

Vol. XLIII

June 9-11, 2015

No. 1

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

TWO HUNDRED ELEVENTH STATED MEETING



JUNE 9-12, 2015

BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER
FLAT ROCK, NC

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

The 211th Annual Meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARPC) held in concurrence with the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) was held at the Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC, June 9-11, 2015.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015

Registration for General Synod 2015 was held in the Jean White Room of Founders Hall.

A Psalm sing led by the RPCNA was held in the chapel at 7:00 P.M. The Pre-Synod Evangelism Conference at 7:30 P.M. was led by Iain Duguid.

From 8:45 P.M. until 9:45 P.M., a joint ice cream social hosted by Erskine College and Seminary was held on the lawn of the hotel.

SPECIAL SYNOD WEEK**DENOMINATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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

ARP Women's Ministries sponsored "*OASIS: A Spiritual Refreshment and Renewal*" on Wednesday at 2:00 P.M. in Synodical Hall.

A breakfast on Thursday morning for the wives of church planting ministers was also sponsored by Women's Ministries.

Outreach North America hosted a breakfast Thursday morning.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

Registration continued at 9:00 A.M. in the Jean White Room of Founders Hall.

MINUTES OF SYNOD

The *Orientation for New Delegates* was held at 9:00 A.M. in Hotel Classroom #1.

Presbytery meetings began at 10:00 A.M.

The Opening Worship and Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion of the General Synod began at 2:00 P.M.

**OPENING WORSHIP
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014
Youth Activities Building**

Informal Psalm Sing C. Earl Linderman

Harriet S. Linderman, Accompanist

Prelude

Anne Katherine Ragsdale

*Call to Worship

Lee Shelnutt, Vice Moderator

Song: "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

*Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Lee Shelnutt, Vice Moderator

*The Constituting of the General Synod

Larry Littlejohn, Moderator

Memorial Service

Lee Shelnutt, Vice Moderator

The Listing of Deceased Ministers

The Listing of Deceased Ruling Elders

Prayer

*Song: "Speak, O Lord"

Sermon

Alex Coblentz

"A Glorious Church"

Text: Ephesians 5:22-32

*Song: "I Will Remember Thee"

The Administration of the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Song: "My Hope is in the Lord"

*Benediction

Postlude

Anne Katherine Ragsdale

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

The President of Bonclarken, Chip Sherer, welcomed the delegates to the 2015 Annual Meeting of the General Synod.

RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Moderator in a year bookended by World Focus and this joint synod with our RPCNA brothers. The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 says, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Paul mentions God eleven times in these verses. It is obvious that God is the One doing the work and should be thanked. But, Paul also encourages and edifies the ones who bear testimony to God's work. He has a good habit of doing this. He freely gives thanks, not for perfect people, but for those who walk with Him in the grace of Christ Jesus. We too can edify and encourage each other with these words, "I thank God for you."

As I finish my tenure as Moderator, I thank God for you who have personally encouraged and prayed for me this year. It has been a continuing adventure to have a behind-the-scenes look at all that goes on in our denomination. I thank God for you who serve faithfully as directors and assistants at the synod level, for you who serve faithfully on committees, commissions, and boards, for you who labor diligently in mission works at home and abroad, for you who provide leadership in the presbyteries, and for you who minister the Word to local congregations week after week.

When you elected me to this position, I purposed to attend each meeting of the Erskine Board of Trustees because during my short history with the ARPC, no topic has been more discussed on the floor of General Synod than Erskine. As a relative newcomer, I wanted to see and experience Erskine first hand. This year as your representative, I talked with staff and students, attended an alumni gathering and a choral presentation, heard student and staff testimonies both in the board meetings and spontaneously on the campus, and read and tried to digest volumes of information about our college and seminary.

Yes, there are still major challenges facing Erskine as an institution and as a ministry of the ARPC. But I bear testimony that you have a board that is

united in seeking God's best for the work there. No, we didn't agree on everything, but we prayerfully committed the decisions we made to the sovereign God who both rules and overrules through his chosen instruments.

I also bear testimony that you have in Paul Kooistra a proven leader who is committed to seeing Erskine bring glory to God. He creates opportunities to speak truth into the lives of the students both individually and corporately. He is a man of integrity who in a short time has built trust among the Erskine stakeholders. The tough decisions he has already made institutionally show his strength as God's chosen leader for such a time as this.

Brothers, we live in a sad, sin-sick world whose greatest need is to know Jesus. Let us keep loving one another so that His joy may be full in us. I give thanks to God for you, saints imprinted with the Father's love and the Son's character by the Holy Spirit's sanctifying presence. Keep holding forth with joy as you make His imprint on others who need the eternal hope that is ours, and don't forget to give your 'golden apple awards' to those who have been God's blessing in your life. If you are not sure what these awards are, I commend to you Proverbs 25:11 which says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver" and encourage you to check out the excellent lead article in the latest edition of the ARP magazine which is freely available here at General Synod.

I conclude with the last stanza of the poem I wrote for this year's Synod emphasis:

*Let our souls give thanks,
And let our hearts be raised
To God, the Imprint Maker,
Forever to be praised.*

Larry Littlejohn

Retiring Moderator Larry Littlejohn presented Moderator-Elect Jamie Hunt to the Synod. Lee Shelnutt escorted Mr. Hunt to the podium.

Mr. Littlejohn placed the Moderator's Shield around Mr. Hunt's neck.

Moderator Hunt made brief remarks and presented the Retiring Moderator's Bible to Mr. Littlejohn.

Moderator Hunt presented his *Moderator's Challenge* to the Synod.

MODERATOR'S CHALLENGE

It is my privilege, duty, and honor to participate in a deeper way in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In these months since being elected Moderator, I have had opportunity to attend many committee and board meetings. Up-close, I have seen the work being done by various individuals in the denomination. It is encouraging to see able elders who lead in the business of the Church. While the ministers may not have the same business experience, they are the "conscience" of the church. These two perspectives propel the work forward. I have been encouraged and assisted by the support people at the ARP Center. Please know that a great work of detail takes place by the Church support staff.

This 211th Meeting of Synod in 2015 is an historic event. The ARP Church hosts the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America at Bonclarken. We will learn more about the respective ministries of our two denominations. The RPCNA is a cousin to the ARP Church, holding similar values and theological commitments to the ARP Church.

Our histories are somewhat parallel, expressing a common origin in the covenanting heritage from the 17th Century in Scotland(1638) and immigrating to the New World where the Lordship of Jesus Christ can be propagated by an evangelical outreach without the inhibiting demands of government. This meeting together is a recognition of our common roots and our abiding mission in North America.

Over the last two years, a fair amount of talk has been taking place about this joint meeting of synods. I confess that I, too, was ambivalent about the unknown. "What does this joint meeting mean?" "Are we considering a merger with the RPCNA?" "Why, they don't even sing the hymns we have grown to love!" Upon inquiry, I have learned that our two denominations have been learning from each other for as many as ten years. And, the Inter-Church Relations Committee has been renewing acquaintance with the Reformed Presbyterians and planning this historic synod meeting for more than two years. Historic it is, impulsive it is not.

Humbly, we should receive this opportunity to learn how we can fulfill our respective mission in a more effective way. While the RPCNA is somewhat smaller than the ARPC, they have made an intentional and significant impact in church planting in recent years. The RPCNA has a vigorous conference ministry that has informed the church theologically and challenged the church in a renewal of mission. Their college, Geneva College, has approximately 1600 students, and a graduate program including Masters in business, counseling, education, and leadership. Geneva also has a football team!

On Wednesday, we have an afternoon planned for learning more about each other's work in a series of joint presentations. Delegates can choose three of the four presentations which include Christian Higher Education, Christian Education in the Church, Global Missions, and Church Planting. Please take advantage of these opportunities.

The joint meeting of synods is a mature event. As has been said to me, this event is not a "courting to marriage" event but rather a "family reunion." Who knows what God has for these two churches in the future? For now, let us enjoy discovering some "cousins" with whom we had lost contact.

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22)

The theme for 2015-2016 is "Fresh Insight from Ancient Paths." This theme is found in Jeremiah 6:16 "Thus says the Lord: Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it. Then you will find rest for your souls."

Like Israel, the Church, with our culture, has been seduced. We have been neutralized in our witness. Homes and parents are paying a dear price for a compromised lifestyle. Our children are leaving us and the church as they find other interests and pleasures. One might expect this from the unbelieving world, but we must repent of our own failure; our cold devotion and our failure to pass this "good way" gospel revealed to us and for the next generation.

Jeremiah called Israel to return to basic truths of faith and life: "To the Law and the Prophets" and the "Gospel." The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church must return to the Lord in simple faith and obedience. As Jeremiah gave a call to repentance, so this small denomination must call our families and communities with the Gospel to return to the Lord. Our mission must be that of discipling our covenant families in order to win others to Christ. No area of life can be untouched by the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the costly redemption of His cross.

I believe that some of our disagreements in recent years are the result of our ignoring the confessional "guard-rails" of our faith. We have lost our way and do not remember who we are, even if we affirm whose we are. We are behind the trends in the church today. While trying trendy things, we have missed the hunger of the millennials for depth and authority. Some of these young people are going to the Roman Church or the Anglican Church where there is liturgy and substance. At the same time, there are many

young Baptists who are rediscovering the Reformed teaching of the First London Confession of 1644. And we ARPs are making apology for the scriptural and confessional commitments of our heritage!

*In the coming months this year, some of the "old paths" will be noted with lessons for the future. I challenge you to read the **ARP Magazine** so that your heart can be warmed as you "stand in the ways and see." The Emphasis Committee that I assembled was very helpful as we discussed the issues which might be helped if we would "ask for the old paths." We certainly need to "find rest for [our] souls." Articles are planned and are being written by able individuals, and I pray you will read them. Perhaps God will do a reviving work among us yet.*

Now, do not misunderstand what I am saying. While I believe that answers for our future can be found in the commitments of our fathers and mothers past, I am not suggesting a return to a dead and formal ceremonial past, but I am praying for a revival in our souls that will draw us to the essential commitments of our biblical faith. Thus we will challenge and inspire ARP Church families to greater works and witness.

*This beginning emphasis will be declared on Thursday morning, when Dr. Stephen Myers preaches of our glorious Gospel of free grace offered to all sinners. Dr. Myers sets the tone for our year ahead. Others will be writing articles, and I hope that you will be careful to read the articles in the **ARP Magazine**.*

Following various instructions for the meeting, Moderator Hunt introduced the Vice Moderator, Steve Kern, to the Synod.

Vice Moderator Kern presented the program for the 2015 Annual Meeting of the General Synod. The program was adopted.

Vice Moderator Kern made the following formal introductions to the Synod:

Moderator Hunt's wife, Cathy, and daughters, Sarah Duerk and Lindsay Sloop. Son, Boyce Hunt, is serving in US Marine Corps in Pensacola, FL.

Rev. Sung Do Oh, minister missionary of First Presbytery.

The staffs of Synod's Central Services and Bonclarken Conference Center.

Pages serving Synod this year: Paxton Brown, Walker Suits (Catawba Presbytery), and Nicholas deVusser (First Presbytery).

Videographer David Powelson.

Musician Anne Katherine Ragsdale.

Sound Technician Wanda Neal.

Earl and Harriet Linderman—Psalm Sing leaders.

Philip Bunch—Music leader.

Harold Robertson (Coddle Creek) and Ken Zappone (Christ Church, Denver) who assisted Moderator Hunt.

Moderator's Emphasis Planning Committee—Charles Todd, Stuart Fowler, Fred Carr, and Steve Kern.

New ministers who have been received or ordained since the 2014 Meeting of General Synod introduced themselves.

Representatives of New Missions/Congregations which have joined the ARPC family since the 2014 Meeting of General Synod introduced themselves.

Seminary Students and Licentiates Under Care of Presbytery introduced themselves.

John "Jack" Hill presided over Synod's recognition of Retired Ministers, Non-Ordained Synod Employees and Missionaries.

Rob Patrick represented the Committee on Inter-Church Relations as greetings from fraternal delegates were received.

Jack Sawyer, of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, brought greetings to the Synod from the OPC.

The address of the Presbyterian and Reformed Council on Chaplains (PRCC) was presented by Mike Yarman, who called on the chaplains in attendance to stand. The Synod rose to a round of applause for their service. Mr. Yarman then called forward R.J. Gore and presented a *God and Country* award to Mr. Gore.

Barbara Sherrill, President of ARP Women's Ministries, brought greetings from Women's Ministries. A motion carried to print the greetings in the *Minutes of Synod*.

Mr. Moderator, members of the Court, and friends:

It is an honor to address this 211th meeting of the General Synod. And, it is my pleasure to speak on behalf of Associate Reformed Presbyterian Women's Ministries (ARPWM).

The vision of ARP Women's Ministries is to encourage and equip the community of ARP women to minister together for God's glory and purpose. It is our desire that all women in the ARP Church know Jesus intimately, love Jesus faithfully, and serve Jesus fruitfully.

Our women have been working to make this vision a reality and many of you, pastors and leaders in the local churches, have supported us in this endeavor. On behalf of ARP Women's Ministries, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

A full, detailed report about ARP Women's Ministries and what we have been doing over the past year is included in your packets, so, I would like to take this opportunity to share some things that could be done, and in many local churches already are being done, to encourage and support Women's Ministries:

- 1. Teach us sound doctrine and equip us for "every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17) by continuing to preach God's Word without compromise.*
- 2. Equip and instruct women to teach or facilitate women's Bible study groups.*
- 3. Encourage the women in the local churches to participate in Bible studies, discipleship and mentoring programs, prayer groups, and service projects.*
- 4. Encourage the women to fulfill the purposes of ARP Women's Ministries by recording the local church history and by participating in Jubilee Birthday celebrations, prayer emphasis programs, local church and Presbyterian women's retreats, and other women's ministries events and activities which encourage, equip, and connect them.*
- 5. Provide scholarships for women in your local churches to attend the presbyterial retreats. These retreats are one of the best things to come out of the restructuring of Women's Ministries. Several of our churches provide scholarships based on individual need, and some pay part or all of the total cost for the women from their churches to attend.*
- 6. Pray! Please remember to pray for the women in your churches and also for Women's Ministries in your presbyteries and throughout the denomination. Pray that as you teach us, God's Word will speak to our hearts. Pray that God will guide and direct us as we seek to glorify Him by loving and serving our families, churches, and communities. And, pray that through ARP Women's Ministries, women will be drawn to Christ and to His Church.*

Thank you.

Barbara Sherrill

The Principal Clerk constituted the roll of Synod.
(See *Appendix* for the Official Roll of Synod).

A motion carried

that the report of the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs, which had not been distributed, be received.

The Moderator added that the report would be distributed but would not be discussed until immediately following the Moderator election, giving delegates time to read and consider the report.

The Moderator appointed his Moderator's Committees.

Jim McLurkin presented the **Recommended 2016 Allocation of Synod's Unrestricted Funds**. The allocation was **ADOPTED**.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
2016 Denominational Ministries Allocations
(Amounts shown in \$000 thousands)

AGENCY	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Requested	2016 Recommended	% of Total Based on Recommended 2016
<u>Boards and Agencies</u>				
Central Services	\$ 305	\$ 314	\$ 314	12.3%
Benefits (covers board expenses)	7	7	7	0.3%
ARP Center Facility	15	15	15	0.6%
Executive Board & Contingency	179	182	179	7.0%
The ARP	78	80	80	3.1%
Stewardship/Foundation	100	102	100	3.9%
<u>Commission & Committees</u>				
Inter-Church Relations	5	5	5	0.2%
Worship	15	15	15	0.6%
Other Committees (1)	24	25	24	0.9%
Sub-Total for Non-Program	\$ 728	\$ 744	\$ 737	28.9%
Bonclarken	\$ 111	\$ 111	\$ 109	4.3%
Christian Education Ministries	203	203	199	7.8%
Erskine	417	459	407	16.0%
ARP Student Union	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.03%
ONA Operations	559	559	547	21.5%
World Witness	559	559	547	21.5%
Program Sub-Total	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,892	\$ 1,810	71.1%
TOTALS	\$ 2,578	\$ 2,636	\$ 2,547	100.0%

(1) Other Committees include: Investment, Minister & His Work, Nominations, and Special Executive Board committees. Gifts sent directly to agencies and those made to the Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings are not part of the Denominational Ministry Fund.

The Principal Clerk called for the official reports of the boards for reference to the Moderator's Committees.

Synod's afternoon session closed with the Benediction and Blessing by David Park.

The Moderator's Committees met at 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 7:00 A.M.

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

The morning Joint Worship Service was led by the RPCNA. ARP Moderator Hunt called the session to order. Mark Ross introduced the worship leader, Rick Gamble. Mr. Gamble noted the subject of the morning worship, "*Christ's Mediatory Kingship Over Civil Government*." Mark Ross read the morning scripture from Romans 12:9-13:17. Two songs were led by the RPCNA during the service.

The morning business session began at 10:00 A.M.

The Principal Clerk announced the results of the overtures sent to the presbyteries. All overtures carried.

The report of the **Special Judiciary Commission** was presented and **ADOPTED**.

SPECIAL JUDICIARY COMMISSION

The Special Judiciary Commission to Review the Complaint against First Presbytery is happy to report that the matter between Mr. Danny Wyatt and First Presbytery has been resolved. In a letter, dated September 31, 2014, Mr. Wyatt withdrew his complaint against First Presbytery and subsequently sought reconciliation with the Session of Covenant of Grace Church through repentance. The Covenant of Grace Session being satisfied with the fruit of Mr. Wyatt's repentance, responded with a letter, dated October 23, 2014, that stated, "we

remove contumacy charges held by our court against Mr. Danny Wyatt and pray that his repentance in Christ Jesus is a step toward a new heart." Mr. Wyatt is now a member in good standing with full rights to the Lord's Table of the Grace United Reformed Church in Gladstone, Oregon. The Commission gives praise to God for his work of reconciliation and restoration in Mr. Wyatt's life.

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that the Commission's report be received as information. **Synod ADOPTED.**
2. We recommend that First Presbytery be commended for its diligent and faithful work to resolve the conflict between Mr. Wyatt and the Covenant of Grace Session. **Synod ADOPTED.**
3. We recommend that the Commission be dissolved given that it has completed its work. **Synod ADOPTED.**

For the Commission,

Clint Davis, Chairman

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

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

Since our first meeting on July 31, 2012, the committee has studied our current *Book of Discipline (BOD)*. After attempting to revise the *BOD*, the committee has determined to rewrite the *BOD*, as was reported last year. This task, daunting in itself, has been compounded by the schedules of some members of the committee. We have generated for ourselves "working drafts" which are the basis of discussion, prayer, revision, and refinement. We are making what we feel is excellent progress, because we are generally of one mind concerning the issues we confront in rewriting the book.

We solicit your prayers that we will have a user-friendly document ready for Synod in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Ruschky, Chairman

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

COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTER AND HIS WORK

The Committee on the Minister and His Work (MHW) met on April 14, 2015 in Greenville, SC. Charles Edgar and Mike Yarman gave a report from the February 2015 gathering of the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC). The ARP Church has three (3) representatives on this council: R.J. Gore, Mike Yarman, and Charles Edgar. R.J. Gore has been unable to participate, so John Rogers agreed to take his place on the PRCC in 2016.

The biggest issue the MHW Committee discussed was the significant increase in dues/fees for the various denominations to participate in the Presbyterian and Reformed Council on Chaplains. The fees are scheduled to increase gradually from \$500 per chaplain to \$1000 per chaplain at a rate of \$100/year. Presently the ARPC has 19 chaplains and this number may increase, with the denomination fully paying these fees. MHW is consulting with the Board of Stewardship for advice on how to pay for this increase.

The PRCC is providing excellent care and service to our chaplains, and in this climate of changing public opinion about homosexuality and so-called same-sex marriage, it is good and necessary for our chaplains to be supported by an endorsing agency that is fully in accord with our doctrinal standards.

The MHW consulted with Central Services on ways to keep the Ministerial Data Forms up-to-date so that they are more useful for churches searching for pastors.

The officers elected to serve on the Committee on the Minister and His Work for 2016 are: Bill Sutherland, Chairman; Charles Edgar, Vice Chairman; and John Rogers, Secretary.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod approve the 2016 budget. **Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That Synod approve Mike Yarman, Charles Edgar, and John Rogers to serve on the Presbyterian and Reformed Council on Chaplains to represent the ARPC. **Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That whereas General Synod is currently paying \$600 per chaplain and the PRCC is planning to increase the fee by \$100 per

year to a total of \$1000 per chaplain, beginning in 2017, General Synod continue to pay \$600 per chaplain and that presbyteries contribute the remaining portion assessed by the PRCC to the denomination. (This recommendation in our report came via the Board of Stewardship.) **Synod ADOPTED.**

4. That Synod have the Theological and Social Concerns Committee of Synod study the matter of women being required to register for Selective Service and being required to serve in combat. **Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Sutherland, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTER AND HIS WORK

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
Revenues		
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 15,700	\$ 15,700
Total Revenues	\$ 15,700	\$ 15,700
Expenses		
Committee Travel & Meeting	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300
General Office	\$ 100	\$ 100
Presbyterian and Reformed Commission	\$ 13,300	\$ 13,300
Total Expenses	\$ 15,700	\$ 15,700
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

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

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The Committee on Worship continues to operate under the purposes and duties it received from the General Synod in 2005, revised in 2009.

