS.

Also, a "minority report" from several Erskine Board members was included in the synod packet. We realize this may be confusing, but we were unaware of its existence or inclusion in your synod packet until after the fact. However, this report contains new information that was not presented or considered by the Board at its February meeting. Discussion of this information at the meeting in May, together with the preliminary reports received from SACS and ATS, has convinced the Board that another year's study and investigation of the issues concerning the school's charter and its relationship to the General Synod is needed before the board can respond to the request of

General Synod on changing the charter. Therefore, the specific request of this Supplemental Report from the Erskine Board of Trustees is to allow us another year to process new information and communicate further to Synod on complex issues before its 2013 Synod meeting.

We look forward to the opportunities we will have during this year's General Synod to communicate more on these matters as well as updating you on the progress that is being made and how the Lord is at work at Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

In Christ,

Joe Patrick
Chair, Erskine Board of Trustees

To: All Delegates to the 2012 Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

From: The Erskine College and Theological Seminary Board of Trustees

Dear Delegates:

It is with the hope of mutual understanding, deference, respect, and a spirit of Christian charity between the Board of Trustees and the General Synod, with both bodies seeking prayerfully to function wisely and well within the blessing of God, whose we are and whom we serve, that we write regarding the previously submitted, "Response of the Erskine College and Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to the 2011 General Synod's Requests" ("Board's Response") and the "Minority Report of Erskine Trustees Regarding the Erskine Board's Response to the General Synod".

The mission and vision of Christian higher education is a grand one and significant pursuits demand remarkable effort – a high calling. We the Trustees, whom you have appointed, truly long for an Erskine education that will fortify the spiritual foundations of our graduates so that the whole person can flourish and the bright light of the Gospel shine forth. It is through this communication that we, the Trustees, labor to model a Gospel-centered life on behalf of the institution we all love and cherish.

By way of background, in order to enable the Board to timely comply with the 2011 General Synod's request, the Board's Response was completed by the Ad Hoc Committee on February 13, 2012, and was adopted by the Board on February 16, 2012. In the "minority report" that was recently submitted directly to the General Synod but was not available to the Ad Hoc Committee or to the Board as part of the deliberations (and is not a minority report of this Board), there is apparently additional information which may be relevant to the Board's Response. Had it been presented to the Ad Hoc Committee, there may have been time to submit a report taking such information into consideration for the 2012 General Synod.

One additional compounding background fact is that after both the Board's Response and the submission of the "minority report", the relevant section of the report of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges ("SACSCOC") On-Site Reaffirmation Committee became available to the Board and has also been submitted to the SACS Commission on Colleges for the final determination of reaffirmation of accreditation. A copy of the section of the SACSCOC Report relevant to the Board's plan of action and the request in this letter is attached hereto. A copy of the relevant section of the Association of Theological Schools ("ATS") written report is also included.

After careful consideration and deliberation, taking seriously our collective responsibility, the Board wishes to inform the 2012 General Synod of its plan and also to make an important request of the General Synod.

The Board believes it should and therefore intends to conduct a thorough review of the information contained in the "minority report" to determine whether the Board's Response should be altered, amended, or replaced. In order to accomplish this, the current Board Chairman, Joe Patrick, will appoint a new Ad Hoc Committee, that will consist of board members who were both signers and were not signers of the minority report. Neither David Conner nor Steve Suits will serve as voting members on the Ad Hoc Committee but should both serve as advisors.

This new Ad Hoc Committee will be charged with reviewing and investigating the information contained in the "minority report" along with any additional information that any member of the Board wishes to submit. The new Ad Hoc Committee will complete its review in time to make a report and recommendation to the full Board by its May 2013 meeting with reception of the proposed report at least two

weeks in advance, so that the Board's Response can be made to the General Synod prior to its 2013 meeting.

We believe that a review and investigation of the additional information described above is a Board obligation and responsibility that needs to be undertaken with careful consideration and without distraction. Therefore, during the Board's 2012-2013 review period, the Board respectfully requests that the General Synod take no action with respect to this matter but instead give the Board the chance to complete its work and provide a response. This request is also based on the Board's strong belief that this approach would be in Erskine's best interests with respect to accreditation, development, and recruitment during this next year.

