

2013 MINUTES

The Regional Synod of Albany

Reformed Church in America

Annual Meeting
Kinderhook Reformed Church
Kinderhook, New York

May 6, 2013

DIRECTORY
ALBANY SYNOD OFFICE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| President | Rev. Mark Andersen |
| Vice President | Mr. Brad Lewis |
| Past President | Mr. Richard Doyle, Jr. |
| Stated Clerk, 2013 | Rev. Robert Hoffman |
| Chair, Finance | Mr. Jim Pettis |
| Chair, Overtures and Judicial Business | Rev. Stacey Midge |
| Chair, Personnel | Mr. Tom Patterson |
| Classis Ministries Board | Mr. Michael Vamvas |
| Fowler Ministries Board | |
| Albany Classis Representative | Rev. John Paarlberg |
| Columbia Greene Classis Representative | Mr. Gary Smith |
| Montgomery Classis Representative | Rev. Lucie Perkins |
| Rochester Classis Representative | Mr. John Stratton |
| Schenectady Classis Representative | |
| Schoharie Classis Representative | Ms. Carol Hendrix |

SYNOD EMPLOYEES

Albany Synod Office

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Synod Ministries Coordinator | Ms. Nancy Mc Niven |
| Coordinator for Discipleship and Communication | Rev. Robert Hoffman |
| Temporary Synod Administrator/ Stated Clerk | Ms. Sandy Narusky |
| Finance Manager | |

Fowler Camp and Retreat Center

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Fowler Executive Director | Rev. Kent Busman |
| Fowler Executive Assistant | Ms. Debra Batcher |
| Fowler Camp and Retreat Center Manager | Mr. Mark Hughes |
| Fowler Bookkeeper | Ms. Sandy Narusky |

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

FINANCE

| | |
|---|------|
| Mr. Jim Pettis, Jr. (Schenectady) chairperson | 2014 |
| Ms. Jill Cullen (Schoharie) | 2015 |
| Mr. John Schubert (Columbia Greene) | 2015 |
| Vacant | 2016 |
| Vacany | 2016 |

PERSONNEL

| | |
|--|-------|
| Rev. Richard Dykstra (Schoharie) | 2014+ |
| Rev. Kent Mc Heard (Schenectady) | 2014 |
| Mr. Bill Dergosits (Schenectady) | 2015 |
| Rev. Daniel Herrick (Columbia Greene) | 2015 |
| Mr. Larry DeLaMater (Albany) chairperson | 2016+ |
| Mr. Tom Patterson, chairperson (Columbia Greene) | 2016+ |
| Rev. Peggy Funderburke (Albany) | 2016 |

OVERTURES AND JUDICIAL BUSINESS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Rev. Robert Hoffman | Stated Clerk |
| Rev. Stacey Midge (Schenectady) chairperson | 2014 |
| Rev. Tim Van Heest (Albany) | 2015 |
| Rev. Jeff Kelley (Schoharie) | 2016 |
| Mr. Robert Kruger (Schoharie) | 2017 |
| Mr. Leighton Burns (Montgomery) | 2018 |

NOMINATIONS (stated clerks)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Rev. Robert Hoffman, Chair | Synod Clerk |
| Ms. Nancy Landrigan | Albany |
| Rev. Gary DeWitt | Columbia Greene |
| Rev. Mark Andersen | Montgomery |
| Ms. Anita Manuele | Rochester |
| Ms. Carol Troost | Schenectady |
| Rev. Joshua Baron | Schoharie |

+ denotes second term

* denotes filling an unexpired term

2013 Minutes

THE REGIONAL SYNOD OF ALBANY

The annual meeting of the Regional Synod of Albany convened on May 6, 2013 at the Kinderhook Reformed Church in Kinderhook, New York. Mr. Richard C. Doyle, Jr., president, presided.

I. GATHERING

President Richard Doyle called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and introduced Rev. Rudolph Visser, pastor of the Kinderhook Reformed Church who welcomed the delegates and guests and led in the worship service and the celebration of Holy Communion.

II. FORMATION OF SYNOD

Twenty-one ministers and twenty-two elders, including the president signed in as delegates, making a total of forty-three voting delegates and officers in attendance.