‘The Scots Confession of 1560 had this to say about public worship: “It becomes all things to be done decently and in order. Not that we think any policy and an order of ceremonies can be appointed for all ages, times, and places; for as ceremonies which men have devised are but temporal, so they may and ought to be changed, **when they foster superstition rather than edify the Kirk.**”’ (from the Preamble to *The Directory of Public Worship* of the ARPC).

In accordance with duties 2 and 4 in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*, the committee devotes itself, though not solely or entirely, to the studying of *The Directory of Public Worship*. We seek to assist in the equipping of pastors, sessions and congregations to discern the difference between what *fosters superstition* and what *edifies the Kirk*.

To this end, we are:

- a) reviewing and compiling current resources on worship for dissemination in conjunction with Christian Education Ministries,
- b) surveying ARP congregations to inquire about the different practices for worship and worship planning, and
- c) seeking to provide a practical companion to the *Directory of Public Worship* specifically for worship planning.

In accordance with duty 3, the committee continues to appoint and provide oversight to its subcommittee for the Bonclarken Music Conference. The conference continues to further musical excellence and spiritual edification. Trip McGill and Lynn Grimsley consistently provide a forum for musical education, as well as ample fellowship and worship for believers. The Committee sincerely honors their service.

Also in our Spring meeting, the committee agreed to help especially our delegates to the 2015 Stated Meeting of the General Synod for the express purpose of singing Psalms in the spirit of Christian unity with our fellow RPCNA brethren. Because “it is the privilege and duty of all to join in the praises and to sing to the Lord,” we will work in conjunction with presbyteries and local sessions in order to sing the Psalms “with grace in our hearts.”

The committee elected the following officers for its coming term, beginning June 2015: Philip Bunch, Jr., Chairman; Vince Treadway, Vice Chairman; Allison Keisler, Secretary.

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

Recommendations:

1. That the General Synod encourage individuals and sessions to submit nominations to Synod's Committee on Nominations of individuals qualified and willing to serve on the Worship Committee.

Synod ADOPTED.

2. That the 2016 budget for the Committee on Worship be approved.

Synod ADOPTED.

For God's Glory,

Philip Bunch, Jr., Chairman

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

Acct Description	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
<u>Worship Committee</u>		
<u>Revenues</u>		
Worship Committee DM Allocation	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
Total Revenues	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
<u>Expenses</u>		
Worship Committee Meeting Exp	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
Worship Comm Misc Expenses	0	2,000
Total Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
	2,000	5,000
	-	-
Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

MUSIC CONFERENCE

Acct Description	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
<u>Music Conference</u>		
<u>Revenues</u>		
Worship Committee DM Allocation	\$ 13,000	\$ 10,000
Music Conf Special Offering	1,200	1,200
Music Conf T-Shirt Sales	1,300	1,300
Music Conference Registration	50,050	62,145
Music Conf Registration Refund	0	0
Total Revenues	\$ 65,550	\$ 74,645
<u>Expenses</u>		
Music Conf Room & Board-See below	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,635
Music Conf Honorariums/Fees	17,000	24,125
Music Conference Travel	3,800	4,535
Music Conference Supplies	12,750	11,150
Music Conference Fees	15,000	17,200
Total Expenses	\$ 65,550	\$ 74,645
Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

The Report of the **Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight** was presented and **ADOPTED**. The Campus Minister, Paul Patrick, led in prayer for Adam Lynn and Stephanie, his wife, and two children.

COMMITTEE ON CAMPUS MINISTRY OVERSIGHT

Fathers and brethren:

What an excellent year it has been for Erskine Campus Ministry! Your Oversight Committee is excited about how God has worked at Erskine through Campus Ministry (Reformed University Fellowship, or RUF) to see His Kingdom expand and His Church strengthened. Our denomination is blessed to have such an active and vibrant ministry on the front line of spiritual warfare that is in such an excellent position to spread the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In following its duties, the committee met for both of its stated meetings and on several other occasions as needed throughout the year. The structure of these meetings varied, but in each meeting the committee met with Rev. Paul Patrick, Campus Minister and Chaplain at Erskine, to hear reports on the state and progress of Campus Ministry at Erskine, hear reports on the financial aspects of Campus Ministry (including communication with Campus Ministry and General Synod's Central Services), and to encourage and spend time with Rev. Patrick in prayer for Campus Ministry and for his family. The committee provided additional oversight to ensure that Campus Ministry conformed to the *Overview of Erskine Campus Ministry* approved by the General Synod and to ensure that Campus Ministry complied with the terms of the affiliation agreement with Reformed University Ministries as approved by General Synod.

For the purpose of informing the General Synod, the committee is including the following report from Erskine Campus Minister and Chaplain, Rev. Paul Patrick, to provide an update and give a few examples of what Campus Ministry at Erskine has been and is doing:

RUF at Erskine's Year in Review: 2014-2015

RUF at Erskine is grateful to God for another busy year of productive ministry. During the Fall semester, weekly large group fellowship at the Barn studied the book of James in a series entitled, "Real Faith for Real Life in the Real World" and studied Ephesians 6:10-20 in a series entitled, "That We Might Be Able to Stand: (Put On the Full Armor of God)." Attendance and participation in the ministry was encouraging as it showed evidence of growth despite a challenging season of admissions recruitment and retention in the life of the college. We are grateful to God that our ministry offerings are able to establish and enhance community at Erskine.

In addition to the large group fellowship, our students had opportunities to participate in numerous small groups this year, studying the book of Nehemiah, The Sermon on the Mount, The Covenants of Scripture, Prayer for the Nations, How to

be a Godly Man, *The Gospel Leads Us All the Way Home* by Derek Thomas, and *Real Sex* by Lauren Winner. Participation in these small groups was positive and encouraging.

RUF at Erskine participated in the RUF Fall Conference at Camp Greystone as usual, but we are no longer able to participate in the RUF Summer Conference due to the prolonged dates of the spring semester.

A few highlights from RUF events at Erskine offered on campus throughout the year were:

Christmas Party with nearly 50 students in our home and on our patio for the end of Fall Semester and more than 70 students gathered in our home for a **Super Bowl Party** to begin the spring semester!

We are grateful for the financial support of individuals and churches which help to provide the books, snacks, and meals at the Barn as well as retreat and conference expenses. We are thankful for every opportunity we have to host and meet with students.

Our **Guy-Girl Discussion (and Brawl!)** event gathered 35 students for dinner in our home this Spring, followed by discussion about how men and women are different.

Our annual **Barn-K "for JOY!"** run from campus to the Barn raised money to send local Due West resident Warren Sullivan to Camp Joy. This continues to be an effective way for students to learn and participate in ministry and service to others.

Something new this year, since we were unable to attend the annual RUF Summer Conference, was to combine resources with the Student Christian Association and with Baptism Collegiate Ministries to have our own **End of Year Beach Retreat**. This event is scheduled for the week after graduation, and we hope to gather 40 students for a week of fun, fellowship, and teaching at Edisto Beach.

Interns Ben Johnson and Kaylan Vanderlip conclude the RUF internship at the end of May 2015. We are thankful for their effective service and ministry through RUF at Erskine and wish them well as they both plan to pursue further ministry training at RTS-Charlotte. Meanwhile, we are excited to welcome new interns who are also newly married: Alden and Taylor Groves, both May 2015 graduates of Wofford College. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will use Alden and Taylor at Erskine over the next two years!

Throughout the year, the committee received much more positive news about the work of Campus Ministry and is well pleased with Rev. Patrick's performance as he carries out his duties. The committee is also greatly encouraged about the positive impact being made at Erskine for God's Kingdom through Campus Ministry. In the fall of 2014, President Kooistra welcomed Rev. Patrick as a member of his Senior Administrative Team and has reported his appreciation for Rev. Patrick's contribution to the spiritual life of the campus.

The committee encourages the General Synod to continue in its prayers for Rev. Patrick and Campus Ministry at Erskine. In addition, the committee encourages presbyteries and congregations to prayerfully consider how they might support Campus Ministry at Erskine. Because Rev. Patrick is tasked with raising funds for the operating cost of Campus Ministry, a link for financial contributions can be found on our denominational website at www.arpchurch.org/giving.

The committee has no recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Malphrus, Chairman

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

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

COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

Your Committee on Inter-church Relations met via conference call on February 17, 2015 and has communicated via email on a number of issues since the 2014 meeting of our General Synod.

Ecumenical Organizations

The ARP Church currently holds membership in three (3) ecumenical organizations: The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC), the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF), and the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC), to which we returned last year after several years of non-membership.

NAPARC- The 2014 NAPARC meeting was hosted by the Canadian Reformed Church in Grimsby, Ontario. Rev. Rob Patrick, Rev. Lee Shelnutt, Rev. Tim Phillips, and Rev. Jerry Hamstra represented the ARP Church at this meeting. Our delegation had private meetings with the delegations from the RPCNA and the OPC at their request. There is a growing sense of kinship and fellowship quite evident in our relationship with the OPC as well as with the RPCNA.

Changes to the NAPARC constitution that were approved by our Synod in 2014 were approved by NAPARC as a whole at its meeting. The NAPARC constitution, bylaws, member churches, and minutes of the most recent meeting are available at www.naparc.org.

WRF-The WRF is a fellowship of 67 Reformed denominations from around the world. It last met in March 2015 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Since its last meeting, a Statement of Faith for the WRF has been composed and will be proposed for adoption in 2015. Your Inter-church Committee has not endorsed this proposed Statement of Faith. Rev. Lee Shelnutt will serve as our delegate to WRF, and Rev. Soku Yi, Chairman of the Board of World Witness will also attend. Your Committee on Inter-church Relations will be eager to hear the report of Rev. Shelnutt regarding deliberations and approval or rejection of the proposed statement of faith following the meeting of the WRF. More information on WRF can be found at www.wrfnet.org.

ICRC- Several years ago, Synod voted to remove itself from membership in the ICRC. Your Inter-church Relations Committee recommended this, primarily due to the relatively high cost of membership

as compared to NAPARC and WRF. Last summer, World Witness offered to pay for membership if Synod would vote to return to ICRC. This was approved, and we have resumed membership. The next meeting of ICRC will be in 2017.

Churches in Fraternal Fellowship

North American churches in fraternal fellowship with the ARPC are the Korean American Presbyterian Church (KAPC), the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). It has been our practice to exchange delegates annually with the RPCNA, and with this year's Synod, we have begun an annual exchange with the OPC. Our practice is to alternate years of sending and receiving with the other churches.

Your committee is very glad for our concurrent Synod meeting this summer with the RPCNA. Both synods voted in favor of this concurrent Synod in their 2013 meetings. We recognize, however, that this represents a greater effort on the part of our RPCNA brothers and greater travel expense for most of them, so we appreciate their willingness to come to us in what is a kind of "family reunion."

Related to the desire for growing fellowship with churches with whom we are in fraternal fellowship, your Inter-Church Relations Committee would recommend that presbyteries extend invitations to their corresponding bodies (presbyteries, classes, etc.) of any such denominations, or those in NAPARC with which they share geographical bounds, to send observers to stated meetings of presbytery. We believe this may foster a stronger sense of fellowship and connection in our shared labors in the gospel.

Fraternal Delegates/Representatives

In 2014, our Synod sent as Fraternal Delegates: Rev. Lee Shelnutt to the EPC, Rev. Tim Phillips to the RPCNA, and Rev. Jeff Kingswood to the OPC.

This year we have extended invitations to the OPC, EPC, and KAPC to send delegates to our Synod. We have received invitations from the OPC and the PCA to send delegates to their assemblies. Rev. Kent Moorlach is our delegate to the OPC, with Rev. Kyle Sims serving as alternate. As the PCA meets during our General Synod, we will send greetings to them by letter.

Corresponding Synods

The ARP Church has relationships with two (2) ARP Synods overseas. It is expected that Alex Pettett of World Witness will make reports available from the Synods of Mexico and Pakistan.

Other Relationships

In 2010, a recommendation was approved by Synod that your Committee on Inter-Church Relations, "...in consultation with the leadership of World Witness... investigate establishing relationships with at least one national church in all countries where we have missionaries serving." (*Minutes of Synod*, 2010, p. 366) Your committee is indebted to Rev. Frank van Dalen for his efforts in this matter and intends further effort in cooperation this year and in the future with World Witness and Mr. Alex Pettett. Particular attention will be given this year to communication with the Free Church of Scotland and the establishment of communication with churches in Spain and Lithuania.

Officers for 2015-2016

Committee officers were elected via email. Rob Patrick will serve as Chairman, Lee Shelnuitt as Vice Chairman, and Rudy de Vries will serve as Secretary.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod receive fraternal delegates at this 2015 meeting from the OPC, EPC and KAPC denominations. **Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That Synod authorize the following ministers to serve as fraternal delegates this summer: Rev. Kent Moorlach OPC (Rev. Kyle Sims, alternate). **Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That presbyteries consider extending invitations to corresponding bodies (presbyteries, classes, etc.) of NAPARC churches or those with whom we are in Fraternal Fellowship, who may share geographical bounds, to attend presbytery meetings as observers.
4. That all other actions herein reported be sustained. **Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Patrick, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

	<u>Approved 2015 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2016 Budget</u>
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,600
<u>Expenses:</u>		
General Office Expense	\$ 400	\$ 50
Committee Travel	450	450
ARP Fraternal Delegates/Representatives	4,000	3,000
Hosting Fraternal Delegates	350	600
WRF Dues	0	0
NAPARC Dues	300	500
ICRC Dues	0	0
Total Expenses	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,600
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

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

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee oversees various investments of the denomination. These investments are owned by General Synod, presbyteries, agencies, congregations, and individuals (Charitable Remainder Trusts, Donor Advised Funds, and Gift Annuities). A principal aim of the Investment Committee is to offer denominational organizations and churches the option to offload investment management duties so that they may focus more time and energy on their primary missions.

Due to the nature of its work and the collective value of the funds entrusted to its care, the committee seeks members who have institutional investment experience and expertise. The committee meets at least quarterly with its investment consultants to review portfolio performance and asset allocation and make any necessary changes in investment managers or investment strategies.

The committee held its regularly scheduled meetings in-person in February and August and met by conference call in May and November. The committee also meets by conference call as necessary for

follow-up discussions with investment consultants throughout the year. Representatives of Synod agencies and boards with funds invested under the oversight of the committee are invited to participate in Investment Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

Duties as prescribed in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* are:

a. Developing guidelines for the work of the committee.

The committee developed operating procedures and Investment Policy Statements in 2008. Investment Policy Statements are reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed. The statements are available from Central Services.

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

These funds represent three distinct types of investments: the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust, Endowment and Endowment-type Funds, and Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities.

(1) Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan Trust. On behalf of the Board of Benefits, the Investment Committee meets on a quarterly basis with its consultant Deutsche Bank Alex. Brown to receive reports and to evaluate the performance of the Trust Fund. The chairman of the Board of Benefits Retirement Committee serves as an advisory member of the Investment Committee. The value of the Trust Fund March 31, 2015 was \$51,937,160 — a \$2 million increase from the March 2014 value, and a \$7 million increase over March 2013.

(2) Endowments and Endowment-type Funds. These individual accounts belong to churches, presbyteries, and agencies of the General Synod. Each account is invested to meet the risk profile of the account holder. As of March 31, 2015, endowment and endowment-type funds totaled over \$16 million.

The Investment Committee originally set up this branch of its program to accommodate long-term (10 years or more) institutional investments (churches, agencies, and presbyteries). Four (4) risk model options were available: Conservative, Moderate, Moderate Aggressive, and Aggressive. Since 2007, these funds have been invested with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

Recently, however, and primarily through gifts coming into the ARP Foundation, the committee has realized the need to provide options for shorter term investments. The committee investigated

the matter and considered opportunities with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Deutsche Bank Alex. Brown, and Cornerstone Management, Inc.

Cornerstone offered a menu of options that best suited the needs identified by the committee, and the committee voted in a called meeting in March to move all its investments with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney to Cornerstone. The new Investment Program has two (2) tiers, depending on the size of the account. Tier 1 consists of active mutual funds and is designed for accounts with aggregate constituent assets of \$250,000 or more. Tier 2 consists of passive Exchange Traded Funds and is appropriate for accounts with aggregate constituent assets under \$250,000. Conservative, Moderate, Moderate Aggressive, and Aggressive options are available within each tier. New accounts of less than \$20,000 will be invested in a money market fund. The move to Cornerstone has also yielded lower investment fees.

The transition from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney to Cornerstone is still in process at the time of this writing. In May, the Investment Committee will contact all account holders to determine which investment model(s) they wish to utilize.

(3) Charitable Remainder Trusts and Gift Annuities. The Investment Committee provides investment oversight over the ARP Foundation's charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities on behalf of the ARP Foundation Board of Directors. Each of the charitable trusts is a separately invested entity, with a combined total value on March 31, 2015 of \$370,861. The balance in the Gift Annuity Fund on the same date was \$154,488 bringing the total sum of funds under the management of Cornerstone to \$525,349.

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

Deutsche Bank Alex. Brown serves as the investment consultant on the ARP Retirement Plan Trust, and, as stated above, Cornerstone Management, Inc. now serves as consultant for the endowment and endowment-type funds as well as the charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities.

d. Discuss with other boards and agencies the possibility of including their funds in those under management.

The committee is available to assist any church, presbytery, or agency of the General Synod, both in an advisory capacity and to exercise particular responsibilities authorized by asset owners (i.e.,

change in investment managers, asset allocation studies). Further information is available from the Executive Director of Central Services.

The committee expresses its appreciation to Mike Cruce, who finishes his term June 30, 2015.

Officers for 2015– 2016:

Kenneth Richey	Chairman
Michael Noel	Vice Chairman
Chip Smith	Treasurer
Paul Bell	Secretary/Administrative Officer

Recommendations:

1. That this report be received as information and that presbyteries and sessions note the availability of services offered by the Investment Committee. **Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That the committee be granted \$4,000 for committee travel and expenses. **Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Richey, Chairman

Synod recessed for a short morning break.

A motion carried that

*the recording of Rev. Gamble's sermon on Romans 3
and the Mediatorial Kingship of our Savior Jesus Christ
be made available for distribution to all churches in the
ARPC.*

The Report of the Board of Bonclarken was presented.

BOARD OF BONCLARKEN

Dear Brothers in Christ:

The Board of Bonclarken appreciates the opportunity to serve Christ through our work in the oversight of Bonclarken. Our Conference Center continues to be a place where lives are changed as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of our guests.

Our mission “to provide and promote a Christian environment for inspiration and renewal” guides our decision making. The purpose of this report is to update Synod on the activities of the Bonclarken Board since our last annual report to Synod, to share the ministry impact of Bonclarken, and to make recommendations for consideration by Synod.

Our board recognizes our role in providing an environment that entices guests to visit this special place. Certainly the beautiful mountain setting is an enticement in itself, but we realize that today’s guests expect certain levels of accommodations, audio visual capabilities, and food service. Should Bonclarken fail to maintain the level of facilities and services expected by our guests, we could discourage guests from visiting, thus decreasing the ministry impact of Bonclarken.

With this fact in mind, at our October meeting the board approved the renovation of the Motel. Built in 1967, the Motel has served us well over the years. However, with the opening of Founders Hall and the Lodge, the Motel was no longer meeting the expectation of our guests. Each room has been fully renovated with new flooring, furniture, lighting, heat/AC units, bedding, and bathroom amenities. The name of the building has been changed from “Motel” to “Founders South.” We believe that these new rooms will draw more guests to Bonclarken and that these guests will have life-changing interactions with the Holy Spirit while they are here.

The board thanks Synod and the many churches that support Bonclarken through their giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund.

We also thank the hundreds of volunteers who assist with our ministry each year. The Bonclarken staff is always encouraged by the willingness of our volunteers to help in such important ways.

The Board of Bonclarken is responsible for the overall management of the Conference Center which includes all properties owned. In the exercise of this responsibility, the board implements the five duties as reflected in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties*.

These duties are:

Duty #1:

“To be responsible for carrying out the PURPOSE of Bonclarken: ‘To serve God through the ministry of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod by providing for the denominational opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship; by assuring a wholesome atmosphere for Christian development; and by making

facilities available to the agencies and institutions of Synod, its Presbyteries, and local congregations to fulfill their missions and goals.' In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits."

Response to this duty:

Providing *opportunities for Christian worship, education, recreation, and fellowship* is the primary mission of Bonclarken. The board reviews plans from the Administration for keeping this mission foremost in our efforts.

Each Monday morning, Bonclarken President Chip Sherer sends an email to our board (and other individuals) asking for prayer for two things: that our guests will be receptive to the call of the Holy Spirit and that the staff's work will glorify Christ. *Christian development* is fostered when guests are open to the call of the Holy Spirit, and the Bonclarken staff works diligently to *assure a wholesome atmosphere* for this development.

Bonclarken is open year-round, thereby *making facilities available to the agencies and institutions of Synod, its Presbyteries, and local congregations to fulfill their missions and goals*. In 2014, Bonclarken hosted numerous ARP events, including General Synod, World Focus, Family Bible Conference, Women's Ministries, Horizon, Quest, Music Conference, Camp Bonclarken, Camp Joy, Music Drama Camp, various boards of Synod, presbytery youth retreats and individual ARP church retreats.

In the interest of oneness with God, the facilities may be shared with other Christian and educational groups when scheduling permits. Bonclarken hosted numerous events for other Christian and educational groups in 2014.