The Board would like to once again acknowledge and clearly and unequivocally communicate to the General Synod: 1) that Erskine's historic and continued existence as a Christian institution has been, in large part, because of and through the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church; 2) that the Board does not desire to separate itself from the ARPC; 3) that we deeply appreciate and are thankful for the ARPC; and 4) that we pledge to continue our steadfast commitment to the fulfillment of the Institutional mission.

Attachment 1 – excerpted from the SACSCOC Report of the Reaffirmation Committee

Dated April 12, 2012

3.2.4 The governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence. (External Influence)

In July of 2010, the SACS Commission on Colleges placed Erskine College on warning for twelve months "for failure to comply" with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4. Erskine's Board of Trustees took steps to address the concerns. The Board revised its bylaws to include a new Article (Article VII) that makes explicit a conflict-of-interest policy including a section on "undue influence" along with procedures to address perceived or actual cases. In May 2011, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the revised Bylaws in toto and without amendment. The General Synod of the ARP Church was informed of these

changes in June of 2011, and at the end of that month the Commission voted to remove the warning.

Although there are no current sanctions regarding undue influence, continued efforts by the General Synod of the ARP Church appear to persist. The June, 2011 General Synod of the Associated Reformed Church requested that the Board of Trustees consider and respond to a new request to amend the College's Charter and Bylaws to grant the authority to Synod allowing it to remove Trustees from the Erskine College Board of Trustees (minutes of the June, 2011 General Synod of the Associated Reformed Church).

In that proposal it was requested that the Charter grant authority to the Synod to "remove trustees for cause by a process set forth in the governing documents of the ARP Church...and to require all Erskine Board members, faculty and administration...give affirmation that the Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and the Synod's Definition of Evangelical are in accordance with their own views and commitments. In its oversight of the institution through the Board of trustees, the Synod shall seek..." Since the Synod is an outside religious body this level of attempt at control and influence may be considered undue influence.

The Erskine College Board of Trustees, in a document entitled, "Response of the Erskine College and Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to the 2011 General Synod's Requests," offer reasoned and specific evidence as to why the Board of Trustees cannot accede to these requests. The ARP Synod meets in the summer so the College has received no official response. Since the Synod elects the Board of Trustees and seeks to oversee "the institution through it Board of Trustees," significant concern is generated by the ongoing actions of the Synod.

Additionally, as reported in the same minutes of the General Synod meeting but in another item of business, the Synod singled out and praised 6 faculty members for their “public support for ARP General Synod’s definition of an evangelical Christian...whereas we live in times in which the call to orthodoxy in doctrine...with established denominational and institutional commitments...do hereby heartily commend these faculty members for their faithful support of the doctrinal standards of the ARP Church and for encouraging the administration and board of Erskine College and Theological Seminary in their efforts to uphold those same high standards.”

The On-Site Reaffirmation Committee believes that, based on the pattern of on-going and previous activities of the ARP Synod and the current efforts of the Synod to influence faculty members in a specific manner in the internal affairs and governance of the College, undue external influence is being exerted. Moreover, based on the church’s efforts (1) to influence the trustees by obtaining the power to remove trustees, and (2) to establish adherence to expanded creedal positions by employees and trustees, the Committee believes that the Synod’s action is an exercise of undue influence. To single out and reward compliant faculty places pressure on other faculty members to fall into line with the preferred position of the church.

Recommendation 4. The Committee recommends that the institution provide evidence that the governing board is free from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence.

Attachment 2 – excerpted from the ATS Exit Report Recommendations
Dated March 2012

5. To take actions regarding the following areas of needed improvement:

- a. To require a report by September 1, 2012, regarding:
 2. An update on the response of the General Synod of the ARPC regarding the change in the bylaws of the institution and the request to change the charter (ATS Commission Standard 8, section 8.1.2.3).

*[Administrator's Note: for your reference the following is excerpted from
ATS General Institutional Standards, effective beginning the 2011-2012
Academic year]*

8.1.2.3 Schools with authority limited by their ecclesiastical relationships shall develop, in dialogue with their sponsoring church bodies, a formal statement concerning the operative structure of governance for the institution. This statement must make clear where the authority for maintaining the integrity and vitality of the school resides and how that authority is to be exercised in actual practice. In schools of this type, the authority of the governing board shall be clearly specified in appropriate ecclesiastical and institutional documents.