DELEGATE ROSTER

MINISTERS

Bruce Cornwell
John Paarlberg
Dirk Gieser
James Brumm

ALBANY

ELDERS

Georg Casler
Pat Monks
Chris Allen
Sally Wiggand

COLUMBIA GREENE

Gary DeWitt
Dan Herrick
Nancy McClure Long
Norm Hamm

Ned Barnes
Louis Hannet
Rich Leggett
Jean Northrup

MONTGOMERY

Lucie Perkins
Nancy Ryan
James Claggett
Mark Andersen

Rollie Allen
Ruby Hutchinson
Diane Reynolds

ROCHESTER

Blaine Crawford
Tim TenClay
Jason Fulkerson
Brian Maag

Jim Fox
Janet Heslink
Georgeanne Bakker
Calvin Bucknam

SCHENECTADY

Lisa Vander Wal
Derek De Jager

Cathy Lewis
John Moak
Kay Grosch
Jordan White

SCHOHARIE

Brian Dykema
Mike Meyer Veen
Sherri Meyer Veen
Greg Town

Charley Shoemaker
Carol Hendrix
Rena Cooper
Millie Zuk

The following delegates were unable to attend: Sally Wiggand, James Claggett and Rena Cooper.

The following staff, board and committee members and guests were welcomed and granted the privilege of the floor:

- Synod and Fowler Staff: Rev. Robert Hoffman, Nancy Mc Niven, Sandy Narusky and Kent Busman.
- Board and Board and Committee members: Ian Leet and Brad Lewis, Synod Ministries Board; Nancy Landrigan and Snookie Patterson, Fowler Board of Trustees; Gary Smith, ASEC.
- Guests welcomed were: Rev. Rudolph Visser, Joan Buckman, Jim Hutchinson, Rev. Kent Mc Heard, and Daniel Bakker.

III. THE AGENDA

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------------|
| 9:00am | Delegate Sign In and Refreshments | |
| 9:30am | Call to Order and Communion Worship Service | Rev. Rudolph Visser |
| 10:15am | Delegate Introductions | Richard Doyle, Jr. |
| | Welcome to Guests and Privilege of the Floor | Robert Hoffman |
| | Agenda Review and Approval | |
| | Reading of the Minutes of May 7, 2012 (by title) | |
| | Summary of Major Actions (Executive Committee/ Boards of Trustees) | |
| 10:30am | Synod Ministries Board | Brian Dykema |
| | General Review Committee SMB Report | James Brumm |
| 11:00am | Camp Fowler Report | Nancy Landrigan |
| 11:15am | Nominations Committee | Robert Hoffman |
| | Election of President | |

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|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Introduction of Nominees for Vice President | |
| 11:30am | President's Report | Richard Doyle, Jr. |
| | General Review Committee Report | James Brumm |
| 12:15pm | Lunch | |
| 12:50pm | Gathering Prayer | |
| 1:00pm | Election of Vice President | Robert Hoffman |
| 1:15pm | General Synod Council Report | Greg Town |
| 1:45pm | Committee Reports | |
| | 1. Search Committee | Mark Andersen |
| | 2. Committee on Accounts | Mike Meyer Veen |
| | 3. Overtures/ Judicial Business Committee | Workbook |
| | 4: Resolutions Committee | John Paarlberg/ Chris Allen |
| 2:25pm | New York State Council of Churches Report | Workbook |
| 2:30pm | Commissioning of Officers | Richard Doyle, Jr. |
| 3:00pm | Adjournment | |

MOTION: To approve the agenda as distributed in the synod call to meeting workbook with the inclusion of reports handed out at the meeting. (CARRIED)

IV. THE MINUTES

The minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting of the Regional Synod of Albany were reviewed by the synod's officers on June 13, 2012. Official copies were signed by the president and clerk and sent to General Synod. Copies were distributed to the classes of the Regional Synod of Albany and posted on the synod's website.

MOTION: To approve the reading of the minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting of the Regional Synod of Albany by title. (CARRIED)

The minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting were read by title.

V. APPOINTMENTS STANDING and REVIEW COMMITTEES

The Following standing and review committees were appointed by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Executive Committee.

Committee on Accounts (two ministers and three elders): This committee reviews the Financial records of the RSA, the audit report for 2012, and recommends the budget for 2014 and the per member assessment.

Elder
Jordan White
Sally Wiggand
Ned Barnes

Minister
Norman Hamm
Mike Meyer Veen

General Review Committee (four ministers and four elders): This committee reviews the President's Report and the Synod Ministries Board Report and advises the synod concerning any recommendations in said reports.

Elder
Kay Grosch
Janet Heslink
John Moak
Carol Hendrix

Minister
James Hart Brumm
Tim Ten Clay
Dirk Geiser
Jason Fulkerson

Resolutions Committee (one or two delegates): This committee formulates appropriate resolutions to the regional synod including the time and place of the next annual meeting.

Elder
Chris Allen

Minister
John Paarlberg

Tellers (two ministers and two elders): The tellers assist in distributing materials during the synod meeting and tally any votes on matters at the synod meeting.

Elder
Rich Leggett
Charley Shoemaker

Minister
Nancy Mc Clure-Long
Blaine Crawford

Classis Minutes Review Committee (consisting of the stated clerks of the synod): The committee reviews the minutes of each classis and reports irregularities to the synod.