Duty #2:

"To elect officers and employ and supervise the president of Bonclarken, who in turn will employ and supervise such persons as may be necessary for carrying on the work of Bonclarken in accordance with the policies established by the Board."

Response to this duty:

The following officers were elected to serve in 2014-15: Bill Patrick, Chairman; Windsor Sherrill, Vice Chairman; Elise Horton, Secretary; John Moore, Treasurer. Committee Chairs: Jim Ashburn, Administration Committee; Marshall Welch, Buildings and Grounds Committee; Calvin Draffin, Promotion and Services Committee.

The board employs and supervises Joseph (Chip) Sherer as President of Bonclarken. The board believes that Mr. Sherer does an outstanding job in carrying out the policies of the board and managing the day-to-day operations of the Center.

Duty #3:

“To make such rules and regulations for its own government as may be consistent with the Constitution of Bonclarken Conference Center and the policies of Synod.

Response to this duty:

The board regularly reviews its bylaws and board policies as to current applicability and makes revisions when deemed necessary.

Duty #4:

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

Response to this duty:

The board continues to ensure that all property owned by Bonclarken is appropriately managed and took the following significant actions from April 2014 through March 2015:

Actions taken at and after the May 2014 Board meeting:

Approved a plan that included drainage work and paving of Bonclarken Lane for a total cost of \$32,083. \$10,000 of this amount was paid by Bonclarken with the balance paid by the property owners on Bonclarken Lane.

Actions taken at the October 2014 Board meeting:

- Approved the proposal to renovate the interior of each of the 16 guest rooms of the Motel and approved the borrowing of up to \$325,000 for the project, with a plan to repay all borrowed funds from endowment income by January 2020.
- Approved Carl Shaw, CPA, to perform an audit of our 2014 finances.

Actions taken at the January 2015 Board meeting:

- Approved the following policy for weddings: Weddings on the grounds of Bonclarken must be officiated by either an ARP minister or a minister from a denomination with which the ARP Church currently has fraternal relations. The Administration shall share the position on marriage of the ARP Church with all interested parties. Should the minister not meet the above conditions, permission must be granted by the Bonclarken Board of Trustees (or a committee thereof). The following shall be submitted as part of the request:

- a. Name and contact information of the minister;
- b. Denomination of the minister;
- c. Statement from minister confirming agreement with the ARP Statement on Marriage;
- d. Complete order of service.

The Bonclarken Board reserves the right to approve all weddings on the grounds of Bonclarken.

-Approved renaming the Motel "Founders Hall South Wing" and authorized the Administration to refer to it as "Founders South."

-Approved Lou Ann Aheron, together with the Board Chairman and President, to assemble a steering committee to begin the process to develop a new Strategic Plan for Bonclarken.

Duty #5:

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

Recommendations:

1. That the meeting of General Synod for 2017 be held at Bonclarken beginning Tuesday, June 6, 2017. (*The meeting of General Synod for 2016 was approved by the 2014 Synod to be held at Bonclarken beginning Tuesday, June 7, 2016.*) **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That General Synod continue to support Bonclarken through the allocation of funds from the Denominational Ministry Fund and through the annual Easter offering. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That General Synod encourage all presbyteries, boards, and churches to encourage and assist their members in attending the various camps/conferences/retreats hosted by Bonclarken during the year. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Patrick, Chairman

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

4. That the staff and board of Bonclarken be commended for their excellent work in providing a setting for Christian growth and nurture. **Synod ADOPTED.**

MINUTES OF SYNOD

BONCLARKEN CONFERENCE CENTER

	<u>2015 Approved</u>	<u>2016 Proposed</u>
<u>Revenue</u>		
Rooms	\$ 1,063,500	\$ 1,040,000
Meeting Room	20,000	20,000
Food Service	555,702	550,000
Service Fee	75,000	70,000
Programs	39,000	39,000
Camps	61,000	61,000
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	33,500	33,000
Property Owners	40,000	40,000
Miscellaneous	28,000	28,000
Total Op. Revenue	\$ 1,915,702	\$ 1,881,000
<u>Non-Op. Revenue:</u>		
DMF	\$ 111,000	\$ 111,000
ARPWM	5,000	5,000
Mountain Club/Churches	183,000	193,000
Easter Offering	9,000	9,000
Other	12,500	27,608
Total Non-Op. Rev.	\$ 320,500	\$ 345,608
Total Revenue	\$ 2,236,202	\$ 2,226,608
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Cost of Sales:</u>		
Food - Revenue Meals	\$ 215,000	\$ 212,000
Food - Nonrevenue Meals	37,000	\$ 30,000
Gift Shop/Nibble Nook	16,000	15,000
Total Cost of Sales	\$ 268,000	\$ 257,000
Total Pysl/Benefits	\$ 1,293,702	\$ 1,295,608

	<u>2015 Approved</u>	<u>2016 Proposed</u>
Other Expenses:		
Administration	\$ 116,000	\$ 116,000
Camps	\$ 49,000	\$ 49,000
Financial fees	\$ 24,000	\$ 22,000
Food Service	20,000	\$ 20,000
Guest Services	78,000	\$ 78,000
Prop and Liab Insurance	64,000	\$ 65,000
Maintenance	115,000	\$ 115,000
Marketing	15,000	\$ 15,000
Recreation	22,500	\$ 22,000
Utilities	171,000	\$ 172,000
Total Other Expenses	\$ 674,500	\$ 674,000
Total Op. Expenses	\$ 2,236,202	\$ 2,226,608
Net Surplus (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

The Report of the **Board of World Witness** was presented.

**BOARD OF WORLD WITNESS:
THE FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD OF THE ARP CHURCH**

**WORLD WITNESS REPORT
NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE
For more information,
contact 864-233-5226**

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES
"EQUIPPING THE SAINTS"

Watch television and you'll often see commercial after commercial advertising many of the life-altering pharmaceutical drugs that are available today. These drugs extend and improve the lives of millions of people. The one thing every one of the commercials has in common is a short burst of audio lauding the wonders of an improved life while pictures flash of happy thriving people in the background. Following the plaudits of wonder comes an extended disclaimer, usually read at amazing speed in order to please the company's law firm, warning users of the potential dangers including death.

In the midst of the din of noise our society projects on how to improve life, we as Christians understand that there is but one foundation upon which to build our lives. Christ promises us an abundant life as those who follow him. The disclaimer is that as we live our lives in the midst of a sinful world, we are never alone. Building on the foundation we have in Jesus is the work of Christian Education Ministries. We are seeking to provide the very best in resources, conferences, and consultations. Let us come alongside you and your congregation and help you discover the abundant life Jesus promised as you grow in your walk with Him. No disclaimer needed.

Organization:

Officers:	Chairman:	Rev. Bob Whittet
	Vice Chairman:	Rev. James McManus
	Secretary:	Mrs. Jane Frazier
Committees:	Executive Committee	
	Administrative committee	
	Events Committee	
	Resource Committee	
	Training Committee	
	Finance Committee	

Board Meetings:

The Board of Christian Education Ministries has held two (2) meetings since Synod of 2014. These meetings were held September 15-16, 2014 and February 9-10, 2015.

Authority:

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

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

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

Duties and Work Underway:

1. *To employ such administrators and staff as are necessary for the work of the board and to supervise the execution of the board policies.*
 - CEM thanked Mrs. Carole Ellis for her work as Director of Resources. Carol has over forty years of experience in Christian Education and has served two (2) terms on the board in past years. Carol will be moving from part-time work to consultant work.
 - CEM is also utilizing several curriculum writers to help with our current publications.
2. *To prepare and recommend to Synod each year, a budget to do the work of the board and to oversee the use of financial resources designated by the Synod for these purposes.*
 - (See budget at the end of this report.)
3. *To initiate, develop, promote, coordinate, and evaluate comprehensive programs of Christian Education for Synod, presbyteries, and congregations that will help to equip the saints for the ministries in the world. (Ephesians 4:12)*

Training leaders in our churches continues to be an important area of our work in the CEM office. The need for training of Sunday School teachers, leaders and staff is vital to the well-being and healthy growth of our churches and their members. Through individual consultation, online training, local workshops, resourcing materials, and regional conferences, our CEM staff has served a number of our churches and

continues to seek opportunity and methods which will make training accessible to all those who request it.

Some highlights of this year have been:

- Elder and deacon training was conducted for the Mississippi Valley Presbytery and for the Florida Presbytery with Dr. Derek Thomas.
 - Training in child safety procedures and policies was given to a number of individual churches and presented to the Mississippi Valley Presbytery.
 - At the request of the Board of Stewardship, CEM developed an intensive training seminar for church finances for working with church staff payroll, benefits and investments. The staff of CEM, Central Services and the ARP Foundation travelled to Charlotte, NC and Columbia, SC to conduct on-location seminars. The conference in Charlotte was professionally videoed, and the DVD series is now available for financial training for all of our churches. Further on-location seminars may be offered as requested by presbyteries.
 - Training for churches seeking to establish or strengthen outreach to special needs friends and families was developed and churches are being made aware of its availability.
 - Phone consultation and online training seminars made training available to those whose distance was too great or expensive to travel.
 - CEM, along with Women's Ministries, awarded the Julia Harde- man Rhodes award to Mrs. Ann Brice for her outstanding work in Christian Education. Nominations are being taken now for 2016.
4. ***To provide and recommend curriculum and other materials necessary for the teaching ministry (i.e., Sunday School, catechism training, mid-week programming, Vacation Bible School, etc.).***
- CEM is working on a revised version of our comprehensive curriculum plan (scope and sequence).
 - CEM continues to operate bookstores in the Greenville office, Bonclarken, and online providing people an opportunity to obtain board-approved resources. CEM traveled with the bookstore to many churches, conferences, NAPARC meeting at Bonclarken, Synod, Family Bible Conference and wherever possible to encourage Christian growth.

- CEM continues to expand the *Adult Quarterly* (renamed *The Quarterly*), as edited by Dr. Mark Ross. The teacher's edition is being studied, explored, and expanded. The new edition is set to be released in late 2015. CEM is also talking with Great Commission Publication concerning the use of *The Quarterly* for use with the OPC and PCA denominations. CEM is also looking at possible ways to resell past issues of *The Quarterly* for use in the local churches.
- CEM is constantly expanding the list of resources to equip churches for Word-centered ministry, to promote daily Bible reading, and to enable evangelism. We continue to work with Outreach North America in getting resources out to churches for help in evangelism and church growth.
- CEM is working with the Women's Ministries leaders to promote and provide their selected resources for local Women's Ministries groups.
- CEM is currently finishing up a video series by Rev. Joseph Alghrany on "What Every Christian Needs to Know about Islam."
- CEM, in direct response to churches' expressed needs, is continuing to give particular attention to helping smaller congregations find curriculum resources that are financially reasonable and adaptable for larger age spans and limited numbers.

Suggested Curriculum Resources

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

1. *The Quarterly of the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church* (Order from the ARP Center, Office of Christian Education, One Cleveland St., Ste. 210, Greenville, SC 29601-3696, 864-233-2491.) Edited by Dr. Mark Ross.
2. Great Commission Publications (Great Commission Publications, 3640 Windsor Park Dr., Suite 100, Suwanee, GA 30174-1800, 800-695-3387). Sponsored by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in America, based on the view that Chris-

tian education is for evangelism and personal commitment. Materials are available for preschoolers through adults.

3. ARP Bookstore. The ARP bookstore has available a wide range of thirteen-week studies, youth curriculum, and other curriculum resources.

5. *To inform Synod, presbyteries, pastors, sessions, DCE's, superintendents, and chairmen of local Christian education committees concerning trends and developments in Christian Education.*

- CEM maintains an active and up-to-date web page with information on training, events, trends, and developments in Christian Education (CE).
- Articles about Christian education ministry appear regularly in our *ARP Magazine*.
- Presbytery representatives on our CEM Board are kept informed and are encouraged to bring timely, helpful and pertinent information back to their committees and are asked to keep the CEM office informed of the ways in which we can best support and serve them.
- Whenever possible, CEM staffers conduct on-site meetings with pastors and CE personnel and volunteers to hear, be informed, and respond to their ministry needs. Phone calls, emails, and occasional surveys gather current information, share the wealth of our broader-based experience, shape future training planning, and direct research for resources and solutions. News of positive growth and ministry, as well as needs and concerns, are shared as appropriate with other churches to further connect, engage, and support our denomination.
- Our Constant Contact lists are kept updated and expanded to connect with all of our churches, and as appropriate, individuals, in order to disseminate information quickly and clearly.
- We seek to expand social media to connect and encourage those in our denomination.

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

The Board reports the following participation in these events:

Horizon Conference (Sr. High Conference) attendance: 29 churches, 365 participants
 Quest Conference (Jr. High Conference) attendance: 28 churches, 362 participants

Camp Joy NC (4 full sessions at Bonclarken)
attendance: 177 participants
Camp Joy FL attendance: 26 participants
Camp Joy SC attendance: 17 participants
Appalachia Mission attendance: 32 churches, 382 participants
Family Bible Conference attendance: 122 adults, 41 children

The CEM Board also is seeking to promote the future of Camp Joy (Special Needs Ministry). This unique ministry has been an amazing piece within the ARP denomination for over 35 years. We are currently promoting informative and fundraising dinners across the United States to raise funds for Camp Joy for the stability and organization for the future of this ministry. Dinners have been held in Columbia, SC; Winter Haven, FL; Flat Rock, NC; and Rock Hill, SC.

7. *To cooperate with other Christian denominations in carrying out all phases of the teaching ministry.*
 - CEM continues to work closely with Great Commission Publications (PCA and OPC), Christian Education and Publications (PCA), and with other denominations. CEM is currently working with GCP on the possibility of expanding *The Quarterly*.
 - CEM seeks to identify and recruit well-qualified, reformed teachers and trainers to serve with us in providing the best possible regional training and resources.
 - CEM offers participation in our events to all area churches. These events are presented from a reformed world and life view.
8. *To help local congregations to plan, promote, and execute the best possible teaching ministry by:*
 - a. *providing and promoting opportunities for leadership training.*
 - b. *developing and promoting Christian education activities for congregations;*
 - c. *assisting, when requested, in the development of congregational libraries;*
 - d. *making available relevant media resources for purchase from the office of Christian Education Ministries.*

Examples of this cooperative effort are:

- A CEM parenting seminar was hosted by Peachtree Corners ARP Church for its members and community.
 - CEM planned and coordinated the children's program for the World Focus Conference and provided workshops for the Family Bible Conference.
 - CEM provided teacher training for the Bethel ARP Church and area churches.
 - CEM staff visited the Virginia Presbytery and Mississippi Valley churches, meeting with their CE leaders and offering workshops for their congregations on developments in CE and child safety. (Brighton, Providence, French Camp, Rich land, Fairlea, Lauderdale, Old Providence, Redeemer, and Wellspring)
 - CEM conducted onsite child safety seminars for Green wood, SC and White Oak, GA church families.
 - CEM is supporting ARP Women's Ministries through the research and development of training resources for their leaders.
9. *To promote job opportunities for those who may be called into the ministry of Christian Education.*
- CEM is working with the ARP Foundation in establishing youth ministry opportunities in ARP churches and helping in the mentoring process.
 - CEM continues to promote job opportunities as presented on the CEM web site.
 - CEM assists churches seeking to hire Christian education staff.
10. *To collect annual reports from congregations on their teaching ministries and to make summary reports available to the General Synod and to Presbytery committees on the status of Christian Education ministries in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.*
- Annual reports were collected via internet and mail, and summary reports were made available where needed.
11. *To make an annual report to the General Synod.*

Recommendations:

1. CEM recommends that the 2016 budget be approved. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. CEM asks that Synod continue to pray for the work of Camp Joy

(Special Needs Ministry) and the expansion of this ministry.

The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.

3. CEM recommends that Synod encourage presbyteries to take full advantage of CEM's training opportunities and resources for equipping the saints. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Whittett, Chairman

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

4. That Synod express its appreciation to the CEM staff for their outstanding ministry and service to the ARP Church and request that a prayer be given for their continued ministry. **Synod ADOPTED.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Revenues	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
Use of Reserve		\$ 17,530
Denominational Ministry Allocation	\$205,919	\$205,919
Easter Offering Allocation	\$9,000	\$9,000
Contributions for Ministry	18,379	12,200
Miscellaneous Income	-	-
Registration and Fees	249,545	247,030
Sales & Subscriptions	110,200	90,800
Interest Allocation	-	-
Special Endowment Fund Gift	17,511	18,693
Total Revenues	\$ 610,554	\$ 601,172

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
Expenses		
Total Salary & Benefits	239,195	240,481
Staff Expenses	9,900	13,400
Board/Committee Expenses	9,000	9,200
General Office		
Promotional Expenses	1,000	1,000
Equipment	1,000	1,000
Communications	6,780	8,500
Rent	13,354	12,646
Office Expenses	6,660	7,610
Total General Office	28,794	30,756
Facility Management	1,300	1,550
Publications		
Adult Quarterly	36,660	34,810
Adult Quarterly Editor	17,500	17,500
Book Store Purchases	42,800	28,000
Other Publications Expenses	500	750
Total Publications	97,460	81,060
Conferences and Training		
Room & Board Expenses	118,260	122,480
Honorariums & Fees	65,155	61,905
Travel	12,700	10,730
Planning	3,150	3,595
Supplies	21,150	21,525
Promotional	4,490	4,490
Total Conferences and Training	224,905	224,725
Total Expenses	\$ 610,554	\$ 601,172
Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 190,756	\$ 190,756
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 190,756	\$ 190,756

Executive Director of Christian Education Ministries, Brent Turner, spoke to the Synod.

Vice Moderator Kern led in prayer for the CEM staff and for Camp Joy.

Wes Spring, Chairman of the Board of Outreach North America (ONA), addressed the Synod regarding the work of Outreach North America. The Executive Director of ONA, Mike Jones, addressed the Synod.

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

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

The Board of Directors of Outreach North America is very pleased with the transition of the Rev. Mike Jones assimilating into the role of Executive Director. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of both Dr. Alan Avera, former Executive Director, and Mr. Wes Spring, board Chairman, for their efforts during this year. Mike and his family have adjusted to the greater Greenville area with new schools and community activities. They made it through the winter and learned to travel on snow and ice (something Floridians do not often experience) and truly loved the beauty of the spring.

The Board of Directors is also pleased to have Mr. Joel Gardner rejoin our staff. He has been involved in developing internal systems and processes for continued improvement of services to our presbyteries as well as redesign work on our website. He has also been key in the production of several new videos which we will discuss later in this report. Six-year ONA employee Tessa Taylor and her husband, Rev. Garison Taylor, have accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor to the Tirzah ARP Church in Rock Hill, SC, effective May 2015. Tessa will continue to produce our communications remotely from Rock Hill. We have added Katrina Harrison to our office staff as our Events and Office Coordinator.

Synod has charged us with five (5) areas of ministry: New Church Development, Church Vitality, Evangelism and Multi-Cultural Ministries, Administration and sustaining a National Presence for the ARPC. This report will seek to bring the General Synod up to date on the recent progress made in each of these areas.

Evangelism and Multi-Cultural Ministries: ONA has endorsed an evangelism strategy - E3 - to engage each of our churches and individual members in actively and confidently presenting the good news of Jesus Christ to others and in providing a clear and concise method of discipleship. E3 emphasizes these three (3) elements of the Gospel: Embrace the simple Gospel of Christ utilizing one verse (John 3:16), Equipping the new believer for life in Christ (2 Cor. 2:17), and Engaging alongside the new believer in consistent, local mission opportunities (Eph. 2:10). To date, Rev. Jones has attended most of our General Synods presbytery meetings. He has used these opportunities to promote our E3 strategy and has been encouraged by the enthusiasm for it. He has also traveled to Texas to visit our church plants there, as

well as national and regional Acts 29 church planting training, Exponential Church Daughtering training, and a Korean Pastors renewal training at Gordon Conwell Seminary, Charlotte, NC.

In multi-cultural ministries, ONA, in conjunction with each of our presbyteries, will be hosting a Korean Pastors Retreat in September to bring together the ARPC Korean pastors. Our goal is for our Korean brothers to receive ARP training, engage the “Focused Living” material, develop evangelism and mission training, and share in fellowship. The Focused Living material will be presented by Dr. Tong Park, former Korean ministry coordinator for the Christian Reformed Church. The ARPC training will be presented by Paul Bell and translated by Dr. Tong Park. The presenter for the evangelism and mission training, as well as the host pastor for the event, will be Rev. S. Song of the Southern Korean Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

New Church Development: In January, ONA hosted our church planters and their families for a five (5) day retreat in Jacksonville, FL. We enjoyed the hospitality of SonLife Church with Rev. Bob and Dail Hovey. The planters and their families were very appreciative of the times of worship, fellowship, and teaching by Dr. Ken Priddy.

In March, we held a CPAC (Church Planters Assessment Center) in Greenville. There were six (6) “assesses,” and five (5) were assessed to be gifted in church planting and encouraged to become church planters in the ARPC. We thank Rev. Jan Sattem and the COMD (Center for Organizational Management Development) for their continued great work. We would also like to thank our assessors for their service. Serving this session were Rev. Mike and Susan Avato, Rev. Tom and Sue Shoger, Rev. Mark Tankersly, and Mr. Wes Spring. Additionally, there were two COMD representatives: Rev. Jan Sattem and Ms. Kathy Fredrick. Those who were assessed for church planting giftedness came from Canada, Second, Virginia and First presbyteries.