ERSKINE COLLEGE & SEMINARY

	APPROVED 2010-2011	APPROVED 2011-2012	APPROVED 2012-2013
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
REVENUE AND OTHER ADDITIONS			
Tuition, fees, room, and board	\$ 20,578,840	\$ 22,009,870	\$ 23,462,285
Less: Scholarships and Financial Aid	\$ 9,113,791	\$ 9,995,871	\$ 11,167,700
Net Tuition, fees, room, and board	\$ 11,465,049	\$ 12,013,999	\$ 12,294,585
Endowment income (includes Chester dividend)	\$ 3,340,511	\$ 3,445,511	\$ 3,406,381
Annual Fund	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,300,000
Sales-Bookstore	\$ 425,000	\$ 333,000	\$ 346,000
Other income	\$ 341,122	\$ 337,000	\$ 341,000
Other fundraising sources (as needed)	\$ 303,336	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 17,425,018	\$ 17,629,510	\$ 17,687,966
EXPENSES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 9,954,522	\$ 9,827,553	\$ 9,427,126
Operating expenses - (instructional & institutional)	\$ 6,158,398	\$ 6,542,890	\$ 6,958,304
Bookstore	\$ 323,000	\$ 249,750	\$ 276,800
Debt service	\$ 989,098	\$ 1,009,318	\$ 1,010,737
General Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
Annual Fund Contingency*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000
	\$ 17,425,018	\$ 17,629,510	\$ 17,872,966
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (185,000)
Quasi-endowment transfer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 185,000
ESTIMATED CASH DEFICIT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

The Chairman of the Erskine Board, Joe Patrick; President of Erskine College, Dr. David Norman; and David Conner, the incoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees, addressed the Synod. Synod then viewed a video on Erskine College.

The morning session closed with prayer and the Blessing by Will Hunter.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2:00 P.M.

Ken McMullen presented the afternoon devotional.

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

Moderator-Elect Kingswood nominated John Calvin Grier, who then was elected by acclamation.

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations met on Monday, February 7, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC and again by teleconference on April 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. During these meetings several items of business related to the Committee on Nominations were addressed.

The following officers were elected for the Committee on Nominations 2012-13.

Howard Wheeler, Chairman,
Patrick Malphrus, Vice Chairman,
Kyle Sims, Secretary

The 2013 stated meeting of the Committee on Nominations is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

The deadline for submission of nominations for 2013 will be January 9, 2013.

The Committee appointed Patrick Malphrus, Kyle E. Sims, and Howard Wheeler to serve on the Sub-Committee on Erskine Nominations (SCONE).

The Committee on Nominations, working on a consensus basis, has agreed on the nominations for service listed below. At the conclusion of the Committee's nominations process, 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, 2012, and will expire June 30 of the year indicated. All nominees have indicated a willingness to serve if elected. The committee expresses appreciation for those who were nominated and are willing to serve.

Nominees for 2012

<u>Board/Committee/ Commission/</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>
Board of Benefits	Dean McDonald	2018
	Thomas Watson	2018
Bonclarken	Jim Kidd	2014
	Calvin Draffin	2018
	Elise Horton	2018
	Maxwell Smith	2018
Christian Ed Ministries	Jane Frazier	2016
	Kim Payne	2016
	_____ (Can)	2016
	Andrew Shoger (FL)	2016
	_____ (P)	2016
	Ike Hughes (V)	2016
Erskine		
Due to the restructuring of the board, there are no nominations needed this year for Erskine Board of Trustees.		
Executive Board	_____ (P)	2016
	Dana Crowell (Tenn/A)	2016
	Jerry Clemmons (V)	2016
	Darrell Peer (FL)	2013
Outreach North America	Frank Hunt, III	2018
	Bob Illman (Tenn/A)	2018
	David Vance (V)	2016

<u>Board/Committee/ Commission/</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>
Stewardship	Ron McKnight	2017
	Teddy Ray	2016
	_____ (Can)	2018
	Jim McLurkin (Cat)	2018
Dunlap	Mary Neil Coblentz (ARPWM)	2018
	William Kidd (Tenn/A)	2018
	Jerry Hallman (First)	2018
	_____ (Pacific)	2016
World Witness	Rodney Shands	2015
	Michael Foster	2018
	Tim Osterlund	2018
Ecclesiastical Comm	James Wittke (Minister)	2016
	Legrand Payne (Elder)	2016
	David Smith (Elder)	2016
Inter-Church Relations	Lee Shelnutt	2018
	Dr. C.K. Rhee	2018
Investment	Kenneth Richey	2017
Lay Ministry	_____ (Man)	2013
	David Barron (Man)	2015
	Caroline Taylor (Woman)	2015
Theological/Social Concerns	Carlos Concha	2016
	_____	2016
	_____	2013

Worship	_____ (Musician)	2013
	H. Vince Treadway (Musician)	2016
	Peter Kemeny (Minister)	2016
	_____ (Minister)	2016
<hr/>		
Principal Clerk	Ron Beard	2016
Bill Clerk	Leland Beaudrot	2016
Treasurer of Synod	Guy “Chip” Smith, III	2016
Archivist	Edith Brawley	2016

The Committee on Nominations has agreed on the following recommendations to be included in its annual report to General Synod.

Recommendations:

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated.
2. That presbyteries appoint representative to the Synod Committee on Nominations for a single term and that they not succeed themselves, where feasible.
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 presbyteries 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 Committee on Nominations establish a standing Subcommittee of the Committee on Nominations for Erskine (SCONE) and that the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be modified under the section on the Committee on Nominations as follows:

- a. Under "Organization" that the following line be added
Subcommittees: Sub-committee on Nominations for Erskine
- b. Under "Authority" that the following paragraph be added.
The Sub-committee on Nominations for Erskine (SCONE) will consist of three (3) members of the Committee on Nominations selected annually by the Committee at its stated meeting. Terms of service are for one (1) year and will begin on July 1 and continue through June 30 of the following year. Sub-committee members may succeed themselves. Mid-year vacancies will be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, or the Vice Chairman if the Chairman is unable or unwilling. The Sub-committee will select its own Chairman and Secretary.
- c. Under "Duties" that the following item be added.
8. The Sub-committee on Nominations for Erskine will recommend to the Committee on Nominations a slate of nominees for the Erskine Board of Trustees who meet all existing requirements for service set forth in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*. The work of the Sub-committee will be guided, but not bound, by the Trustee Selection Process Guide maintained jointly by the Sub-Committee on Nominations for Erskine and the Committee on Trustees of the Erskine Board. (Copies of the Trustee Selection Process Guide are available from the ARP Center.)
8. That the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* be modified under the section entitled, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ERSKINE COLLEGE, to be consistent with the newly approved Bylaws of the Erskine Board of Trustees and to amend Synod's additional constitutional requirement to read:

At least five (5) at-large members shall be Associate Reformed Presbyterian ministers with one (1) appointed each year. (NOTE: The Erskine Bylaws do not include the requirement that five of the members be ARP ministers. This is a General Synod requirement.)
9. That the General Synod authorize \$6,000 for committee expenses in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Sims, Secretary

G.J. Gerard made a motion that Recommendation #1 be amended as follows:

- 1A) *That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated.*
- 1B) *That the Committee on Nominations be allowed to continue to seek candidates and make recess nominations rather than waiting until Synod 2013 to fill current vacancies.*

Recommendation #1, as amended, was **adopted**.

Jac Coad made a motion that Recommendation #2 be amended as follows:

That presbyteries appoint representatives to the Synod Committee on Nominations for a single term, limited to four consecutive years or less with the possibility of reappointment after a minimum absence of one year and that the Manual of Authorities and Duties be modified under the section on the Committee on Nominations as follows: Under the terms of service that the following language be added:

At-Large and presbytery appointees: At-Large and presbytery appointed members will serve terms of up to four years. Members may not succeed themselves, but may be reappointed after an absence of at least one year. The original appointing body will appoint members to fill vacancies due to unexpired terms.

Recommendation 2, as amended, was **adopted**. Recommendations #3-6 were **adopted**. An amendment to Recommendation #7 was made by Paul Mulner:

That the "Trustee Selection Process Guide" be distributed electronically or by mail to all pastors and ruling elders in the ARPC for their review and consideration as soon as possible and that the Committee on Nominations be encouraged to bring its current recommendation #7 to the 2013 Meeting of the General Synod for its consideration.

Recommendation #7, as amended, was **adopted**. Recommendations #8 and 9 were **adopted**.

Dan Hazen made a motion:

That the meeting of Synod be scheduled and organized such that all preliminary greetings and addresses (which are unlikely to require deliberation) be finished the first night of Synod, and that Moderator's Committees meet the next morning, so that Synod deliberations can begin after lunch the second day.