ONA also hosted our first “Church Planting Coaching Training” in Charlotte on May 7, 2015. The presenter was Rev. Tom H Marcus, a pastor who has recently relocated to Wilmington, NC and planted a church. Prior to that move, he planted a church movement in and around Fort Collins, CO called Crossway Chapels. Currently, there are more than 25 churches in the Crossway movement, all the pastors of which interned or were coached by Rev. H Marcus. Given our Synod’s desire to see our church planters succeed and produce a good return on our investment, we plan to offer more church planting coaches training events in the future. We found Rev. H Marcus’ method to be objective, discipleship-oriented and reproducible. The training also

included an organized list of deliverables for the coach/planter relationship.

Also in the area of New Church Development, we have proposed eight (8) new paradigms to add to the two (2) models presently considered ("Parachute drop" and "Mother/Daughter" model.) In addition to updating our paradigms to reflect current church planting strategies, we are assessing the ramifications on our funding systems relative to each paradigm.

Rev. Jones has also visited many of our church plants and had conversations with each of our planters. He is encouraged by their work, although many are facing considerable challenges financially and in identifying qualified leadership. ONA is grateful that there will be trained coaches in each presbytery to come alongside our planters. Please keep our new church developers and our revitalizing pastors, as well as the coaching training, in your prayers. We have found Col. 4:2-6 to be an effective prayer guide:

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Church Vitality: ONA is excited about our potential for impact in the area of pastoral vitality as well as encouraging all of our churches to consider the "5 question vision matrix." The purpose of this tool is to challenge churches to carry their purpose and vision through their programming and church life. The matrix is meant to work in concert with the church vitality training of Dr. Ken Priddy. It is the implementation process of the vision for ministry developed as a result of the GO cluster seminars. However, it is also a standalone tool if a church has an articulated clear vision. ONA is also providing a new grant source for existing churches who are seeking to reach their communities in new ways. The Dare to Dream grant is a matching grant with a ratio of \$1 matched for each \$3 of new money raised. The matrix will also be a tool to help churches evaluate their opportunities for a Dare to Dream church vitality grant.

We are also excited about encouraging vitality within our pastors. There are some great plans and programs available for new and seasoned pastors. One in particular, the “Focused Living Retreat” from Church Resource Ministries, will be the curriculum for an ARPC pastors retreat soon.

Administration has also been an active area for us over the past few months. We are pleased to announce that we have a much-needed and updated website (ona-arp.org). The site and all social media will be consistently updated by the office staff. Since most post moderns access information digitally, we will have an active, constant presence on the web. In addition, we are hosting the E3, Dare to Dream, and other videos posted on the ONA site as well as on Vimeo for streaming and downloading.

As a result of the new website, we have also created a new ONA logo. The intent of the logo is to convey our rich history (America’s Original Reformed Church Plant) as well as our vision for the future. Our web company suggested the logo based on an “ancient modern” concept.

National Presence as a Denomination: We have focused our efforts on two primary tasks: 1) creating a process for all presbyteries to receive new churches into the denomination and 2) considering the logistics of making the ARPC a truly national church. While each presbytery has minor differences in their respective manuals of duties and authorities, there is a standard policy which was approved by Synod in 2000. In concert with Central Services and the Committee on Minister and His Work, we have sought to produce a cogent resource of minimum ARP standards. We will make the process and accompanying document packet (forms and check list) available to each presbytery Church Extension chairman, Minister and His Work chairman, and stated clerks for each presbytery.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposed 2015-2016 budget be approved. **The Moderator’s Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That the report of ONA be approved by Synod. **The Moderator’s Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Spring, Chairman

Michael Jones, Executive Director

In addition, the Moderator's Committee recommended:

3. That Synod commend Mike Jones and the staff of ONA along with the Board of ONA for their good work in aiding churches to proclaim the Gospel. **Synod ADOPTED.**

OUTREACH NORTH AMERICA

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
Revenues		
Projected Increases	0%	0%
Denominational Ministry Funds	\$ 566,172	\$ 559,085
Special Offering	7,000	7,000
Transfer from other ONA Restricted Funds	10,908	-
Tunnel Rd/Christ Fellowship	10,431	-
Operating Fund Contributions	45,000	45,000
ARP Women's Ministries Gifts	6,000	6,000
Pratt Special Endowment Fund	1,200	1,200
Miscellaneous Contributions for Ministry	80,539	59,200
ONA Misc Income (not contributions)	1,000	1,000
Conference Registrations & Misc	1,000	1,000
Interest on Reserves	0.3%	0.3%
Invested Fund Transfers for Operations	243%	3%
Hillcrest Fund	6,231	6,259
Church Mobilization Fund	50,000	39,995
Mattie B. Ellis Fund Income	595	599
Permanent Fund Income	6,174	6,203
Ralph Grigsby Fund	1,781	1,789
St. Andrew Church Fund	8,112	8,202
Invested Fund Transfers for Operations	72,893	63,047
Total Revenues for Operations	\$ 720,604	\$ 682,332

The Report of **William H. Dunlap Orphanage Inc.** was presented.

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.

The ministry of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. (Dunlap) is arguably the least known ministry of our denomination. Your board of trustees does not want the ministry to remain unrecognized, however. It is our prayer that this report would create in you, our Synod delegates, a desire to know more about this ministry and a desire to become involved in ministry to orphans.

The Board of Trustees of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. was “established to provide care, support, maintenance, and education of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children, and to support projects related to such children.” (*Manual of Authorities and Duties*)

The present board structure came into being after the closure of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage in Rosemark, Tennessee in 1978. The orphanage had operated as a ministry of the ARP Church since 1905.

Your board meets twice annually, in March and in November. Officers for July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 are: Jeff Bost, Chairman; William Kidd, Vice Chairman; Mary Nell Coblenz, Secretary. Our members consist of presbytery representatives, at-large members, and an ex-officio appointee from ARP Women’s Ministries. These men and women consider it a delight and a privilege to serve together in this ministry.

The Annual Meeting (March) is devoted primarily to receiving personal updates from Erskine College and our Ongoing Relationship homes and to the allocation of grants that are effective from April 1 through March 31. Dunlap grants are provided in a three-tiered manner:

1) Erskine College: The college receives \$20,000 per year (\$10,000 per Fall and Spring semester) to be given to orphaned students.

2) Ongoing Relationship Homes: Palmer Home for Children, Collins Home and Family Services, and French Camp Academy. These organizations do not have to submit annual requests for funding from Dunlap but are guaranteed some level of assistance depending upon need and upon availability of funds. Each of the organizations has submitted written evidence of its agreement with the *Dunlap Statement of Christian Biblical Belief* and has a member of the Dunlap Board serving on its own board of directors in an advisory capacity.

3) Annual grants: Other ministries to orphans are considered on a year-by-year basis. These organizations, too, must demonstrate a com-

mitment to the *Dunlap Statement of Christian Biblical Belief* as well as financial need.

Dunlap grants are made specifically for the care of orphaned children. No grants are made for “brick and mortar” projects.

In 2015, the Dunlap Board of Trustees is grateful to be able to provide financial assistance to the following:

Erskine College	\$20,000
Collins Home and Family Services	\$32,000
French Camp Academy	\$32,000
Palmer Home for Children	\$32,000
Mabel Lowry Pressly Home, Sahiwal, Pakistan	\$18,000
Boys Farm, Newberry, SC	\$15,000
Miracle Hill, Greenville, SC	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$149,000

It should be noted that the William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. *receives no assistance from General Synod's Denominational Ministry Fund*. All its funds are generated through gifts and investments. The board reserves a small amount of money for its administrative costs but gives the rest away to deserving ministries.

While your board rejoices in being able to provide money to assist these ministries, we beg General Synod not to become complacent and think its duty has been fulfilled when the grant checks are distributed. Please consider the true needs of these young people, needs that are addressed to some extent through financial generosity but that are beyond the touch of mere dollars. The orphaned children we serve come from heartbreaking situations where many have been abused in unspeakable ways and/or neglected. Others come from loving homes where the parents simply do not have adequate means to provide the care their children need. Still others have lost one or both parents (and sometimes siblings) through death, abandonment, or court action.

The board is aware that the trend among departments of Social Services in the United States is moving away from group home settings to foster care homes. The board will be considering this trend and its implications, if any, on our policy to assist residential (i.e. group) homes.

The board also commends to your attention the need for adoptive families across the world. With that need in mind, the board established the Dunlap Adoption Assistance Fund in 2011. The fund currently has a little over \$2,000 but needs \$10,000 before it can begin to assist families of ARP ministers who have adopted children. This en-

dowment is separate from that which provides the assistance listed above. At present, it is funded entirely by donations from individuals. The ARP Women's Ministry Board has designated the Adoption Assistance Fund to be the recipient of this summer's Family Bible Conference offering. Dunlap extends its sincerest gratitude to Women's Ministries for this gift.

In addition, the board brings to your attention a new scholarship fund for Erskine College in memory of ARP minister Jim Barker who served passionately on the Dunlap board for a number of years. This scholarship will be in addition to the annual funding already provided to Erskine and will be awarded to an orphaned student who displays characteristics of Christian leadership. We look forward to being able to award the first of these scholarships as soon as sufficient money is available. The endowment stands at \$6,200; \$25,000 is needed before implementation.

The Dunlap Board urges our denomination to be aware of the plight of orphaned children and to become involved in their lives through prayer, volunteer service, and adoption as the Lord leads. Please also bring to our attention Christian organizations that may qualify for financial assistance from the foundation.

The board expresses gratitude for the service of retiring Chairman Darrell Peer who has served as the Florida Presbytery representative to Dunlap for nearly 20 years.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod pause to thank God for His abundant provision to the William H. Dunlap Foundation and ask Him to raise up advocates for the fatherless. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That Sessions share with their congregations the work of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage, Inc. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That the budget for 2016 be approved. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Darrell Peer, Chairman

In addition the Moderator's Committee recommended:

4. That the General Synod commend the Dunlap Board for their diligent work to the glory of Christ. **Synod ADOPTED.**
5. That General Synod commend and thank Darrell Peer for his 20 year service on the Dunlap Board. **Synod ADOPTED.**

WILLIAM H. DUNLAP ORPHANAGE, INC.

Description	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
<u>Executive Summary</u>		
Anticipated Revenue	\$ 164,460	\$ 172,500
Beginning Fund Balance	4,800	8,500
Total Available	\$ 169,260	\$ 181,000
Less:		
Reserve for Potential Revenue Shortfalls	(8,200)	(8,600)
Percentage of Revenue	5.0%	5.0%
Administration	(9,900)	(9,900)
Other Committed Expenses		
Erskine	(20,000)	(20,000)
<u>Supporting Detail</u>		
<u>Anticipated Income</u>		
Denominational Ministry	\$ -	\$ -
B. J. Wade	99,300	103,600
Ola B. Hunter	3,560	3,300
Orphanage Fund	46,200	49,300
Will Ministry Fund (min bal of \$255,022)	15,400	16,300
Total Anticipated Income	\$ 164,460	\$ 172,500
<u>Ministry Expenditures</u>		
Erskine	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Collins Home	5,806	
Palmer Home	5,806	
French Camp Academy	9,873	
Available for allocation	83,728	142,500
Sub-Total Ministry Expenditures	\$ 125,213	\$ 162,500
<u>Administration</u>		
Central Services	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Board	3,900	3,900
Promotional	1,000	1,000
General Office	500	500
Total Ministry Expenditures	\$ 135,113	\$ 172,400
Net Income over/(under) expenditures	\$ 29,347	\$ 100
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 4,800	\$ 8,500
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 34,148	\$ 8,600

Glen Welsford led the Synod in prayer.

Bill Cain, Chairman of the Board of Erskine College and Seminary, led in prayer for Eric Wenger. Mr. Cain introduced the President of Erskine College and Seminary, Paul Kooistra, who spoke to the Synod on behalf of the institutions. Synod responded with a round of applause.

A motion carried that

the remarks of Erskine President, Paul Kooistra, be printed in the Minutes of Synod.

I. Vision Statement for the College

The integration of the Gospel of Grace in all we do provides the foundation of our mission and the impetus for our vision. Therefore, with God's help, we seek to become the premier Christian liberal arts college in the Southeast based on the following tenet: Erskine strives to equip kingdom-focused citizens who serve Christ in the world by providing a learning environment where students come to faith and grow in grace.

Vision Statement for the Seminary

"Erskine Theological Seminary supports the Mission of God in the world by educating, from a Biblically Reformed perspective, persons for service in the Christian Church." (Matthew 28:16-20)

II. Erskine's 2014-15 School Year

1. Christ-centered community.
2. Instruction that integrates faith and learning.
3. Excellence in the classroom:
 - a. 60% of our graduates have been accepted into graduate school.
 - b. All of our pre-med students, save one, have been accepted into medical school. Save one, who decided to become a missionary.
4. A community where relationship can be fostered for a lifetime.

III. Moving Ahead

1. To be Christ-centered means that all the faculty and key staff need to be committed followers of Christ.
2. This fall the faculty will begin to explore together and encourage one another in implementing classroom instruction with an integration of faith and learning.
3. Because we have a mission model (meaning we have open enrollment) rather than a covenantal model (where students must pro-

fess faith in Christ) we have to emphasize evangelism.

a. I did this myself with five-minute devotions before all college-wide convocations this past year.

b. I know of six (6) students who made professions of faith.

- 4. We will begin to consider additions to the curriculum that focus on living as a Christian in the world.*

IV. Accreditation

- 1. This has been the matter I had to spend the most time on. We had to revise our budget plan for 2014-15 three times before the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools would consider continuing our accreditation.*
- 2. In December we were put on probation.*
- 3. We reduced expenditures by \$1.4 million.*
- 4. We increased net tuition revenue by \$301,000 with a mid-year tuition increase and maintained our enrollment in the face of probation and the tuition increase.*
- 5. We lowered the endowment draw to 7% from 10% which reduced the monies for the General Fund by \$1 million. Next year our endowment draw will be further reduced to 5% in accordance with our two-year plan, which will reduce the monies for the General Fund another \$800,000.*
- 6. We increased the Annual Fund by 40% over the actuals from the prior year. We are only \$43,000 short, and we believe we will obtain the goal of \$1.6 million.*
- 7. Everyone took a 5% cut in salary. Now Erskine does not pay large salaries, so this hurt. Beginning in July, Seminary professors will take a further 25% pay cut. We reduced the payroll by \$1.1 million. My goal is to give a salary increase next year at this time. I believe this is crucial.*
- 8. We reduced the contract for dining and facilities by \$300,000.*
- 9. We were able to reduce the depreciation expense by \$410,000.*
- 10. The one place we will fall short is an endowment return of 4.8% rather than 8%, as we projected in the plan.*

Healing of the Erskine Family

I have worked hard this year to bring healing where I could between the denomination, the board, the alumni, and friends. We have made some progress.

We will not be able to pull the institution out of the ditch unless every one is on board who wants to see a Christ-centered school thrive.

VI. Strategic Plan

In the last month, we have started a strategic planning process which I hope can be reported on at the 2016 General Synod.

The Vision Statement, at the beginning of this report, represents the beginning of the strategic planning process.

VII. Personal Goals

If God gives me the physical and emotional strength to complete four (4) more years I hope to:

1. *Secure reaffirmation of accreditation. This still has to be the primary focus for the 2015-16 budget year.*
2. *Get the institution on a program of financial solvency. This will take 20 years of sound management. This will mean:*
 - a. *Growing the student body to 700.*
 - b. *Increasing the Annual Fund to \$2 million.*
 - c. *Developing a Board that can help with Advancement.*
3. *Find a new and young president and have a smooth transition.*
4. *Complete the Strategic Plan to meet the challenges before Erskine.*

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

ERSKINE COLLEGE & SEMINARY**Introduction**

The Board of Trustees of Erskine College and Theological Seminary is honored and humbled to be able to submit, from its chairman, the following report to the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. As we have celebrated our great heritage and history this year, the Board has also come face-to-face with challenges for the future. We are renewed in our hope of the power and grace of God. Higher education continues to change rapidly in this fallen culture. Selfishness is now seen as fulfillment, and foundations continue to crumble in our society. It is into such a world that Erskine must be a beacon of light to a lost and dying world. As the Institution of Higher Learning for our denomination, our mission is to be that light in the field of education. We take our role and our mission seriously.

The purpose of this report is to provide the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church with a clear and complete overview of the various substantial issues that Erskine has faced during this year and to report the various steps the Board has taken to insure the fulfillment of mission into the future. The issues are serious, and the work that has been, and continues to be, done by the Board is our service to God. We have faced many challenges both

internally in terms of finances and externally from accrediting agencies. Erskine is, and remains, fully accredited by both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

The Board of Trustees of Erskine gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the General Synod in the many ways in which it and the member churches support Erskine. Your partnership in the Gospel is appreciated.

I. Presidential Search

In July 2014, the Erskine Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Dr. Paul D. Kooistra as the institution's sixteenth president, and Dr. Kooistra began his service on August 1. Dr. Kooistra previously served at Mission to the World, Lawrenceville, Georgia and Covenant Theological Seminary, Creve Coeur, Missouri.

II. Accreditation and Financial Stability Plan

Historical Context

Erskine College submitted its 10-year compliance certification to its regional accreditor, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), in fall 2011. The offsite and on-site SACSCOC Reaffirmation Committees found the institution to be in compliance with most of the *Principles of Accreditation*; however, they expressed concern regarding core requirements and comprehensive standards relating to institutional effectiveness, administrative staff evaluations, institution-related entities, faculty evaluations, the quality enhancement plan, general education competencies, terminal degrees of faculty, and substantive change. As a result of these concerns, the institution was placed on Warning in December 2012 by the Commission on Colleges.

Subsequent to the institution's first monitoring report to the October 2013 SACSCOC Special Committee, the US Department of Education (DOE) notified SACSCOC of concerns regarding the financial health of the institution, based upon DOE financial responsibility scores (Composite Financial Ratio) calculated from the institution's 2012 submission. Merely two years prior, the offsite Reaffirmation Committee had determined that Erskine was in full compliance with all financial and facilities accreditation standards through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

As a result, at its December 9, 2013 meeting, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees continued Erskine's accreditation and added to the existing

Warning Recommendations for the institution's noncompliance with Core Requirement 2.11.1 (Financial Resources) and Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability).

In response to the notification of the additional financial Recommendations in January 2014, Erskine's Board of Trustees and administration began studying the institution's operating model while continuing to address the nine (9) remaining recommendations, primarily regarding institutional effectiveness, for which the institutional was originally placed on Warning.

Current Year Update

On August 15,, with Board approval, the President declared Erskine College to be in financial exigency. Financial exigency is not bankruptcy; rather it allows an institution to significantly reorganize its operations to improve efficiency and effectiveness without being constrained by tenure. At the same time, the Board of Trustees adopted an initial Financial Stability Plan that was subsequently revised at the Board's October meeting following the September report from the SACSCOC Special Committee.

Financial Stability Plan significant components and status updates through March 31, 2015 are as follows:

- 4% mid-year increase in undergraduate tuition and fees in FY 2014-15 and a 3.79% increase in undergraduate tuition and fees for FY 2015-16, totaling \$1,026,019;
STATUS: Both increases have been approved by the Board and communicated to students and parents. College enrollment for FY 2014-15 is ahead of plan by five (5) full-time financial equivalent students, and anticipated enrollment for FY 2015-16 is expected to equal or exceed plan.

- 5% salary reduction for all employees and suspension of the 5% employer match in the 403(b) retirement plan, and other personnel adjustments in FY 2014-15, and an additional \$750,000 decrease in employee salaries and benefits in FY 2015-16, totaling \$1,836,921;
STATUS: The 5% reduction in payroll and the suspension of the 5% employer match were completed effective September 1 and October 1, 2014, respectively. Most of the personnel adjustments for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 have been completed.

- \$450,000 increase in unrestricted annual fund goal compared to the prior year's actual fundraising performance (Total goal for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 is \$1.6 million);
STATUS: Through March 31, 2015, \$1,347,455 in unrestricted annual giving has been raised with another \$102,000 guaranteed. The institution is very hopeful in its efforts to achieve its annual fund goal.
- \$500,000 expansion of our work scholarship program;
STATUS: At least \$250,000 of additional work scholarships has been identified. The administration continues to explore opportunities to expand the program.
- Reducing the endowment spend rate from 10% to 7% in FY 2014-15 and to 5% in FY 2015-16, equating to an approximate \$2.0 million reduction (cash basis);
STATUS: Completed. Both of these reductions align the institution with prudent endowment spending practices.
- At least \$300,000 reduction in annual depreciation expense;
STATUS: An independent study of Erskine's physical plant assets was completed in December 2014. The purpose of this study was to determine if the estimated useful lives of select depreciable assets need to be revised and expanded based upon the assets' current uses and conditions. Approximately \$410,000 in annual depreciation expense savings was identified.
- and \$300,000 reduction in Aramark dining and facilities expenses.
STATUS: Completed.

Once the Financial Stability plan was adopted, the administration began to aggressively implement the Plan in Fall 2014 to strengthen Erskine's current and long-term financial health.