Bill Evans moved that the motion be referred to the Executive Board. The motion carried.

The Report of the Moderator's Committee on Erskine College was presented.

The Moderator's Committee recommended:

1. That any vote on motions regarding Erskine be done by secret ballot, excepting the student union funding request and the request for season of prayer (#2 and #9 below).
2. That Recommendation #1 of the Erskine report (*That a season of prayer and fasting for Erskine College and Seminary be held in the churches of the presbyteries in the ARP Synod*) be approved.
3. That Recommendation #2 of the Erskine report (*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 the institution can be received*) not be approved.
4. That recommendation #3 of the Erskine report (*That Synod track and report back to Erskine those churches that participated in the two opportunities mentioned in Recommendation #2 and #3*) not be approved.
5. That recommendation #4 (*That its budget request presented through the Board of Stewardship*) not be approved.

In addition, regarding the recommendations from the May 25 Erskine Board of Trustees report, the Committee recommends that:

6. The recommendation to be granted another year's study NOT be adopted.

Regarding the recommendations from the Erskine Minority Report, the Committee recommends that:

7. Recommendations #1 and #2 of the Minority Report be adopted.
8. The 2013 allocated funds in the amount of \$431,000 from the ARP Synod allocated to Erskine College and Seminary be placed in escrow beginning June 6, 2012 until a satisfactory resolution by a vote of Synod is forthcoming concerning the Board of Trustees' response to Synod's request and the satisfactory compliance by a vote of Synod in 2013 as presented by the committee assigned by the Moderator of General Synod.
9. The Erskine Student Union's request for \$500 in the 2013 budget be approved.

In response to the Erskine College and Seminary Report to Synod and the Moderator's Committee Report, Synod voted:

1. That a season of prayer and fasting for Erskine College and Seminary be held in the churches of the presbyteries in the ARP Synod;
2. That Erskine be allowed another year to process new information and communicate further to Synod on complex issues before its 2013 Synod meeting;
3. That Recommendations #7-9 of the Moderator's Committee were out of order, overturning a ruling of the Moderator that the "Minority Report" was properly submitted to the Moderator's Committee.

Deliberations were momentarily suspended in order that prayer might be offered for wisdom.

4. That the Erskine budget request presented through the Board of Stewardship be approved as follow:

\$518,000 operating funds
\$500 ARP Student Union;

5. 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 the institution can be received.

Following a number of parliamentary activities, a motion made by Steve Maye carried:

That the Synod commend the Board of Erskine College and Seminary for its willingness to reconsider the issues related to the relationship between the Synod and the Institution.

That the Moderator appoint a committee, comprised of at least one-half being men possessing PhDs, to consider the same matters on a parallel track and report back to the Synod.

That the Synod empower this committee to report back its findings to the General Synod at whatever time, and through whatever means of communication, it deems appropriate prior to the 2013 Meeting of the General Synod.

Synod was again led in prayer.

A motion made by Meredith Cavin carried:

That the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church affirm the Biblical standard for marriage, one man and one woman.

Andy Putnam presented the **Report of the Special Committee on Efficiency.**

THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY

The Committee on Efficiency was appointed by Moderator Putnam at the direction of Synod, June 2011. The committee met several times over the last year seeking to fulfill the task assigned by the General Synod:

"That in light of anticipated financial concerns and issues of stewardship, the Moderator appoint an ad hoc committee to analyze the structure of boards, agencies, committees and Synod officers and make recommendations at the 2012 Meeting of General Synod." (2011 Minutes of Synod, p.136)

Committee members are James Corbitt (Second Presbytery), Chairman; Andrew Putnam (Moderator); Steve Suits (Moderator-Elect); Bill Burdette (Northeast Presbytery); Robert Elliott, III (Catawba Presbytery); Steve Maye (First Presbytery); Howard Wheeler (Mississippi Valley Presbytery); Paul Bell (Central Services), Advisory.

The committee reviewed the authorities, duties, and practical outcomes of all of Synod's standing committees, boards, and agencies; job descriptions and duties of Synod officers; and presbytery boundaries.