On December 6, 2014, the senior administration met with the SACSCOC Compliance and Reports Committee (C&R) in Nashville, Tennessee to present Erskine's two-year Financial Stability Plan and to answer questions regarding the remaining accreditation standards for

which Erskine was not in compliance—the two (2) financial standards added in December 2013 and one (1) remaining item of institutional effectiveness related to the Seminary. The Special Committee, which visited Erskine in September 2014, had previously determined that Erskine was in compliance with eight (8) of the nine (9) remaining Recommendations for which the institution was originally placed on Warning.

In January 2015, Erskine received official notification from SACSCOC that its Board of Trustees had denied reaffirmation, continued accreditation for good cause, and placed the institution on Probation for twelve (12) months for failure to comply with Core Requirement 2.11.1 (Financial resources and stability), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1 (Institutional effectiveness: educational programs), and Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial stability) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. A Special Committee was authorized to visit the institution in October 2015 to assess Erskine's progress toward full compliance.

While the institution was not removed from sanction in December 2014, Erskine's SACSCOC staff member communicated that the C&R Committee was impressed with the significant progress the institution had made in a short period of time regarding financial stability. She also encouraged Erskine to continue its aggressive move forward with its Financial Stability Plan so that SACSCOC can see demonstrated progress toward financial health over a longer time horizon.

After receiving the official sanction notification from SACSCOC, which outlined recommendations to improve Erskine's financial stability, senior administrators met with SACSCOC staff in Atlanta, Georgia on January 20, 2015 to review each recommendation for clarity of understanding and to identify opportunities for Erskine to demonstrate improvement.

Important future milestones related to the reaffirmation process include the June 30, 2015 external financial statement audit, the visit from the SACSCOC Special Committee in October 2015, and the senior administration's presentation before the C&R Committee in December 2015. The SACSCOC staff has discussed the possibility of Erskine being removed from Probation and receiving reaffirmation at the December 2015 SACSCOC annual meeting, and Erskine's Board of Trustees and administration are working toward that end. In the meantime, Erskine remains hopeful and deeply thankful for her friends who are praying and making personal sacrifices to help the institution meet these challenges.

III. Financial Stewardship

Erskine's annual operating budget for fiscal year 2014-15 is approximately \$30.5 million, which includes instructional and academic support, student services, institutional support, auxiliary enterprises, and operation and facility maintenance expenditures. The institution relies primarily upon tuition and fees, with fundraising and endowment income providing the balance of financial needs.

Tuition and fees for the College were stated at \$41,385 for the start of the current academic year. The Board of Trustees approved a mid-year tuition and fee increase of 4% (annual basis) as outlined in the Financial Stability Plan, which yielded an additional \$830 per student for the spring 2015 semester. Of the total published tuition and fees, the average student is paying (from non-Erskine sources, including out-of-pocket) approximately \$18,550. As noted in last year's report to General Synod and as identified by SACSCOC, Erskine has relied heavily on tuition discounting in recent years. This student dependence on financial aid is the result of the after effects of the economic downturn in 2008/2009 and Erskine's concentration of students from South Carolina, a state with the 9th highest poverty level in the US in 2014. The Financial Stability Plan, however, begins increasing net tuition revenue per student over time.

Erskine relies on its endowment to supplement revenue from tuition and fees and annual giving. As noted in last year's report to General Synod, the institution has depended too heavily on its endowment in recent years to fund its operating expenses. The Financial Stability Plan approved by the Board of Trustees in October 2014 reduces the institution's dependence on its endowment by decreasing the annual draw to 7% in fiscal year 2014-15 and to 5% in fiscal year 2015-16. The financial offset to the reduced revenue from the endowment includes the mid-year tuition increase and increased annual giving discussed above, as well as a variety of expense reductions, especially in employee salaries and benefits.

As discussed earlier, on August 15, 2014 with Board approval, the President declared Erskine College to be in financial exigency. At the same time, the Board of Trustees adopted an initial Financial Stability Plan, which was subsequently revised at the Board's October meeting. The institution continues to make significant progress toward achieving the tenets of the plan, the goal of which is to strengthen Erskine's financial health and for SACSCOC to reaffirm the institution's accreditation.

IV. Development

Advancement has had challenges during the 2014-15 fiscal year, yet God has been gracious and shown favor upon Erskine through healed and strengthened relationships, increased donations, and new friends. As part of the 2-year plan, the Erskine Annual Fund was increased \$450,000 over the total that was raised last fiscal year. The \$1.6 million goal, as of the writing of this report, is well on track to be achieved. As of March 9, the total received toward the Erskine Annual Fund is \$1.2 million, with a guaranteed \$136,000 still to be received. Leaving \$264,000 to be raised in a little over three (3) months. The task is considerable, but God is faithful. Seven of eight months during this fiscal year have surpassed last year's monthly totals. The goal of \$1.6 million will remain the same for the coming 2015-16 fiscal year. The ARPC, individual presbyteries, Moderator Littlejohn, and individual ARP congregations have been very generous and supportive of Erskine this year.

V. College Academics and Enrollment

The Fall 2014 enrollment at the College was 597 students. This year Erskine welcomed 195 freshmen and 26 transfers. There were 112 males and 109 females. The average GPA is a 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. The average SAT score was 1033 on Creative Writing and Math. The average ACT score was 23 composite. The goal of 222 freshmen students for the Fall 2015 is on track with 131 deposits to the date of this report.

With the implementation of the Financial Stability plan, the department of modern languages will be closed in the 2015-2016 year and a plan put in place to work out the completion of the very few majoring in that department. Additionally, several professors retired early, took a leave of absence, or were not rehired.

VI. Student Services

The Erskine Board of Trustees adopted a Statement on Human Sexuality that was presented to the Trustees from the Student Services Committee. The statement is as follows:

***Erskine College & Theological Seminary
Statement on Human Sexuality***

We believe the Bible teaches that monogamous marriage between a man and a woman is God's intended design for humanity and that sexual intimacy has its proper place only within the context of marriage.

Perspective and Context

As a Christian academic community, Erskine seeks to treat all persons with grace, justice, dignity, and compassion in the Spirit of Christ. Rooted in the historic Evangelical and Reformed Christian tradition, Erskine has always sought to show hospitality and respect to all members of its community, regardless of their religious or philosophical commitments.

The scriptural view of human sexuality is that God formed man and woman in His image (Gen. 1:27-28), and these two were to become one flesh (Gen. 2:23-24). Christ affirms that marital union is to be between a man and woman (Matt. 19:4-6). The Bible teaches that monogamous marriage between a man and a woman is God's intended design for humanity and that sexual intimacy has its proper place only within the context of marriage (1 Thes. 4:3-5; Col. 3:5-7). Sexual relations outside of marriage or between persons of the same sex are spoken of in scripture as sin and contrary to the will of the Creator (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-11).

Erskine recognizes the complexity of current issues regarding sexual morality, marriage, and other expressions of human sexuality such as same-sex attraction, gender identity, and sex outside the covenant of marriage. Therefore, the Erskine community is advised to practice humility and prayerfulness when engaging in any conversations or other actions related to these topics. Erskine's conduct policies and procedures seek to uphold biblical standards, promote repentance and grace, and point people to Jesus Christ.

In Action

We believe the Bible teaches that all sexuality outside the covenant of marriage is sinful and therefore ultimately destructive to the parties involved. As a Christian residential institution of higher learning, we will respect those whose moral views diverge from our own, however, members of the Erskine community are expected to follow the teachings of scripture concerning matters of human sexuality and institutional decisions will be made in light of this position.

The release of this statement caused some disruption, confusion, and uncertainty in the Erskine family and the public. Dr. Kooistra and the Board have responded to these concerns. We view these opportunities to discuss this statement as a platform for the Good News of the Gospel. Our prayers are that students and others will come to Christ as a result of these efforts.

VII. Theological Seminary

Erskine's Theological Seminary continues to operate two (2) accredited campuses in Due West and Columbia. The Due West campus continues to decline in Full-time equivalents (FTEs) in the MDiv. program while the Columbia campus is doing well. The seminary had 58.25 FTE students in the Spring 2015 semester. Under the Institution's Financial Stability plan, three (3) faculty members at the Due West campus will not be returning for the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, beginning in July 2015, the remaining seminary faculty will be taking a voluntary reduction of 25% in pay.

In August of 2014, a new Vice President of the Seminary was hired. Dr. Chris Wisdom, an OPC minister, came to us from the US Army, recently retired. Dr. Wisdom has done a great job in assisting Dr. Kooistra in dealing with the needs of the institution and is currently working with the faculty to revise the long-term plans of the seminary.

After the meeting of General Synod in June, 2014, Erskine called together an Ad Hoc Committee on Theological Examinations *"to assure the President and the ARPC that the candidate's views are compatible with those of the ARPC."* This committee reports to the Board in the case of the President and to the President in the case of other seminary faculty. This committee consists of the Seminary Committee of Erskine College and Seminary as well as representatives from Synod's Committee on Nominations and the Committee on Theological and Social Concerns. Such examinations were successfully carried out this year for Dr. Paul Kooistra and for Dr. Chris Wisdom.

The seminary will lose money in 2014-2015 year, but the Financial Stability plan calls for a balanced budget in 2015-2016. The administration of the seminary continues to explore various ways to accomplish this goal including expanding our remote sites of Greenville, Charleston, Florence, and Augusta. The administration is working on getting the Augusta site approved as a degree-granting program.

An Advisory Committee for the Columbia campus was established at the February 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees. ATS requires that these committees help give oversight and input at the local level.

There are additional plans to establish two (2) more advisory committees – one in the Upstate and one in the Low Country of South Carolina.

As part of the Financial Stability Plan, the Bible Department of the college will be folded into the seminary beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. This strategic move saves the institution money and makes it possible for the college to offer many more options to the students. Additionally it begins to build a foundation for joint registration and multiple degree programs.

The Seminary Building is now staffed daily, and plans are underway to increase our effort in recruitment. By the August 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the senior administration of the seminary is to present to the Board “plans for concrete opportunities for the continuing education and development of the denomination’s pastors and lay leaders.”

MEDCOM was a topic of discussion at the Board level in 2014-2015. MEDCOM is a Doctor of Ministry program for Army Chaplains that emphasizes Clinical Pastor Education. It is a Continuing Education opportunity that the Army makes available to certain chaplains who choose to come to Erskine. At the February meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board approved the following motion which came to it from the unanimous vote of the Seminary Committee: “To affirm the MEDCOM program, but in light of Erskine Theological Seminary’s Mission Statement, to direct the Administration to move it under the auspices of Erskine College.” The Board voted overwhelmingly to affirm the motion, recognizing that it is a better mission fit for the college than the seminary. This also begins to lay the groundwork for other advanced degree programs within the college.

VIII. Implementation of the Statement of Philosophy of Christian Higher Education

The Board of Trustees continues to believe that the role of Christian Higher Education is an important aspect of the mission of the church. The Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is responsible to appoint trustees who have a heart for Christ, a passion for higher education, and God-given gifts and talents that will enhance the institution. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the oversight of the College and Theological Seminary in trust for the church. Erskine continues to reform and strengthen its commitment to Jesus Christ.

Closing Remarks

The Board of Trustees is grateful to God for his mercies to the institution. For more than 178 years now, Erskine has existed under the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. We are appreciative to the denomination for the support that is given each year, and we are appreciative to the individual presbyteries and churches within the denomination that have supported Erskine this year in prayer and with financial gifts.

The challenges ahead are many. The culture in which we educate students continues to drift away from God. It is our hope and prayer that Erskine will remain a light for Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior for another 178 years.

Recommendations:

1. That a season of prayer for Erskine College and Theological Seminary be held in the presbyteries and individual churches of the denomination. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval.**

al. Synod ADOPTED.

- 2 That the *Manual of Authorities and Duties* section on The Board of Trustees of Erskine College Seminary be amended to reflect the new bylaws, which the Board of Trustees passed in February 2015. These changes would not make any changes to the section on The Philosophy of Christian Higher Education also found in this section of *MAD*. The main change is to remove the requirement for five (5) ministers as we have removed all quotas from the board membership section of our bylaws.

Such an amended document would read as follows:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ERSKINE COLLEGE AND
SEMINARY

Membership:

At Large: Twenty-seven members. Erskine Bylaws further define the composition of the board. Ex-officio: President of the Erskine Alumni Association; the Moderator of Synod; Terms of Service: At Large: Five (5) years. Ex-officio and Advisory: As determined by the office to which appointed or elected.

Stated Meetings: As determined by the Board to include

August, October, February and May.

Organization:

Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer

Standing Committees:

Executive Committee

Academic Committee

Finance and Facilities Committee

Advancement Committee

Student Services and Athletic Committee

Seminary Committee

Honorary Degree Committee

Ad hoc Committees:

Nominating Committee

Authority:

The Board of Trustees of Erskine College has direct control of the operation of Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary and is empowered to establish policies and educational programs and to manage all properties and funds. In the exercise of its authority, the Board shall comply with *The Standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*, and its policies and programs shall be consistent with the purpose of the General Synod.

Duties :

General Powers. The Institution shall be governed by the Board which sets all policy for the Institution. The President of the Institution is responsible for implementing these policies.

- a. Only the Board of Trustees may appoint or remove Corporate Officers except the Treasurer, sell or mortgage assets of the Institution, incur debt, dissolve the corporation, modify the Bylaws, rescind or modify a decision of the Board or Executive Committee, recognize, bargain with, or contract with employees collectively and authorize degrees except the awarding of

Honorary Degrees to a Commencement speaker.

- b. The Board grants all degrees and certificates. The administration shall fully inform the Board of changes to admissions policies and graduation requirements.
- c. The Board shall annually set tuition rates.
- d. The Board shall approve all changes to the core curriculum.
- e. The Board shall approve the annual operational and capital budgets; devise methods for increasing funds, resources, and properties; and care for, maintain, and secure the physical facilities.
- f. The Board shall hold in trust all endowments and titles to properties and to execute them in accordance with the stipulated purposes for which they were given, conveyed, or bequeathed.
- g. The Board shall hire the President of the Institution and set his benefits and salary. The Board shall, based on the recommendation of the President, approve all persons who shall serve on the full-time Seminary faculty. The President may terminate a member of the Seminary faculty.
- h. The Board shall submit recommendations to Synod's Committee on Nominations.
- i. The Board shall 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.
- j. The Board shall adopt the purpose and responsibilities for each Committee. These shall be reviewed at least every three (3) years.
- k. The Board shall develop a position description for all Corporate Officers, which describes their roles, authority and responsibilities. These shall be reviewed at least every three (3) years by the Board.

POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR PRESIDENT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE & SEMINARY

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Institution and shall be responsible for executing Board policies. Under the direction of the Board, he shall be responsible for the programs, services and assets of the Institution.

The president is a member of all committees created by the By-

laws of the Board of Trustees and has seat and voice at all meetings. He reports to the board at every meeting and makes recommendations as appropriate. The President is responsible for implementing board policies, attaining goals adopted by board resolution, and executing all documents as directed by the board. The President may appoint and remove deans and other administrative officers (excepting the Board Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary). The President is advised by the President's Cabinet, which is composed of the vice presidents and the chief marketing officer. The cabinet generally meets weekly. It has no formal authority and serves at the pleasure of the president.

The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod DID NOT ADOPT.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cain, Chairman

ERSKINE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Fathers and Brethren,

This update will provide you with the additional information from the May 28 and 29 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Financial Stability Plan

Erskine has met or will meet all of the benchmark requirements for the Two-Year Financial Stability Plan with the exception of our budgeted increase in net assets based on the stock market growth. Erskine has met all of the budget cuts required by the plan. As of May 29, 2015, Erskine's Unrestricted Annual Fund was only \$42,000 short of the goal of \$1,600,000. We fully anticipate meeting our goal before June 30, 2015. This amount includes, as of April 2015, an increase in the number of ARP churches giving to Erskine from 5 in 2014 to 21 in 2015. This annual fund goal is the largest in the recent history of Erskine, and the Board of Trustees is grateful to God for his provision.

College Academics and Enrollment

As of May 29, 2015, Erskine is ahead of last year in deposits for admissions for the incoming freshman class with a total budgeted goal of new students of 225 by the start of school. Erskine will be working to increase the percentage of non-student athletes for the freshman class of 2016. The Bible Department has been successfully moved to

the Seminary for the 2015-2016 school year, thereby giving undergraduate students many more opportunities within that department through cross registrations with the seminary.

Theological Seminary

At the May meeting of the Board, the Trustees changed the Mission Statement of the Seminary. The new Mission Statement of Erskine Theological Seminary is:

“Erskine Theological Seminary supports the Mission of God in the world by educating, from a Biblically Reformed perspective, persons for service in the Christian Church.” (Matthew 28:16-20)

In an effort to take advantage of all sources of funding to service the needs of the seminary and to continue to build the quality and reputation of the seminary faculty, the following underfunded, unoccupied, endowed chairs will be filled by Presidential appointment for part-time or adjunct positions.

James H. Ragsdale Chair for Missions and Evangelism will be filled by adjunct professor, Dr. Michael Anthony Milton. Dr. Milton is the former President and Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary. Beginning October 1, 2015, he will serve as Director of Strategic Leadership Development as well as teaching.

John Leith Chair of Theology will be filled by current Erskine adjunct professor, Dr. Leslie Holmes, who is a member of Second Presbytery.

R.W. Carson Chair for Christian Mission will be filled by adjunct professor, Dr. Dariusz Brycko who is an approved World Witness missionary to Poland to plant a Presbyterian Church and develop a Reformed Study Center in Warsaw. He will return to Columbia next summer on missionary business which will allow him to teach his class in-person during the summer semester, 2016.

Under Dr. Wisdom and Dr. Gore, the seminary has developed a strategic plan for growing this part of the Institution over the next four years. Additionally, Erskine Seminary has doubled the number of donors and grown gifts to the seminary by five (5) times more than received in the prior fiscal year. It was reported at the May Board meeting that for the third year in a row, the head count for students taking classes during the summer has grown. Erskine Seminary graduated forty students in 2015 across all of the degree programs.

As part of the second year of the Two-Year Financial Stability Plan, the seminary must enroll new students to the sum of \$100,000 in new tuition revenue, and raise \$187,385 in new giving to meet its budget for the 2015–2016 school year. Please pray and support your Semi-

nary.

Conclusion

Erskine's Board of Trustees continues to appreciate the support and encouragement from our denomination. We ask for continued prayers and support for the years ahead as we work diligently to grow Erskine College and Theological Seminary for the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cain, Chairman

Annual Tuition, Required Fees,
Room and Board (fall rates*)
2014-2015

	<u>BOARDING</u>	<u>COMMUTING</u>
TUITION	\$ 29,310	\$ 29,310
BOARD (all meal plans)	4,882	
ROOM **	5,223	
FEES ***	1,970	1,970
TOTAL (boarding)	\$ 41,385	
TOTAL (commuting)		\$ 31,280

New Students: In addition to the above fees***, new students will be assessed a \$300 enrollment fee to offset the costs of class registration and new student orientation.

Returning Students: In addition to the above fees***, returning students will be assessed a \$300 returning student fee, \$150 of which will offset the costs of class registration and \$150 will be credited toward the student's fall billing statement.

* The Board of Trustees approved a 4 percent (annual basis) mid-year tuition and fee increase effective for the spring 2015 semester.

** 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.

FINANCES

TUITION AND FEES FOR 2014-15

Admission Fees

Application for Admission.....	\$35
Application for Readmission.....	\$75
Enrollment Deposit.....	\$50

Master's Degree Fees

Tuition for Master's-Level Courses (per semester hour).....	\$440
Audit Fee (per course).....	\$200
Continuing Education Course (per course).....	\$200
Fee for PM 010 Professional Assessment.....	\$100
Academic Services Technology Fee (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring).....	\$75

Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry Degree Fees

Tuition for ThM and DMin Courses (per semester hour).....	\$455
Continuing Education Course (per course).....	\$200
Audit Fee (per course).....	\$200
ThM Research Methodologies Seminar Fee.....	\$200
DMin Prospectus Seminar Fee.....	\$200
Candidacy.....	\$500
Program or Thesis/Dissertation Continuation Fee (per semester or term).....	\$150
Extension of Time to Complete Degree (per year).....	\$1,500
Readmission Fee.....	\$200
Dissertation/Thesis Binding, Copyright, Electronic Storage (TREN).....	\$200
Dissertation/Thesis Binding per extra copy.....	\$25

Academic Service Fees

Late Registration.....	\$50
Change in Course Schedule (each change).....	\$10
Transcript (per copy).....	\$5
Application for Graduation.....	\$150
Graduation Reapplication Fee.....	\$25
Certificate Upgrade to Master's Level.....	\$150
CEU Documentation Fee (per course).....	\$15

Other Fees

Student ID Card Replacement.....	\$35
SBA Fee (each semester or term).....	\$5
Bible Challenge Exam.....	\$100

ERSKINE COLLEGE & SEMINARY

		COLLEGE	SEMINARY
REVENUE AND OTHER ADDITIONS			
Tuition, fees, room, and board		\$ 25,148,950	\$ 999,500
Less: scholarships and financial aid		\$ 13,625,000	\$ 225,000
Net tuition, fees, room, and board		\$ 11,523,950	\$ 774,500
Endowment income (5% draw on endowment funds and unrestricted investments)		\$ 1,631,683	\$ 383,046
Endowment income (supplemental draw)		\$ -	\$ -
Annual Fund *		\$ 1,253,250	\$ 346,750
Bookstore		\$ 377,000	\$ 3,000
Other income (MEDCOM, rental income, etc...)		\$ 245,000	\$ 258,000
Known other fundraising sources		\$ -	\$ 84,000
Other fundraising sources		\$ -	\$ 187,385
		\$ 15,030,883	\$ 2,036,681
EXPENSES AND OTHER DEDUCTIONS			
Salaries and benefits		\$ 6,673,089	\$ 1,334,123
Operating expenses - (instructional & institutional)		\$ 6,663,523	\$ 595,075
Bookstore		\$ 294,060	\$ 2,340
Debt service		\$ 1,107,699	\$ 2,000
175th anniversary		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ 14,738,371	\$ 1,933,538
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		\$ 292,512	\$ 103,143
ESTIMATED CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$ 292,512	\$ 103,143
Annual Fund goal includes the annual allocation from the General Synod of the ARP Church.			

Following announcements, Synod recessed for lunch with the blessing by Stephen Laughridge.

At 1:45 P.M. there were Joint Presentations for the ARPC and the RPCNA. The presentations included:

RPCNA (Geneva and Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary)
ARPC (Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary)

RPCNA (Board of Education)
ARPC (Christian Education Ministries)

RPCNA (RP Global)
ARPC (World Witness)

RPCNA Home Missions
ARPC Outreach North America

Delegates rotated to different presentations at 3:00 P.M. and 4:15 P.M.

The evening worship service was led by Andrew Shoger.

Jack Sawyer, representative of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, was reintroduced to complete his greetings to the Synod.

In regard to weighty matters being considered by the US Supreme Court, the Moderator called on the Synod to pray "...for those in authority over us." Chris Wisdom led the Synod in prayer.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board of the General Synod is the agency empowered to carry out the work of the General Synod in the interim period between meetings of Synod. It provides oversight for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Center Facility, Central Services, and the promotional work of the General Synod.

The board had two (2) meetings since the 2014 meeting of the General Synod. This report reflects its activities 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 submits this report.

At the October telephone conference, a motion carried that

we approve as an Executive Board the tentative schedule for the Concurrent Synods of the ARPC and RPCNA. Realizing the need for flexibility in this historic occasion, Central Services, in conjunction with the Moderator and Moderator-Elect, is given the responsibility and permis-

sion to alter the schedule as deemed necessary up until the deadlines for publication of Synod materials in 2015.

At the March 2015 meeting, the Executive Board held a discussion concerning the different questions in the *Form of Government (FOG)* with regard to Scripture. The Committee to Revise the *FOG* will study the matter and make recommendations as a part of its report.

The motion from October was reaffirmed with regard to the 2015 General Synod Concurrent Meeting with the RPCNA. Letters of information were approved to be sent with regard to this historic occasion.

A report from Synod's Archivist was received with appreciation expressed for Mrs. Brawley's continuing efforts.

The proposed budgets, Moderator's Theme, and Monthly Emphases were adopted for submission to Synod.

As a part of the promotional work of the General Synod, the Committee on Administration proposed an addition of \$2,500 for the *ARP Magazine* to facilitate a one-year distribution of the magazine to all ministers, associate ministers, and supply ministers. This will include both print and online magazines and the ARP News Update. The proposal carried.

The General Synod meeting in June 2012 ended, due to a lack of quorum, without the Court's attending to all the reports that had been submitted for its consideration. Shortly afterward, the Executive Board received a request from the Board of Benefits to consider amendments to the ARP Retirement Plan document and subsequently a related amendment to the *Form of Government*, Chapter X, E.12, bringing the two (2) documents into agreement with one another.

The Board of Benefits had expended considerable time and money to draft the Retirement Plan amendments in an effort to protect the financial viability of the Retirement Plan Trust, and after studying the matter, the Executive Board determined that it was of a sufficient emergency to warrant action by the Executive Board. The amendments prevented damage to the plan of retirement which has served us so well, and since the change was put into place, there have been no questions raised by anyone with regard to the action. However, the Executive Board inadvertently failed to send the change in the *Form of Government* to the presbyteries for ratification, which should have been the case. In August 2014, upon realizing the error, the Executive Board notified the presbyteries of the need for ratification in order to conform with the *Form of Government* regarding changes

to the *Standards*. As a result, recommendation number four of this report is submitted to the Synod for ratification.

SUPPLEMENT

In 2008, the Executive Board reported the following to General Synod at its 204th meeting:

The Executive Board acted to adopt the recommendations of its Center Facility Committee as follows:

The Center Facility Committee was authorized to sell the existing location, and upon the sale of the existing facility, the existing Center Facility Committee is commissioned to locate and purchase a new facility. The Committee will be responsible for all aspects of design and layout following the input of the directors of each agency.

General Synod voted to sustain the report. Soon after this action, the ARP Center was put up for sale and an attractive offer was made then subsequently withdrawn. Not long after this withdrawal, the US real estate market sank, and the Center Facility Committee decided to take the building off the market until the return of a more suitable real estate climate.

In the spring of 2014, the committee decided the time was right to try again to sell the property. After marketing the property and considering several offers, the committee recommended the acceptance of the offer from St. Paul's Anglican Church, which adjoins the ARP Center property. Upon recommendation of the Center Facility Committee and based on the previous authorization noted above, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Inc., the legal entity of the denomination, approved the sale. The St. Paul's congregation hopes to build a sanctuary on the site in the future.

The contract provides for St. Paul's to have a 90-day inspection period, and if all goes well during that time, for closing to occur between September 1 and September 30, 2015. The contract also allows the ARP Center to continue operations on the site under a lease-back agreement for a period of up to 12 months following the closing date.

The Center Facility Committee (Chip Smith, Chairman; Jimmy Matthews; Wade Huss; Welch Bostick; Bill Milling; Paul Bell, Adviso-

ry) is reviewing options for the ARP Center's next home. These options are: 1) to purchase property and build a new facility and 2) to purchase an existing building and retrofit it to accommodate needs of the Center. The final outcome will be determined by space needs, operational needs, and budget. Under either scenario, the Center will remain in the Greenville, SC area.

The committee looks forward to announcing to General Synod in 2016 the new address of the ARP Center. We thank God for providing for our denomination its home at One Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC since June of 1978 when it was given to the denomination by the Camp-Younts Foundation.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposed budgets for the ARP Center Facility, Central Services, the *ARP Magazine*, and the Executive Board be approved. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That the Moderator's proposed Theme and Monthly Emphasis for July 2015 – June 2016 [pg. 8] be endorsed for emphasis in the denomination's 2015-2016 Synod Theme. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That the revised schedule for the Annual Meeting of Synod 2015 be approved. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
4. That General Synod ratify action taken by the Executive Board in June 2012 to amend the ARP Retirement Plan document and related section of the *Form of Government* (Chapter X, E. 12. in former edition; Chapter 9.54 H. (6) in 2014 revision). **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Littlejohn, Moderator
Ronald Beard, Principal Clerk

CENTRAL SERVICES

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
Expenses	3.00%	3.00%
Total Salary and Benefits	\$ 450,989	\$ 464,072
Staff & Program		
Worker's Compensation	\$ 2,060	\$ 2,451
Director Travel & Expenses	1,500	1,500
Staff Travel & Expenses	500	700
Training	2,000	1,500
Organizational Dues	500	800
Total Staff & Program	\$ 6,560	\$ 6,951
Total Equipment	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,200
Agency Support		
Agency Support Revenue	\$ (18,000)	\$ (20,000)
Copier Lease	9,385	10,035
Postage Meter/Scales	3,000	3,300
Postage	8,500	10,000
UPS	1,800	1,000
Paper Purchases	500	500
Net Agency Support Expense	\$ 5,185	\$ 4,835
General Office		
Software Maintenance	\$ 5,112	\$ 6,000
Communication	3,616	3,800
Bank Fees-Net	0	3,700
Bank Fees Allocated	0	(3,700)
Cell Phone	840	1,008
Long Distance	50	-
ARP Synod Web Page	2,434	2,434
Office Supplies	10,000	8,500
Total General Office	\$ 22,052	\$ 21,742
Total Expenses	\$ 486,186	\$ 498,800
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -
Ending Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -

MINUTES OF SYNOD

CENTER FACILITY

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
General Synod Allocation	\$18,496	\$14,602
<u>Rent</u>		
CEM	13,354	12,646
Outreach North America	10,500	9,458
The ARP	3,339	3,372
Director of Gift Planning	2,757	2,784
World Witness	21,323	21,536
<u>Non-Synod Agencies</u>		
101-C	1,542	1,573
101-B	2,135	9,151
101-A	2,787	2,843
201	1,877	1,914
202	0	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$78,110	\$79,879
<u>Expenses</u>		
Facility Management		
Staff & General Office	\$1,500	\$1,600
Expendable Supplies	1,000	800
Repairs & Maintenance	7,000	7,000
Facility Management	\$9,500	\$9,400
<u>Facility Maintenance</u>		
Garbage Pick-Up	\$1,900	\$1,900
Yard Maintenance	7,400	7,700
Heating & Air Conditioning	8,000	9,000
Janitorial Services	13,500	13,000
Security Monitoring Fees	250	500
Pest Control	360	360
Facility Maintenance	\$31,410	\$32,460
<u>Utilities</u>		
Electricity	\$23,000	\$21,000
Gas	10,500	8,500
Water & Sewer	1,700	1,600
Utilities	\$35,200	\$31,100
<u>Building, Equipment & Furniture</u>		
Building, Equipment & Furniture	\$2,000	\$4,000
Contingency for office relocation		2,919
TOTAL Expenses	\$78,110	\$79,879
Net Income (Loss)	\$0	\$0
Beginning Fund Balance	\$20,495	\$30,242
Ending Fund Balance	\$20,495	\$30,242

EXECUTIVE BOARD

	2015 Synod Approve	2016 Propose
<u>Revenues</u>	<u>0.1%</u>	<u>1.6%</u>
General Synod Allocation	\$ 180,285	\$ 183,255
Minutes of Synod Sales Income	50	50
Plan Book Sales	500	100
General Synod Registration	22,400	22,400
Total Revenues	\$ 203,235	\$ 205,805
<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
<u>General Synod Meeting</u>		
Program & Preparation	11,580	10,080
Honorariums	3,000	3,000
Multi-Cultural Training	1,200	1,200
Staff Expenses	450	550
Synod Planning	300	100
Bonclarken Daily Use Fee	17,990	17,990
Bank Service Fee	0	700
Total General Synod Meeting	\$ 34,520	\$ 33,620
<u>Executive Board Meeting & Office</u>		
Board Travel & Meeting Expense	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,000
General Office & Miscellaneous	500	800
Executive Board-Legal	1,000	1,000
Committee to Oversee Campus Ministry	500	500
Total Executive Board	\$ 9,500	\$ 8,300
Total General Synod Contingency	\$ 26,500	\$ 26,500
<u>Promotion & Services</u>		
Total Insurance	\$ 6,960	\$ 9,420
Orientation Program	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Total Historical Concerns	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
New Mission Subscriptions-THE ARP	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
Total Promotion & Services	\$ 18,860	\$ 20,820

	2015 Synod Approve	2016 Propose
Total Minutes of Synod	\$ 8,400	\$ 9,000
Total Plan Book	\$ 1,000	\$ 250
Transfer to ECM from DM Allocation	\$ 89,780	\$ 92,640
Total Expenses	\$ 203,235	\$ 205,805
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 0	\$ 0
<u>Erskine Campus Ministry</u>		
<u>ECM Revenues</u>		
Total ECM Revenues	\$ 129,102	\$ 128,690
<u>ECM Expenses</u>		
ECM Salary & Benefits	\$ 89,780	\$ 92,640
Total ECM Other Expenses	39,322	36,050
Total Erskine Campus Ministry Expenses	\$ 129,102	\$ 128,690
Net Income (Loss)-ECM	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Balance-ECM	\$ 11,548	\$ 11,548
Ending Fund Balance-ECM	\$ 11,548	\$ 11,548
<u>Net Income (Loss) Summary</u>		
Executive Board Revenue	\$ 180,835	\$ 183,405
Executive Board Expenses	(168,715)	(172,185)
General Synod Meeting Net after Registration	(12,120)	(11,220)
Executive Board Net income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Erskine Campus Ministry-Summary</u>		
ECM-Revenue	129,102	128,690
ECM-Director Salary & Benefits	(89,780)	(92,640)
ECM-Director Expenses	(39,322)	(36,050)
Erskine Campus Ministry Net Income (Loss)	-	-
Total Net Income (Loss)	-	-

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
REVENUES	7.8%	2.1%
Denominational Ministries Alloc	\$ 78,375	\$ 79,986
Miscellaneous Gifts	700	600
WSU Contributions	3,000	3,000
ARP Subscription Income	33,000	32,200
Online Subscription Income	2,000	-
ARP Advertisement Income	7,000	7,000
Misc Income	120	120
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 124,195	\$ 122,906
EXPENSES		
Total Salary & Staff Benefits	\$ 84,285	\$ 85,446
STAFF & BOARD EXPENSES		
Editor Expenses	1,500	1,400
Staff Expenses	300	200
Dues & Membership Fees	200	400
Total Staff & Board Expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Publicity & Promotion	\$4,465	\$1,240
Total Equipment	\$500	\$500
Total Communications	\$1,406	\$1,406
MISCELLANEOUS		
Rent	3,339	3,372
Office Supplies & Misc	750	1,000
Bank Fees	100	130
Total Miscellaneous	\$4,189	\$4,502
PRODUCTION EXPENSES		1.7%
Preparation & Printing	15,400	17,112
Labels and Postage	6,000	5,000
P2P Subscription Software	1,800	1,800
Materials and Supplies	700	300
Photography Expenses	300	400
Design Services	3,150	3,200
Total Production Expenses	\$27,350	\$27,812
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$124,195	\$122,906
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$0	\$0
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$0
Ending Fund Balance	\$0	\$0

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

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

General Synod has given the Board of Stewardship “responsibility for working cooperatively with the congregations and agencies of General Synod to develop and administer programs and ministries to secure financial resources to meet the operating needs of the General Synod; to present to the General Synod a recommended allocation of those resources; and to receive, maintain, and administer funds given to the General Synod and/or the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Foundation, Inc., and to expend income for the furtherance of the work of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.” (*Manual of Authorities and Duties*)

The Board of Stewardship also serves as the board of directors of the ARP Foundation, the legal entity holding assets contributed to General Synod. Synod’s Investment Committee serves as Investment Advisor to the Foundation board.

Duties and responsibilities as delineated in the *Manual of Authorities and Duties (MAD)* are grouped in this report according to the impact of issues on the denomination rather than in numerical order as they are listed in the *MAD*.

Authorities and Duties

Duty 1. Promote the general ministries and programs of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

It is a particular blessing for the members of the Board of Stewardship to be able to promote and support our denomination’s ministries and programs. The more visible work of General Synod is carried out by its agencies (Bonclarken, Central Services, Christian Education Ministries, Erskine College & Theological Seminary, Outreach North America, and World Witness), yet the scope of the denomination’s work is even broader and includes the efforts of the:

- Committee on Worship
- Committee on Minister & His Work
- Committee on Investment
- Committee on Theological & Social Concerns
- Committee on Inter-Church Relations
- Committee on Campus Ministry Oversight

Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs
 Special Committee to Revise *Book of Discipline*
 Special Judiciary Committee
 Executive Board
 Board of Stewardship/ARP Foundation Board of Directors
 Board of Benefits

General Synod put these agencies, boards, and committees in place to meet specific needs of the ARP Church, both on the broader denominational level and in local congregations. Each one exists to *serve* the denomination. The Board of Stewardship reminds you, the members of the ARP Church, of the responsibility and privilege you have to become acquainted with the work of the church, avail yourselves of the services at your disposal, and become involved in these ministries.

The Board of Stewardship is responsible for the special Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings collected annually in our churches. These offerings provide financial support over and above that of the Denominational Ministry Fund and promote the work of ARP Church ministries. Therefore, the board would urge every minister and treasurer to be sure their congregations have the opportunity to participate in these collections. A brief profile of each ministry benefitting from the offerings is provided to every congregation for distribution to its members.

A summary of the giving to the special offerings for the past five (5) years is reported here. These figures reflect only monies received through the Treasurer of Synod and do not reflect gifts sent directly to agencies nor contributions to the Denominational Ministry Fund.

Easter Offering	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Stewardship/ Foundation	6,822	7,112	8,249	8,484	8,563
Bonclarken	7,744	8,465	11,400	10,198	12,064
CEM	7,681	7,661	8,906	8,054	9,548
Erskine College	7,672	8,316	10,300	9,012	11,218
World Witness	16,927	14,986	18,711	16,563	19,411
Sub Total	46,846	46,540	57,566	52,311	60,804

Thanksgiving Offering	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Erskine Seminary	5,358	6,300	5,411	6,483	7,175
American Bible Society	3,016	3,010	2,741	3,561	3,662
Outreach North Am.	6,516	6,636	5,714	7,700	8,196
Christmas Benev.	46,681	43,760	33,557	34,807	41,842
Sub-Total	61,571	59,706	47,443	52,551	60,875

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

The board was pleased in early 2015 to launch Financial Seminars for church and presbytery treasurers and other individuals involved with church financial operations. These seminars are the result of cooperative efforts of Central Services, the Board of Stewardship, the ARP Foundation, and Christian Education Ministries and have been held in Charlotte, NC; Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery; and Columbia, SC.

The seminar team is available to teach at other locations. If churches in your area are interested in receiving the training, please contact Judi Hodges in Christian Education Ministries.

Topics covered in the seminar include: the job description of a church treasurer, not-for-profit organization considerations, budgeting and financial reporting, healthy financial practices for church finances, payroll, gifts and charitable deductions, General Synod employee benefit programs, and "12 Simple Ways to Cultivate Generosity in your Church."

The board has also published *Guidelines for Church Finance*, a brochure of suggested internal controls to ensure shared responsibilities within the system of receiving and disbursing monies in the life of the congregation. These measures provide a measure of protection not only of the church's funds but also for those who handle the funds. The brochure is available from Central Services.

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

The Denominational Ministry Fund (DMF) remains the primary tool by which funds are secured for the work of General Synod. The Board of Stewardship stresses that this fund is *denominational* in nature; it impacts the work of every board, committee and agency, with the exception of the William H. Dunlap Orphanage Board of

Directors. The Board of Stewardship expresses its appreciation to every congregation contributing to the work of the ARP Church through the Denominational Ministry Fund.

As stated above, the ministries of the denomination exist to serve. In order for them to do so, financial resources are necessary, and as a connectional church, it is imperative that we join together to provide those resources. General Synod renewed its commitment to the Denominational Ministry Fund and its expectation that *all* churches participate when it passed the following recommendation in June 2013:

As approved by the General Synod in 1998, all ARP congregations are expected to participate in the work and ministry of the Church by giving at least 10% of their previous year's General Fund [undesignated] receipts to the Denominational Ministry Fund.

To meet the ministry needs of the denomination, and continue as a connectional Church, congregations are prayerfully encouraged to meet or exceed this expectation.

Despite a strong beginning for the Denominational Ministry Fund in 2014, the total received by year end was \$25,000 under what had been expected based on church reports. Because some of our boards and committees had lower expenses than anticipated by \$29,000, we were able to avoid cuts to agencies.

As of the writing of this report, 165 of our 278 congregations have pledged to the DMF for the coming year. (Please refer to the statistical table at the end of this report.) Of the remaining 113 congregations, 56 have submitted reports but have declined to pledge, and 57 have not yet submitted reports. At this point, it appears that we will see another decrease in contributions in 2016.

The board reminds our churches that the cost of running the boards, benefits, and basic administration of the denomination is 4.26% of General Fund Receipts or \$95.57/member. This is something all churches benefit from, and the figure does not include the cost of the agencies and ministries of the denomination. While the board recognizes that many of our congregations experience financial difficulties, it seems improbable that a given congregation has absolutely nothing to contribute to the Denominational Ministry Fund. The issue may be

more a matter of *choosing* not to give that perhaps stems from placing little value on the ministries of the denomination.

The Board of Stewardship must point out to you that giving to denominational ministries has been in decline since 2007. There is no indication that the trend has, or will, reverse in the near future. Our agencies have been adjusting to the declines on a yearly basis, but the board believes a more proactive approach is necessary. We are recommending, then, that agencies consider the impact a 10% cut in Denominational Ministry Funding will have on their ministries in 2016 and report back to the Board of Stewardship on the matter by the end of this year. This is being done to understand what actions may be required in order to adjust to the lower funding being provided by General Synod. We appeal to General Synod to consider the real risks of losing ministries and respond accordingly in prayer and giving.

In recent years, a small number of congregations have indicated that they wish to designate the recipients of their Denominational Ministry gifts. When a church wishes to contribute directly to any ministry, it may certainly do so. Such gifts cannot be recorded as Denominational Ministry Funding, however. The Board of Stewardship is grateful for each of these gifts and asks those churches to consider expanding the scope of their interest to include all our denomination's ministries.

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

Members of the Board of Stewardship are available to speak to presbyteries and congregations regarding the Denominational Ministry Fund and the work of Synod's agencies. These presentations indicate where your Denominational Ministry dollars are used and the impact and scope of the ARP Church's ministries. To schedule a presentation for your church or presbytery, please contact Central Services.

Through the ARP Bookstore, the Board of Stewardship makes available *In Touch with Paul*, a 13-week program of study suitable for Sunday School and fellowship groups, and brochures entitled "Who Do You Serve? Five Principles of Biblical Stewardship" and "Why Tithe?"