Recommendations:

1. That Duties 1 and 2 as listed in *The Manual of Authorities and Duties* for the Committee on Minister and His Work be transferred to the oversight of the Executive Board through the Committee on Administration.
2. That the stated meeting schedule for the Committee on Worship be changed in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* from "twice annually" to "annually."
3. That General Synod thank the Committee on Lay Ministry for their good work and that the Committee on Lay Ministry be dissolved.
4. That General Synod thank the Committee on Inter-Church Relations for its efforts to reduce costs.
5. That the Committee on Multi-Cultural Ministries be dissolved as Outreach North America has a committee in place to meet this need.
6. That the membership of the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs be increased by two (2) and that the Commission be composed of six (6) teaching elders and five (5) ruling elders representing at least five (5) different presbyteries.
7. That the position of Synod Coordinator be removed from the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.
8. That the number of immediate past moderators serving on the Executive Board of General Synod be reduced from five (5) to three (3).
9. That the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* regarding the Executive Board be amended to allow for a meeting to be called by four (4) voting members, as well as the current moderator.

10. That the status of the chairman of The Board of Stewardship be changed from advisory to ex-officio member with regard to the Executive Board.
11. That the Board of *The Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Inc.* be dissolved and that oversight for the magazine be placed under Central Services (Executive Board) effective July 1, 2012.
12. That General Synod request that the boards of Outreach North America and World Witness discuss jointly the possibility of merging their boards and report back to General Synod in 2013.
13. That the Job Description for the Principal Clerk be changed as noted in Appendix A of this report.
14. That the Job Description for the Treasurer of Synod's Funds be changed as noted in Appendix A of this report.
15. That the Job Description for Synod's Parliamentarian be changed as noted in Appendix A of this report, and that if adopted, changes go into effect at the beginning of the next term for the Parliamentarian.
16. That the position of Synod's Historian be changed to Synod's Archivist.
17. That the Job Description for Synod's Historian be replaced by the Job Description for Synod's Archivist as noted in Appendix A of this report.
18. That effective January 1, 2013, First Presbytery be divided into two (2) presbyteries using Interstate 77 as the dividing line. (See Appendix B to this report.)
19. That effective January 1, 2013, Synod create a Midwest Presbytery consisting of all the ARP churches west of the Mississippi River.
20. That effective January 1, 2013, Synod create a new presbytery of the ARP churches in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and York County, South Carolina.
21. That the Committee on Nominations make any necessary changes to committee, commission, and board membership as a result of Synod's actions on Recommendations 18, 19, and 20 above.
22. That the Committee on Efficiency be dissolved.

James Corbitt
Chairman

Appendix A

Note: Strikethrough denotes language to be deleted. Underline denotes language to be added.

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Manner of Selection: The Principal Clerk shall be nominated ~~to the General Synod~~ by the Committee on Nominations and shall be elected by the General Synod. If the Principal Clerk is unable to serve, his duties shall be assumed by the Assistant Clerk until such time as the General Synod elects a successor. ~~(1998 Synod)~~

Term of Office: Four years. He may succeed himself.

Duties:

1. With respect to meetings of the General Synod:
 - a. To ~~keep maintain the a~~ roll of the members and call it whenever required by the Court.
 - b. To record the proceedings and oversee the ~~publish~~ publication of the minutes of the proceedings.
 - c. To receive and record documents ~~acted upon~~ adopted by the Court.
 - d. In conjunction with the Bill Clerk, to make keep the record of all unfinished business to come before the Court.
 - e. To sign all orders and official reports.
 - g. To update the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* at the close of each General Synod meeting ~~so as to reflect any applicable current status of authorities as directed by~~ actions of the General Synod.
2. To receive and send all official communications on behalf of the General Synod.
3. In keeping with the 'procedure for the circulation of study reports' of member churches of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council:
 - a. To report annually to the Secretary of NAPARC the subject and place available of any study report(s) adopted by our General Synod.
 - b. To send one copy of such study report(s) to the Stated Clerk of each NAPARC member church.
 - c. ~~To receive and disseminate to each session and minister a list of all study reports of NAPARC member churches.~~
- ~~4. With respect to other NAPARC denominations participating in studies of doctrinal or ethical matters:

 - a. ~~To make the determination as to studies of doctrinal or ethical matters;~~
 - b. ~~To extend written notification of the initial meeting date, time, and place of study committees; and~~
 - c. ~~To extend an invitation for participation, with those participating to bear their own expenses. (1986 Synod)~~~~