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

The recommended allocations of Denominational Ministry funds are presented separately as "Allocations for Synod's Unrestricted Income" and will be considered at the first business session during the General Synod meeting.

Duty 6. prepare and maintain denominational budget preparation guidelines.

Synod's Director of Finance works with all boards, agencies, and committees as needed in the preparation of budgets.

Duty 7. receive and maintain a fund or funds of real and personal property and to use, make donations of, and apply the whole or any part of the income therefrom and the principal exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific and educational purposes and for no other purpose;

Duty 8. initiate and carry out programs in support of the religious, charitable, missionary, and educational programs of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, or its successor;

Duty 9. solicit and accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, purchase or otherwise and to hold for investment or reinvestment and to sell, donate, lend or otherwise dispose of money, real estate, personal property, stocks, bonds, or other securities or any other kind of property;

Duties 7, 8, and 9 pertain to the functions of the ARP Foundation.

A number of avenues exist for giving through the ARP Foundation, including wills/bequests, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Donor Advised Funds, Church Advised Funds, gifts of real property, and special endowments.

Under the leadership of Mr. Steve Nichols, Director of Gift Planning, the ARP Foundation continues to grow. Synod's Investment Committee recently increased its investment options, opening up new opportunities for groups and individuals to establish funds with charitable purposes. (See the report of the Investment Committee for related information.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) To select the audit firm to recommend for use by all agencies (2006)

Under the oversight of the Executive Board of Synod, the Office of Central Services serves as an accounting and finance resource for all agencies of the denomination, particularly Synod's committees, the Board of Benefits, William H. Dunlap Board of Directors, Board of Stewardship, *The ARP*, Christian Education Ministries, and Outreach North America. Procedures are in place for expenditures of funds. All requests for expenditures must be approved by the agency director. Either the Treasurer of Synod or the Executive Director of Central Services approves checks before payments are issued. Restricted and designated fund descriptions are maintained, and the Executive Director of Central Services is responsible for ensuring that funds are made available for expenditures in accordance with governing documents.

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

The finance committee of the board serves as Synod's Audit Committee and is authorized 1) to receive and review audit reports for all entities audited, and 2) to select the audit firm to recommend

for use by all agencies. The Audit Committee sees no need at present to change the audit relationships established by Bonclarken, Erskine, and World Witness. Each of these agencies is expected to submit a copy of its audit to General Synod with its official report to Synod. These audits and any management letter and other related information should be submitted for review by the Finance Committee.

The funds of General Synod and funds administered on behalf of its agencies are audited annually by a firm selected by the Board. The board receives and reviews the audit and makes it available online at www.arpchurch.org. The board has engaged the independent auditing firm Scott & Company, Columbia, SC for the December 31, 2014 audit which includes the books of the Treasurer of Synod, the ARP Foundation's custodial funds, the ARP Foundation's gift annuity funds, and Outreach North America's revolving loan fund.

Administrative Information

Officers for July 1, 2015– June 30, 2016:

Jim McLurkin, Chairman

P.J. McClung, Vice Chairman

Paul Matthews, Secretary

Paul Bell, Administrative Officer

Upcoming meetings: September 24, 2015 at the ARP Center. Tentatively April 24 – 25, 2016 at Bonclarken Conference Center.

Statistical Data, Denominational Ministry Fund
April 2015

Category	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Churches meeting goal of 20%	2	2	1	5	6
Churches giving 10% - 19%	28	30	37	32	33
Giving percentage not determined	57	77	0	2	3
Remaining at same percentage	113	113	184	175	166
Increased percentage level	79	73	74	71	87
Increased by at least 1%	57	50	48	45	45
Decreased percentage level	104	124	101	106	122
Decreased giving but at 10% or above	39	17	19	19	15
Submitted a report but did not pledge support	56	41		65	27
Churches who have not submitted reports as of April 25, 2015	57	77	33	39	103

The figures for 2015, as compared to the previous year, are based on information recorded in Statistical Reports from individual congregations. Total churches = 278.

Recommendations:

1. That General Synod pause for prayer, thanking God for His provision for our denomination and asking that all current and future ministry needs be met. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That the proposed 2016 budget for the Board of Stewardship be approved. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That the Easter and Thanksgiving offerings be continued for Fall

2015 and Spring 2016. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

4. That to provide a greater understanding of the continued decline in denominational funding, agencies evaluate and report to the Board of Stewardship by the end of 2015 the impact of a 10% reduction in 2016 allocations. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

James McLurkin, Chairman

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

5. That the Board of Stewardship contact all congregations that do not contribute to the Denominational Ministry Fund; and inquire why they do not participate; and report these findings to the 2016 Synod. **Synod ADOPTED.**
6. That General Synod instruct the Board of Stewardship to consider including a supplemental report on congregational giving to Synod agencies and causes outside of the Denominational Ministry Fund and report their decision to the 2016 Synod. **Synod ADOPTED.**

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
Revenue		
General Synod Allocation-Stewardship	\$ 9,623	\$ 15,180
Additional Allocation over Budget	3,107	
General Synod Allocation-Foundation	87,321	87,017
Special Offering	8,500	7,000
Transfers for Ministry	27,679	29,983
Endowment Transfers for Dir of GP	27,679	29,983
Total Revenue	\$ 163,909	\$ 169,163

Expenses		
Total Director of Gift Planning Expenses	\$ 115,000	\$ 117,000
Board Travel & Expenses	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Administrative Support	5,000	5,000
Promotional	2,130	2,400
General Synod Audit & Legal	7,600	7,980
Ministry Contribution to DM Fund	27,679	29,983
General Office	\$ 500.00	\$ 800.00
Special Committee to Revise FOG		
Total Expenses	\$ 163,909	\$ 169,163
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -
Beginning Fund Reserve	\$ 0	\$ -
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 0	\$ -

The Moderator led in prayer.

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

BOARD OF BENEFITS

The Board of Benefits is responsible for providing: 1) opportunities for security to the individuals and families it serves in the areas of benevolence, insurance, and retirement, and 2) assistance to ministers and churches in the areas of compensation planning and tax reporting (Synod, 1995). The board is comprised of, and seeks, members who have experience in the areas of employee benefits. The Synod-appointed members of the board are assisted in their work by advisory (non-voting) members representing those who are covered by our benefit programs—chairmen of presbytery committees/commissions on Minister and His Work, and human resources directors from Erskine College, Bonclarken, and World Witness.

The board meets twice annually, and its standing and ad hoc committees meet as frequently as necessary to deal with matters assigned to them.

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

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

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

Synod's ministry of benevolence to our retired ministers and widows of retired ministers is one that means a great deal to its beneficiaries. The program's purpose is to provide financial support to retired ARP ministers, their widows, retired ARP agency employees, and to families of ARP ministers who died while serving a pastorate. The Christmas Benevolent Fund is the instrument for this ministry.

Funding for benevolence is provided through contributions from Associate Reformed Presbyterians to the annual Thanksgiving Offering, income from the J. C. Lott Endowment, interest on the Benevolent Fund Endowment, the Helen W. Carson Fund, and special gifts. *The Christmas Benevolent Fund is generated entirely through gifts; no money for benevolence is received through allocations from the Denominational Ministry Fund.* No money is retained for administrative purposes so that 100% of the money collected is distributed annually to qualified recipients in the following order of priority:

(1) Widows of ARP ministers who had been receiving financial assistance through the Widow Benefit Fund which was exhausted in 2000. The Helen W. Carson Fund is used to provide financial support for widows of ministers of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church with dependent, unmarried children who are full-time students between the ages of 16 and 25. If funds are not needed for this purpose, a portion equal to the Consumer Price Index is added to the Carson Fund corpus, and the balance of the unused income is allocated for widows in the Widow Benefit Program as long as funds are needed for that purpose.

(2) Retired ARP pastors and World Witness missionaries or their surviving spouses, and retired agency employees (with Board approval) who demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Need is defined as the difference between total family income and 200% of the Government Subsistence Level. A maximum monthly benefit of \$500 is available. Information regarding qualifications is mailed to retirees each year.

(3) Retired ARP pastors and World Witness missionaries or their surviving spouses, and retired agency employees (with Board approval) who are receiving retirement benefits but who do not demonstrate

financial need. After fulfilling the two preceding obligations, the Board of Benefits equally distributes any remaining funds as Christmas gifts to these individuals.

2014 Christmas distributions and 2015 ongoing support are summarized below:

Widows Benevolent Fund	\$12,000 (2 recipients)
Need-based ongoing assistance	14,400 (2 recipients)
Christmas gifts	18,300 (100 recipients)
Total Distributed	\$44,700

(Rounded to the nearest \$100)

The Christmas Benevolent offering in 2014 increased by a little over \$3000 from the previous year. The Board of Benefits would like to thank all who contributed to the fund and asks that you continue to support it generously. Although distributions are not large, recipients are grateful not only for your tangible support but also for your remembrance of their service to the denomination. The board receives numerous notes of thanks for these gifts, and because they are addressed to the denomination, the notes will be available at the Board of Benefits table in the mezzanine of the Youth Activities Building during the meeting of Synod. Please take a moment to see how your gifts are impacting lives.

Insurance

Medical Plan

General Synod's medical insurance is a self-funded plan that compares to "platinum" plans on the federal insurance exchanges. Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina serves as Third Party Administrator.

The plan has been granted "Grandfathered" status under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for an indefinite period by virtue of its being a church-sponsored plan. As such, the plan is currently protected from some of the more costly effects of the ACA as well as from the requirement that coverage be provided for abortions as a form of birth control and abortifacient drugs.

A number of other provisions of the ACA do apply to our plan, however, and two recently enacted regulations have a significant impact on our churches in the United States and our agencies. Under these provisions, employers must now file forms (1094 and 1095) detailing the availability and affordability of Synod's medical coverage to

all eligible employees. Filing of these forms becomes effective in February 2016. In addition—with one very restrictive exception—after June 30, 2015, employers may no longer pay any portion of insurance premiums for employees who are enrolled in private insurance plans or who enrolled under a spouse's group plan. To comply with the provision regarding reimbursement of premiums, a number of churches have had to amend Calls to their ministers. (Note: The exception applies to Health Reimbursement Accounts for coverage of premiums for a spouse's group plan, but eligibility for such an account is very difficult to achieve. Central Services informed our churches and agencies of rules regarding Health Reimbursement Accounts in an email communication on April 29, 2015.)

Central Services is working closely with Synod's benefit consultant, Corporate Benefits, to monitor ACA regulations and to keep churches and agencies informed of regulations and their application. ACA policies are often multi-layered. That layering coupled with the nuances of the relationship between General Synod and its churches often complicates the application of ACA policies. If your church or agency has questions about ACA regulations, please contact Central Services rather than attempting to "go it alone."

The Affordable Care Act also mandates that employers with group insurance plans offer an annual Open Enrollment to all eligible employees. For the past several years, the Board of Benefits made provisions for churches that chose not to offer our coverage to their staff members. This mandate regarding annual Open Enrollment, however, renders that provision null and void. *Employees* may waive the coverage, but churches and agencies must offer the opportunity to enroll.

The Board of Benefits readily acknowledges that insurance coverage purchased privately or through federal exchanges may provide lower initial premiums than Synod's plan. The board strongly advises any individuals seeking alternative coverage to consider carefully such items as deductibles, covered services, and provider networks before opting out of Synod's plan. Consultants at Corporate Benefits are available to analyze and compare plans to assist in the decision-making process.

In its effort to contain the cost of premiums, the board authorizes Corporate Benefits, Inc. to review our plan on an ongoing basis, recommend plan design changes, identify reputable firms as potential coverage providers, and seek competitive bids at least annually. Typically, Corporate Benefits seeks bids from three (3) to four (4) firms.

The group insurance benefit is available to the following full-time (30 hours/week) employees: ministers serving under the terms of a Call; employees of local churches, General Synod agencies; qualified retired employees; and ARP seminary students, under the care of a presbytery and enrolled in an accredited seminary. The table below summarizes coverage by employee classification.

Coverage & Eligibility	Med	Dental	Life	AD& D	LTD	Medical Assistance Abroad (4)
ARP Minister Serving Under a Call	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-ordained Employees Of Churches	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Employees of General Synod Agencies (1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Qualified Retired Employees (2)	Yes	Yes				Yes
ARP Seminary Students (3)	Yes	Yes				Yes

- (1) World Witness missionaries stationed outside the United States have a separate medical and dental benefit program. Erskine employees have a separate Long Term Disability Program.
- (2) Eligibility requirements vary. For further information, participants should contact the Benefits Assistant in the Office of Central Services.
- (3) ARP Seminary students will have a second eligibility period at the time they qualify as an employee.
- (4) Medical Assistance Abroad coverage is available for individuals who are traveling outside the United States on church, Synod agency, or presbytery business (Ex. church-sponsored mission

trips, Erskine faculty teaching abroad, World Witness business, etc.). This coverage, available to all employees and dependents enrolled in the medical plan, assists the covered individual in locating appropriate care, guarantees payment to the foreign facility, and provides repatriation to the States.

Employees should contact the Benefits Assistant in Central Services for specific eligibility and enrollment policies. Please note that **all eligible employees must be given the opportunity to enroll in the insurance program**, and it is critically important for employees to be enrolled in benefit programs in a timely manner. Medical and dental insurance coverage is conditional on the employee enrolling within the first 31 days of eligibility. The Office of Central Services needs to be notified as soon as a new, full-time employee is hired. **Late enrollment is not permitted under the plan and will result in denial of benefits.**

As of March 31, 2015, insurance claims are running a bit below projected levels. The board is awaiting renewal rates and anticipates announcing those rates at the meeting of General Synod or soon thereafter.

Participants in the plan can help to control costs by:

- taking advantage of the wellness benefit for annual physicals (paid at 100% in network)
- proactively addressing health issues identified by their health care professionals
- monitoring claims to ensure that charges are justified and accurate
- asking physicians to explain the rationale for recommended tests
- utilizing the Ask-a-Nurse hotline provided through the plan
- utilizing nurse consultants at pharmacies
- purchasing medications through mail order services
- scheduling colonoscopies and mammograms at free-standing imaging centers rather than at hospital radiology departments, if such procedures are outside the annual physical examination
- utilizing Eye Med Vision Care coverage for annual eye exams

Dental Plan

Synod's dental program is a self-insured plan with Meritain serving as the Third Party Administrator for claim payment.

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

These programs are fully insured and **mandatory for all full-time employees** (30 hours or more per week) even if the employee waives coverage under the medical and/or dental plans. The premium for Life, LTD, and AD&D is borne by the employer and is not the responsibility of the employee.

HIPAA Privacy

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

Retirement

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan (Plan) is a qualified, non-contributory, defined benefit plan. The Retirement Committee of the Board of Benefits serves as Administrator of the plan.

An eligible employee is defined by the Plan document as one whose regularly scheduled service is at least 20 hours per week and who is: an ordained pastor serving a congregation of the Church within the geographical boundaries of the United States, pursuant to the terms of a Call; a career missionary appointed by World Witness; or an employee of a Presbytery or Synod agency in a supervisory capacity. (Note: Because Erskine has a separate plan, its employees are not included in the ARP Retirement Plan.)

Effective January 1, 2004, employees serving in a pastoral ministry outside the United States are not eligible for enrollment in the plan. Those persons serving outside the United States who were enrolled in the plan prior to January 1, 2004 and have not been terminated from it, continue to accrue Service for vesting purposes. Calls to ministers serving in the pastoral ministry outside the United States (e.g. Canada) must provide for contributions to a locally-accredited and registered retirement plan approved by the presbytery extending the Call.

Eligible employees are required to complete an enrollment form for entry into the plan. **Any eligible employees who have not yet enrolled in the plan should contact the Office of Central Services.** If an eligible employee fails to enroll:

- he/she does not accrue credit for Service and Earnings, and
- in the event of death, the surviving spouse would not receive the lump-sum death benefit nor the survivor income benefit.

(Survivor benefit is equal to 20% of monthly Earnings to a maximum of \$1200/month. While there is a dependent child or children in the home, an additional benefit of up to \$600 is available.)

The Board reminds churches and presbyteries within the United States that the *Form of Government* requires a Call to have provisions for the church to make contributions to the General Synod in support of the ARP Retirement Plan.

Copies of the ARP Retirement Plan Document are available online under the Central Services tab at www.arpchurch.org.

At its meeting in June 2013, General Synod approved amendments to the ARP Retirement Plan to address the unfunded liability of the retirement plan trust. Those changes and favorable investment returns have placed the Retirement Plan Trust in a stronger position than it was in 2013. For this, the Board of Benefits is very grateful.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Actuarial Value of Assets	43,302,000	45,107,000	46,274,000	49,808,000
Actual Liability	48,364,000	53,213,000	52,594,000	54,632,000
Unfunded Actuarial Liability	(5,062,000)	(8,106,000)	(6,320,000)	(4,824,000)
% Funded	89.53%	84.77%	87.98%	91.17%

During the economic downturn of the last decade, defined benefit plans became too costly for many companies to maintain, and defined contribution plans (403b and 401k) gained popularity. The Board of Benefits has considered the wisdom and feasibility of terminating our defined benefit plan and replacing it with a defined contribution plan.

Consultants to the board and experienced independent sources who work with both types of plans in the corporate realm have consistently confirmed that defined benefit plans—over time—produce greater returns than defined contribution plans. Defined benefit plans pool the contributions made on behalf of participants, and they

have access to investment managers that are not typically available to small investors. As a result, defined benefit investment returns historically outperform those of defined contributions. Defined benefit programs also provide an income stream for the lifetime of the participant and his/her surviving spouse. Therefore, the board believes it is in the best interest of our Plan participants to continue our defined benefit plan.

The Board of Benefits continues to monitor the health of the Retirement Plan Trust through its actuary, annual valuations, and changes in the parameters of the valuation (mortality tables and asset determination methods). The board works closely with Synod's Investment Committee on matters related to portfolio performance and expected rates of return on investments. The ARP Retirement Plan Trust is managed by General Synod's Investment Committee with advisement by Deutsche Bank Alex. Brown. (Please refer to the Investment Committee report, Index 26, for further details about the work of this committee.)

Participants are reminded that the Retirement Plan is intended to replace a significant portion of pre-retirement income, but like other plans, it is not intended to provide 100% replacement. The board encourages participants to save and invest prudently to supplement their retirement benefit.

As has been stated for a number of years in this board's reports to General Synod, our ARP benefit programs are structured to anticipate the benefits provided by Social Security. The combination of the ARP Retirement Plan benefit and the Social Security benefit typically provides a comfortable income stream for persons who have spent their careers in service to the ARP Church.

A copy of the ARP Retirement Plan valuation may be requested from Central Services.

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

On behalf of the board, the Office of Central Services assists persons who are preparing for retirement by maintaining records of Service and Earnings; providing retirement plan income projections for planning purposes; and at the time of retirement, providing calculations of actual retirement plan payments.

Ministers Opting Out of Social Security

General Synod has taken the position that there is nothing in the Standards of the Church that would support the "religious principles

test.” Denominational benefit programs are structured to anticipate the benefits provided by Social Security. If a minister opts out of Social Security as provided for in Section 1402(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, he should have a strategy to replace lost benefits so as not to create an undue hardship on his family.

The minister must file an exemption application (Form 4361) certifying that he is “conscientiously opposed to, or because of my religious principles I am opposed to, the acceptance (for services I performed as a minister...) of any public insurance that makes payments in the event of death, disability, old age, or retirement, or that makes payments toward the cost of, or provides services for, medical care.”¹ Pastors planning to file for exemption should note that their **objection must be based upon religious conscientious objection**, not on a desire to do their own personal investing of funds that would otherwise be paid to Social Security. The deadline for filing the exemption is the due date of the federal tax return for the second year in which a minister has net earnings as a minister of \$400 or more.

A minister who plans to file for exemption must inform “the ordaining...body of the church...that he is opposed”² prior to the time the exemption is filed. The apparent rationale for this requirement is to offer the ordaining body and the denomination the opportunity to counsel applicants regarding the implications of such a decision. In the ARP Church, ministers planning to opt out of Social Security must notify the ordaining presbytery.

IRS rules regarding opting out of Social Security are stringent, and infractions can result in significant retroactive financial penalties to the pastor. The Board, therefore, urges pastors to exercise great care in following all the steps required in filing for this exemption. Applicants for exemption should be aware that the exemption is not official and should not be claimed until the IRS has confirmed it in a written response to the individual’s application. Bi-vocational pastors especially need to be aware that the exemption applies only to monies received in exchange for *ministerial* services; monies earned through non-ministerial employment are subject to Social Security laws.

Post-Retirement Medical Coverage

General Synod’s medical and dental coverage terminates at retirement for those who have reached the age of Medicare eligibility. Persons retiring prior to attaining Medicare eligibility may continue coverage under certain conditions as outlined in the Plan Document. Ministers who opt out of Social Security and who did not qualify for

benefits before opting out must pay a premium to participate in Medicare. Employees should make post-retirement coverage plans well before retirement.

Duty 8. To assist ministers and churches in the areas of compensation and tax planning/reporting by providing: (a) on an annual basis, a tax guide; (b) on a periodic basis, a request form for Social Security estimates of earnings and benefits.

The board annually provides information to churches for budgeting and financial planning. The Office of Central Services now provides churches with detailed invoices for insurance premiums and Retirement Plan contributions. Central Services is working to develop a suitable tax guide.

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

Insurance

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

The following chart shows insurance premiums collected, fees disbursed, and the claim reserve balance for the past three (3) years.

	2012	2013	2014
Total insurance premiums collected*	\$4,356,267	\$4,171,667	\$4,351,275
Fees paid to Medical/Dental providers	639,643	619,265	618,718
Paid Medical and Dental Claims	3,639,002	3,870,845	3,217,291
Administrative Costs **	68,945	71,862	73,427
Balance of claim reserve	\$2,168,027	\$1,969,420	\$2,417,635

*Includes medical, dental, long-term disability, and accidental

death and dismemberment.

****General Office plus insurance portion of Central Services budget.**

Retirement

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

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

The Retirement Committee and Synod's Investment Committee have in place a Memorandum of Understanding delineating the duties of each committee with respect to investment of retirement funds and administration of the program.

As stated previously, General Synod funds the Plan Trust primarily from contributions made by churches and agencies of the Synod. Regulations governing qualified plans limit the amount of Earnings that can be recognized for Highly Compensated Employees, subject to annual adjustment by the Internal Revenue Service.

Financial Review

The independent certified public accounting firm Scott & Company, Columbia, SC, has been engaged with the approval of the Board of Benefits and the Board of Stewardship to conduct a formal audit of the financial activities of the board. The auditor's report for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Retirement Plan is available for review at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC. All financial activities of the Board of Benefits are included in the General Synod audit.

Administrative

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

The proposed 2016 Operating Budget for the board is attached.

Duty 6. To make an Annual Report.

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

The board has appointed the Executive Director of Central Services as its administrative officer.

Miscellaneous

Officers for 2015 – 2016

Chairman: John (Jack) Hill

Vice-Chairman: Earl Linderman

Secretary: Lissa Shine

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

Administrative Officer: Paul Bell

Footnotes:

¹ Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders and Christian Science Practitioners, form 4361 (Rev. 1-2011), www.irs.gov.

² Ibid.

Recommendations:

1. That Synod pause to thank God for His making it possible for our denomination to offer both insurance and a retirement benefits to its employees, particularly in today's economy. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That the Christmas Benevolent Fund Offering continue and that it be taken during the Thanksgiving Season and that all churches provide an opportunity for members to make contributions for this ministry. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That pastors and clerks be encouraged to be attentive to the special needs of retired Synod employees and widows of former employees and ARP pastors and seek to assist the Board of Benefits in its ministry to these faithful servants. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
4. That presbyteries direct all congregations to enroll and pay premiums for all employees eligible to participate in the life, dependent life (if applicable), accidental death and dismemberment, and long term disability plans. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
5. That presbyteries direct all congregations (except Canadian Presbytery) to offer General Synod medical and dental insurance coverage to all eligible employees in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
6. That Synod direct all agencies to offer General Synod medical and dental insurance coverage to all eligible employees in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. **The Moderator's Committee re-**

commended approval. Synod ADOPTED.

7. That the proposed budget for 2016 be approved. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**
8. That all other actions of the Board of Benefits as reported herein be affirmed. **The Moderator's Committee recommended approval. Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

John (Jack) Hill, Chairman

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

9. That the General Synod express appreciation to Central Services and the Board of Benefits for their diligent efforts. **Synod ADOPTED.**

BOARD OF BENEFITS

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
<u>Revenues</u>		
General Synod Allocation	6,500	6,500
<u>Designated Estimates for Benevolence</u>		
Benevolent Fund Special Offering	35,000	35,000
J. C. Lott Trust	3,700	3,700
Total Benevolent	38,700	38,700
<u>Group Insurance Resources</u>		
Group Insurance Premiums	5,067,166	4,390,166
Group Insurance Interest	25	25
Interest on Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	40,000	40,000
Total Group Insurance	5,107,191	4,430,191
<u>Retirement Plan Resources</u>		
Ola B. Hunter Trust for Retirement	4,100	3,800
ARP Retirement Plan	1,683,000	1,592,000
Total Retirement Plan	1,687,100	1,595,800
Total Revenues	\$ 6,839,491	\$ 6,071,191

	2015 Synod Approved	2016 Proposed
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Board and General</u>		
Board Travel & Meeting	5,000	5,000
Office and Miscellaneous	1,500	1,500
Total Board and General	6,500	6,500
<u>Benevolence</u>		
Benevolence	38,700	38,700
<u>Group Insurance</u>		
Group Insurance Premiums, Claims, Reserv	5,009,000	4,332,000
Group Insurance Administrative Support	83,191	83,191
Fees-A&R Claim Reserve-ACI Fund	15,000	15,000
Total Group Insurance	5,107,191	4,430,191
<u>ARP Retirement Plan</u>		
Audit	5,200	8,000
Actuarial Fees	20,000	18,000
Legal	3,000	5,000
Administrative Support	83,191	83,191
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,200	1,300
Transfer to Trustee	1,573,509	1,480,309
Total ARP Retirement Plan	1,687,100	1,595,800
Total Expenses	\$ 6,839,491	\$ 6,071,191
Net Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -

The Moderator led Synod in prayer.

A **motion carried** to take up the Moderator's Committee on Memorials at this juncture.

The **Report on Memorials** was presented.

MEMORIALS

CATAWBA PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL #1

WHEREAS, *The Form of Government* in 5.11 states:

5.11 The congregational treasurer, who is entrusted with the regular offerings of the congregation, shall be responsible to the oversight of the Diaconate. A monthly financial report of the congregational treasurer shall be included in the minutes of the diaconate. An

outside entity, someone not directly connected to the congregation, shall conduct a financial review to ensure full accuracy and disclosure of church finances. Such a review shall be paid out of the church's funds, made part of the Sessional record, and made available to any member who wishes to view it. Such a review shall be conducted no less frequently than every third year.

AND WHEREAS, The wording of the above provisions makes mandatory a costly full review of the treasurer's books while the aim is to assure the accuracy of the funds available.

THEREFORE Catawba Presbytery memorializes General Synod to amend *The Form of Government* 5.11 to read as follows:

5.11 The congregational treasurer, who is entrusted with the regular offerings of the congregation, shall be responsible to the oversight of the Diaconate. A monthly financial report of the congregational treasurer shall be included in the minutes of the diaconate. An outside entity, someone not directly connected to the congregation, shall provide outside oversight of the church finances to ensure full accuracy and disclosure. Any costs related to that oversight shall be paid out of the church's funds, made part of the Sessional record, and made available to any member who wishes to view it. Such an oversight shall be conducted no less frequently than every third year.

CATAWBA PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL #2

Catawba Presbytery does hereby memorialize the General Synod that in in the new *Form of Government* section 12.10 following the first sentence, delete the present wording and substitute for it, "The meeting shall be initiated in the following manner: At the official request of a majority of the Presbyteries the Moderator, or in his failure to act, the Principal Clerk, shall issue an announcement for the called meeting. The Moderator or Principal Clerk may call a meeting of the General Synod with the official concurrence of a majority of the Presbyteries."

CATAWBA PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL #3

Catawba Presbytery does hereby memorialize the General Synod that in the new *Form of Government* section 14.4, delete the word, "decision."

FIRST PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL

That the General Synod of the ARP Church be memorialized to

remove the country of Scotland from within the bounds of First Presbytery.

VIRGINIA PRESBYTERY MEMORIAL

Whereas, the General Synod in adopting the revised *Form of Government* changed the previous practice of having Active and Inactive Rolls, and thus changed the quorum requirements for Congregational Business meetings;

And whereas, these changes have caused confusion and difficulties for our Sessions and congregations in regard to the pastoral care of members and families;

And whereas these changes have also caused difficulties in regard to the establishment of a quorum for congregational business meetings;

And whereas, the Special Committee to Revise the *Form of Government* provided "Guidelines" that state: "*It has been brought to our attention that there is some uncertainty about the method of reporting church rolls according to the Form of Government. The only change that has taken place is that we no longer report an "inactive" number. Churches have rolls for total membership, non-communicant membership, and perhaps associate membership. Sessions of local congregations are allowed to develop their own procedures for internally handling their various membership status. It is advised that whatever procedure is adopted, the elders are to be sensitive to the historical connections families have with their local ARP church (4.16);*

And whereas a clear, Biblical definition of "church roll" has not been established; and Biblical, theological and practical reasons for a person to be "removed" from the church roll have not been provided, and whereas at no point in the present *Form of Government* is the Session clearly given the power to remove a person from the church roll, nor is a procedure established for such removal (unless by judicial process in the *Book of Discipline*);

And whereas, the number on the present Communicant Roll is often now much larger than the number on the previous Active Roll and whereas this larger number increases the quorum requirement for a congregational meeting to a much higher number, thus making it more difficult for a congregation to conduct its routine business;

And whereas, both the present and previous *Forms of Government* made clear that practicality is a valid element in determining a quorum number as seen in the practice of allowing larger congregations to operate with a smaller quorum number of ten percent (10%);

The Virginia Presbytery, THEREFORE, memorializes the General Synod:

1. To amend the *Form of Government* 4.15 by the addition of:

4.15 D. The annual review of the roll shall include a determination by the Session of the number necessary for a quorum for a congregational business meeting. The quorum number shall be one fourth of the membership that the Session determines to be capable of and eligible to participate in such meetings; or for a congregation of more than one thousand members, the number shall be one-tenth of such members but not less than two hundred fifty. This quorum number shall be reported to the Presbytery in the annual report to Presbytery.

2. To amend the *Form of Government* 6.8 by the addition of a new "G." with the subsequent re-lettering of items that follow:

6.8.G. To remove from the roll without censure persons who the Session determines to no longer be a part of the life of the congregation. No person shall be removed from the roll until the Session has sought diligently to enquire into the status of such persons, has sought to restore them to active involvement in the life of the congregation, and has considered if disciplinary action is appropriate.

3. To Amend the *Form of Government* 4.15 by the addition of "E."

4.15.E Sessions of local congregations are allowed to develop their own procedure for internally handling their various membership needs.

4. To amend the *Form of Government* 4.16 to read:

4.16 No person shall be removed from the roll until the Session has sought diligently to inquire into the status of such persons, has sought to restore them to active involvement in the life of the congregation, and has considered if disciplinary action is appropriate.

5. To amend the *Form of Government* 3.25.E to read:

3.25.E No business shall be conducted without a quorum. The quorum number shall be one-fourth of the membership that the Session determines in the annual review of the roll to be capable of and eligible to participate in such meetings; or for a congregation of more than one thousand members, the number shall be one-tenth of such members but not less than two hundred fifty.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Harris, Jr.
Stated Clerk, Virginia Presbytery

A motion carried that

Memorials 1, 2 and 3 from Catawba Presbytery be referred to the Form of Government review committee which the Moderator will appoint.

The remainder of the report will be approached at the order of the day Thursday.

Synod adjourned with the closing prayer by Kenneth Kunkel.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

Earl and Harriet Linderman led in the informal “coffee and Psalm sing” on the Dining Room porch.

The Joint Worship Service was led by Stephen Meyers.

Philip Bunch acted as the precentor for the congregational singing.

Following the morning break, the Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator of the General Synod, 2016.

Lee Shelnuitt nominated Phil Williams. Paul Patrick seconded the nomination.

A motion carried that Mr. Williams be elected by acclamation.

Moderator-Elect Williams addressed the Synod.

The Moderator opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Moderator of the General Synod, 2016.

Moderator-Elect Williams nominated Patrick Malphrus.

Mr. Malphrus was elected by acclamation.

A motion was made:

That all domain names using ARP, ARP Church, Associate Reformed Presbyterian or Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church be approved and authorized by Synod if that domain name is used in connection with the ARP Church.

That the registrant of any such name be an official body under the authority of the Synod court.

A motion carried that

the previous motion be referred to the Executive Board for study and timely response.

The **Report on Memorials** was reopened. The **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended that Memorial #4 (*that Synod remove the country of Scotland from within the bounds of First Presbytery*) be approved. **SYNOD ADOPTED.**

The **Moderator's Committee on Memorials** recommended that Memorial #5:

5. That Virginia Presbytery Memorial #1 (*That Synod amend the Form of Government as follows:*

1. To amend the Form of Government 4.15 by the addition of:
4.15 D. *The annual review of the roll shall include a determination by the Session of the number necessary for a quorum for a congregational business meeting. The quorum number shall be one fourth of the membership that the Session determines to be capable of and eligible to participate in such meetings; or for a congregation of more than one thousand members, the number shall be one-tenth of such members but not less than two hundred fifty. This quorum number shall be reported to the Presbytery in the annual report to Presbytery.*
2. To amend the Form of Government 6.8 by the addition of a new "G." with the subsequent re-lettering of items that follow:
6.8.G. *To remove from the roll without censure persons who the Session determines to no longer be a part of the life of the congregation. No person shall be removed from the roll until the Session has sought diligently to enquire into the status of such persons, has sought to restore them to active involvement in the life of the congregation, and has considered if disciplinary action is appropriate.*
3. To amend the Form of Government 4.15 by the addition of "E."
4.15.E *Sessions of local congregations are allowed to develop*

their own procedure for internally handling their various membership needs.

4. To amend the Form of Government 4.16 to read:

4.16 No person shall be removed from the roll until the Session has sought diligently to inquire into the status of such persons, has sought to restore them to active involvement in the life of the congregation, and has considered if disciplinary action is appropriate.

5. To amend the Form of Government 3.25.E to read:

3.25.E No business shall be conducted without a quorum. The quorum number shall be one-fourth of the membership that the Session determines in the annual review of the roll to be capable of and eligible to participate in such meetings; or for a congregation of more than one thousand members, the number shall be one-tenth of such members but not less than two hundred fifty.) be approved.

A **motion carried** to refer the Virginia Memorial to the Special Committee to Review *Form of Government (FOG)* Amendments along with those of Catawba Presbytery.

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

6. That *Form of Government* 14.4 be replaced with the following:

"14.4 Proposed amendments shall not be presented to congregations for the specific purpose of instructing the delegates how to vote." be approved.

A **motion carried** to refer Memorial #6 to the same committee.

A **motion carried** that

we direct our Committee on Theological and Social Concerns to study our denomination's history in race relations, examine how we might faithfully apply the gospel in our relationship to racial minorities in the

future, and present this report to the 2016 Meeting of Synod.

A motion carried that

the Special Committee to Revise the Form of Government be dismissed.

The Moderator announced the members of his Special Committee to Review FOG Amendments as follows: Jim Klukow (Convenor), Billy Barron, Ken McMullen, Trent Gazzaway, and Paul Dillingham.

The parliamentarian, Andy Putnam recused himself from any debate on the report of the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs. In addition, Principal Clerk Ron Beard was recused due to his membership in Catawba Presbytery. Jeff Kingswood was appointed by the Moderator to serve as Parliamentarian during the discussion of this report.

Following lengthy debate, a **motion carried** that

the report of the Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs (ECJA) be committed to an Ad Hoc Committee of the General Synod, appointed by the Moderator, and that this committee review the process followed by the ECJA and make recommendations to the 2016 General Synod giving particular attention to the issues of how judicial commissions are to:

**understand their appellate role,*

**define and investigate charges,*

**address internal conflict of interests and views in order to act in unity, and*

**direct and mediate inter-presbytery correspondence so that the process of discipline might be handled effectively and graciously, and,*

That in the absence of formal charges, General Synod return original jurisdiction of Mr. Wilson to

*Second Presbytery and acknowledge that there is no
"matter of Mr. Wilson's ARPTalk."*

The Report of the **Ecclesiastical Commission on Judiciary Affairs** was not received due to this prior action.

The morning session closed with Prayer and the Blessing by Mackay Smith.

The afternoon worship service was led by Garison Taylor. Philip Bunch acted as the precentor for the congregational singing.

The Committee on Nominations report was presented.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations (CON) met on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the ARP Center in Greenville, SC and again by teleconference on March 31, 2015. A May 5, 2015, teleconference is scheduled as well. During these meetings several items of business were addressed.

The following officers were elected for the Committee on Nominations 2015-2016:

Ike Hughes, Chairman
Brian Murray, Vice Chairman
Dean Turbeville, Secretary

The 2016 stated meeting of the Committee on Nominations is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 9:00 am at the ARP Center, Greenville, SC.

The deadline for submissions for nominations (excluding Erskine) will be Friday, January 8, 2016.

The committee appointed John "Jac" Coad to serve on the 2015-2016 Sub-Committee on Erskine Nominations (SCONE) for the slot previously held by Jamie Hunt. Tim Phillips and David Lauten will continue to serve on the SCONE.

The Committee on Nominations has agreed on the nominations for service listed below. At the conclusion of the committee's 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 rep-

representatives of the General Synod. The terms of service will begin July 1, 2015, 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.

Recommendations:

1. That those persons listed in this report be approved for service in the positions indicated. **Synod ADOPTED.**
2. That each presbytery consider appointing an alternate representative to Synod's Committee on Nominations in the event that the chairman of a presbytery's committee on nominations is not able to attend Synod's committee meeting. **Synod ADOPTED.**
3. That presbyteries consider making recommendations for service during their fall meetings. **Synod ADOPTED.**
4. That sessions consider making recommendations for service during their November and December meetings. **Synod ADOPTED.**
5. That recommendations for the Board of Erskine College and Seminary be made by Friday, October 16, 2015. **Synod ADOPTED.**
6. That those making Recommendations for Service to the Committee on Nominations (by mail or on-line) use the proper form and provide helpful information concerning qualifications for each person recommended. **Synod ADOPTED.**
7. That various boards, committees and commissions of Synod provide a clear and concise needs analysis and recommendations for service to the CON following their Fall stated meetings and that they clearly communicate their ministry and needs to pastors, sessions and presbyteries through in-person presentations, video, or other social media in order to educate the larger connectional church regarding opportunities to serve. **Synod ADOPTED.**
8. That the General Synod authorize \$4000.00 for committee expenses for 2016. **Synod ADOPTED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Murray, Chairman

A motion carried that

the Committee on Nominations be given the power to fill vacancies found in the 2015 Synod report and that the appointments be confirmed at Synod 2016.

Board/ Committee/ Commission	Class	Nominee	Presbytery
Benefits	2021	Paul Pridmore	
Benefits	2021	Paul Hoffman	
Bonclarken	2021	Anne Ross	
Bonclarken	2021	Michael Cruce	
Bonclarken	2021	Mick Houck	
CEM	2016	Jean Revell Alexander	
CEM	2019	Terri Chiles	
CEM	2019	Randy Foster	
CEM	PR 2020	Joey Donahue	MV
Dunlap	PR 2021	Jeff Bost	Second
Dunlap	PR 2021	Andrew Shoger	Florida
Erskine	2017	Stacey Cox	
Erskine	2020	Bryan Bult	
Erskine	2020	Catherine T. Davis	
Erskine	2020	Jill Gazzaway	
Erskine	2020	Sam Gray	
Erskine	2020	Gordon Query	
Exec. Bd	PR 2019	Lee Shelnett	First
Exec. Bd.	PR 2019	John Calvin Grier	Second
ONA	2019	John Lim	
ONA	2021	Jan Satterm	
World Wit- ness	2021	Ruth Oates	
World Wit- ness	2021	Charlie Edgar	
Stewardship	2019		
Stewardship	2021		

Board/ Committee/ Commission	Class	Nominee	Presbytery
Ecclesiastical	2018	Tim Watson	
Ecclesiastical	2019	David Rockness	
Ecclesiastical	2016	Anne Ross	
Campus Ministry Oversight	2020	Mackay Smith	
Inter-Church	2021	Jim Coad, III	
Investment	2020		
Min & His Work	2018	Charlie Edgar	Tenn-Ala
Min & His Work	2019	Kent Moorlach	Miss Valley
Min & His Work	2019	Anthony Navarro	First
Nominations	2019	GJ Gerard	NE
Nominations	2019	John "Ike" Hughes	Virginia
Nominations	2019	Curtis Mitchell	Tenn-Ala
Nominations	2019	Dean Turbeville	First
Theol & Social	2017		
Theol & Social	2019	Nick Napier	First
Theol & Social	2017	Brett Blackman	Second
Worship	2019	Greg Reynolds	
Worship	2019	Matt Miller	
Worship	2016	Howard Wheeler	
Worship	2017	Jeremiah Thomas	
Worship	2016		

A motion carried that

the 2015 General Synod receive the two six-weeks curricula, "Bridges," and "Journey to Jesus," as meeting the intent of the motion of the 2013 General Synod's commissioning of World Witness, Outreach North America and Christian Education Ministries to prepare and distribute educational material about Islam suitable for extended use by young people and adults in Sunday School classes, prayer meetings, and other study groups, that the one minute-twenty second trailer for the "Journey to Jesus" be played for this body at a suitable time, and that every congregation be encouraged to use these two curricula and the ARPCoconnect.org website to accomplish the education of congregations as referenced in the action of the 2013 General Synod.

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

Synod rose with a round of applause of appreciation for the work of the Moderator at Synod 2015.

Thanks for the Bonclarken staff and all who helped with the meeting of Synod were expressed by the Moderator.

The motion to adjourn prevailed.

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

Synod adjourned with the Scriptural Benediction pronounced by Moderator Hunt.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Hunt, Moderator
Steve Kern, Vice Moderator
C. R. Beard, Principal Clerk
C.F. Edgar, Reading Clerk
Leland R. Beaudrot, Bill Clerk
J. D. Cook, Assistant Clerk
Andy Putnam, Parliamentarian