5. To represent and promote the work of the General Synod as opportunities permit.
6. To conduct an annual special orientation for new ministers with ~~emphasis placed upon the work of the boards and agencies of the General Synod and with emphasis on the procedures outlined for the General Synod meeting.~~
7. To serve as a member and Secretary of the Executive Board of the General Synod.
8. To serve as chairman of the Executive Board's Committee on Administration.
9. To supervise the collection and reporting of denominational statistical data by the ARP Center.
10. To review the records of presbyteries and
 - a. provide such counsel and advice as is necessary to the presbytery clerks, and
 - b. report annually to the Executive Board with regard to matters found to be irregular or not in accord with the *Form of Government*.
11. To serve as an Advisory member, when requested, of Committee on Inter-Church Relations.
12. When necessary, to answer questions for congregations, presbyteries, boards, and agencies related to ecclesiastical procedure and church polity as stated in the *Form of Government*.

TREASURER OF SYNOD'S FUNDS

Manner of Selection: The Treasurer of Synod's Funds shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and shall be elected by the General Synod. The Committee on Nominations shall secure the endorsement of the Board of Stewardship prior to placing a name in nomination.

Term of Office: Four years. He may succeed himself.

Duties:

1. The Treasurer is elected by the General Synod to be the custodian of the funds committed to the General Synod. In performing this function he shall:
 - a. Provide general oversight of ~~an acceptable accounting system which maintains up-to-to-date and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements~~ General Synod's financial operations.
 - b. Assist the Board of Stewardship in the development and supervision of an annual budget for the General Synod.

- c. Assist as requested the agencies of the General Synod in financial matters.
- d. Promote the work of the General Synod as opportunity and time permit.
- 2. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board of Synod.
~~(1992 Synod)~~
- 3. To serve as ex-officio member of the Board of Stewardship.
- 4. To serve as ex-officio member of Investment Committee.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Manner of Selection: The Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and shall be elected by the General Synod.

Term of Office: ~~Three~~ Four years. He may succeed himself.

Duties:

- 1. At the meeting of the General Synod, the Parliamentarian shall call attention to procedures which are not in accord with the *Rules of Order of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*. On request, he shall advise the Moderator on procedural matters. However, all questions of order shall be decided by the Moderator, subject only to the appeal of two or more members of the Court.
- 2. When necessary, to assist congregations and presbyteries in the resolution of questions regarding parliamentary procedure.
- 3. To serve as an advisory member of the Executive Board of Synod
~~(1997 Synod).~~

ARCHIVIST

Manner of Selection: The Archivist shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and shall be elected by the General Synod.

Term of Office: Four years. The Archivist may serve successive terms.

Duties:

- 1. To work with congregations of the denomination to collect historical materials of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and to send such materials to the archives of the John Bulow Campbell Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA and McCain Library, Erskine College, Due West, SC as appropriate.
- 2. To cooperate with the archivist at Columbia Theological Seminary in securing and protecting historical records connected with our denomination.

3. To promote the availability of archived materials at Columbia Theological Seminary and McCain Library for research.
4. To work with McCain Library in the development of long-range plans for the housing of the denomination's historical records at that facility.
5. To report to the Executive Board of General Synod and to serve as an advisory member of that Board.

Synod's Historian Job Description (current) is provided for reference.

HISTORIAN

Manner of Selection: The Historian shall be nominated to the General Synod by the Committee on

Nominations and shall be elected by the General Synod.

Term of Office: Four years. He may succeed himself.

Duties:

1. To actively pursue the development of an Historical Society within the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. To be open and responsive to opportunities to develop the Historical Concerns Endowment.
3. To serve as an advisory member of the Executive Board of Synod. (1990 Synod)
4. To encourage congregations to collect historical materials of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination and its congregations; to preserve permanently items connected with our history and the writing of it; to encourage the availability for research the materials at the archives of the John Bulow Campbell Library, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, and at the McCain Library, Erskine College, Due West, SC. (2004 Synod)
5. To cooperate with the archives at Columbia Theological Seminary in securing and protecting historical records connected with our church. To serve as liaison to the Department of History and to receive and review its annual report. (2004 Synod)
6. To encourage at McCain Library the maintaining of a file on congregations, ministers, and other historical information of the General Synod. To cooperate with the Curator of ARP Materials at McCain Library, Erskine College. (2004 Synod)
7. To solicit, secure, and edit historical material and to recommend to the General Synod the publishing of specific historical information. (2004 Synod)

8. To report to the Executive Board of General Synod. (2004 Synod)

Appendix B

Proposed First Presbytery Realignment

Presbytery	# of churches currently	# of churches proposed
Canada	9	9
Catawba	45	28
First	77	29
Florida	21	21
Mississippi Valley	25	18
Northeast	27	26
Pacific	16	16
Second	37	37
Tennessee/Alabama	14	14
Virginia	12	12
Greater Charlotte		25
Piedmont		35
Midwest		12

Reasons for Dividing:

- 1) The Presbytery covers too large a geographical area;
- 2) The Presbytery includes too many churches, ministers and elders to minister to each effectively;
- 3) Presbytery meetings are forced to address an incredible amount of necessary business, leaving no time for worship, instruction, encouragement, and fellowship.

Ideas to Consider for Division:

Divide the existing First Presbytery into two Presbyteries on the basis of I-77. Churches east of I-77 form one Presbytery and churches west form another.

A previous proposal considered in First Presbytery used NC Highway 16 as a dividing line because of concern about how many churches

were positioned along the I-77 corridor. Yet I-77 is the most natural division and there are other ways to address this concern. First Presbytery also includes counties in eastern Tennessee because neither Virginia nor Tennessee/Alabama Presbyteries thought they could serve those counties well. These counties would be included in the western North Carolina Presbytery (likely "First Presbytery"). Particularized congregations within 10 miles of I-77 ought to be allowed to choose which Presbytery to join. This may result in an uneven division between the two Presbyteries but we already have Presbyteries smaller than the newly created presbytery in eastern NC (proposed "Piedmont Presbytery") so this should not be a concern. All currently retired ministers will have the option for their membership to remain with their current Presbytery, regardless of geography. Any minister who retires within five years of presbytery realignment will have the option for their membership to remain with, or be transferred back to, their current presbytery regardless of geography. The nearly impossible task of separating funds should be avoided. The western Presbytery (presumably remaining "First Presbytery") should keep all funds and responsibilities related to the retirement homes and Presbytery's scholarship funds. First Presbytery should also keep all current church extension funds except those intentionally designated for church planting more than 10 miles east of I-77. First Presbytery should give a lump payment of \$25,000 to the newly created presbytery for the purpose of covering Presbytery and administrative costs for the first two years. This will allow the new Presbytery time to develop a Manual of Procedure and a mechanism for collecting funds from member churches. Finally, though it is outside of the scope of a proposal regarding only First Presbytery, the Synod may want to consider realignment options that involve a third Presbytery - one based upon the Charlotte MSA. If so, my recommendation is that the third presbytery ought to include Lancaster and York counties of South Carolina that are currently in Catawba Presbytery.

Recommendations #1-3 were **adopted**. Recommendation #4 was accepted as information. Recommendation #5 was adopted. Vaughn Hathaway made a motion to amend Recommendation #6 as follows:

*That the membership of the Ecclesiastical Commission on
Judiciary Affairs be increased by two active members and*

two alternate members, and that the Commission be composed of six teaching elders and five ruling elders serving as active members and one teaching elder and one ruling elder serving as alternate members representing at least six different presbyteries.

Recommendation #6 as amended was **adopted**. Recommendations #7-11 were **adopted**. Recommendation #12 was **not adopted**. Recommendations #13-17 were **adopted**.

A motion was made by Guy Smith:

That Recommendations 18 and 20 be referred to First and Catawba Presbyteries and that Recommendation 19 be referred to Mississippi Valley to study the proposed changes and make recommendations to the 2013 Synod concerning any alteration to their present boundaries.

The motion carried.

Recommendation #21 is moot. Recommendation #22 **was adopted**.

The afternoon session closed with prayer and the Blessing by Brett Blackman.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 7:00 P.M.

G. Steven Suits led the devotional.

A member of the court called for a quorum count. A quorum was not in attendance, and a second count fifteen minutes later resulted in the same situation.

A Scriptural Benediction was pronounced by Ken McMullen.

G. Steven Suits, Moderator
Kenneth J. McMullen, Vice Moderator
C. Ronald Beard, Principal Clerk
Charles F. Edgar, Reading Clerk
Leland R. Beaudrot, Bill Clerk
John D. Cook, Assistant Clerk
Vaughn E. Hathaway, Parliamentarian