Nancy Landrigan
Anita Manuele
Carol Troost

Gary De Witt
Mark Andersen
Becky Town

VI. Summary of Major Actions

Regional Synod of Albany Executive Committee

The Albany Synod Executive Committee (ASEC) met sixteen times following the May 7, 2012 annual meeting. In person meetings were held on June 13, 2012, October 11, 2012, November 15, 2012, and March 14, 2013. Electronic meetings by e-mail were held on July 20, 2012; August 7, 11 and 21, 2012; September 9, 2012; December 12 and 26, 2012; January 23 and 30, 2013 and February 21, 2013

The following is a summary of the major actions approved in the course of those meetings:

- Appointed the Synod President, the Stated Clerk, and the Executive Assistant as signatories on all Synod bank accounts.
- Approved the classis appointments to the Synod Ministry Board and the Fowler Board of Trustees.
- Authorized the President and Stated Clerk to make necessary appointments to the respective task forces approved at the Regional Synod meeting.
- Referred recommended changes to the By Laws to the Overtures and Judicial Business Committee for preparation at the Special meeting of the Albany Synod.
- Referred recommendations from the Annual Assembly to appropriate boards or committees for action.
- Accepted the resignation of Rev. Phyllis Palsma as Coordinator for Revitalization and of Nicole Fargione as Executive Assistant.
- Concluded Nancy Mc Niven's employment with the Albany Synod effective December 31, 2012 with deep thanks and appreciation and approved a severance agreement for her.
- Approved the 2013 Authorization Schedule as presented by the Synod Finance Committee.
- Appointed individuals to fill vacancies on the Overtures and Judicial Business Committee and as RSA representatives to the RCA Nominations and Judicial Business Commissions
- Approved a contract with the Stated Clerk to act as Temporary Synod Administrator and with Nancy Mc Niven to act as Coordinator for Discipleship and Communication through June 2013, and with Sandy Narusky to serve as the Synod Finance Manager.

- Approved the position descriptions for the Albany Synod Ministries Coordinator, the Albany Synod Administrator and the Administrative Assistant.
- Approved appointment of members to the Albany Synod Search Committee.
- Appointed chairpersons of permanent committees of the Regional Synod of Albany: Tom Patterson as Personnel Committee chairperson, Jim Pettis as Finance Committee chairperson and Stacey Midge as the Overtures and Judicial Business Committee chairperson.
- Voted to enter into a rental agreement with Room for All to rent a vacant office in the Synod Office building.

Summary of Major Actions Regional Synod of Albany Board of Trustees

The Albany Synod Board of Trustees (SBOT) met in person three times following the May 7, 2012 annual meeting. These meetings were held on June 13, 2012, November 15, 2012 and March 14, 2013. The Trustees also held email meetings on July 3, 2012 and August 11, 2012. The following is a summary of the major actions approved in these meetings:

- Appointed the Synod President and the Stated Clerk to be signatories for the Albany Synod's investments.
- Approved the removal of a dead tree on the synod property.
- Approved the necessary remodeling of the stage area for the relocation of the Fowler offices.
- Approved the replacement of or elimination of the conference room metal door due to rust problems.

Summary of Major Actions of Fowler Board of Trustees May 2012 – April 2013

Financial

- Renamed the Endowment Fund as Legacy Fund in response to changes in the definition of "endowment" under New York State Law (action 12-08, 23 May 2012).
- Approved the 2013 Minister's Housing Resolution, including a housing allowance for the Rev. Kent Busman, Fowler Executive Director, in accord with IRS Code Section 107 (action 12-15, 27 November 2012).
- Approved a 2013 health flexible spending account for the Rev. Kent Busman, Fowler Executive Director, in accord with IRS Code Section 125 (action 12-16, 27 November 2012).
- Approved the Authorization Schedule for 2013 (action 12-17, 27 November 2012).
- Scheduled a review of 2012 finances, rather than an audit, with plans to have a full audit of 2013 finances in 2014 (action 13-01, 26 January 2013).
- Accepted the auditor's (glowing) report on the review of 2012 books (action 13-05, 11 April 2013).

Personnel

- Received favorable performance reviews of all full-year staff (action 12-08, 23 May 2012).
- Instructed the Program Committee to facilitate a discussion among Day Camp stakeholders to develop a plan for how Day Camps will be run and by whom (action 12-14, 10 September 2012).
- Approved the following staff salaries for 2013: Executive Assistant—\$41,200.00; Fowler Manager—\$40,200.00; Bookkeeper—\$16.75/hour; Chi Rho Cook/ Housekeeper—\$21,000.00; Weekend Host--\$285.00/weekend, \$565.00/week (action 12-18, 27 November 2012).
- Changed the title of the position that has been Executive Assistant to Fowler Administrator (action 13-06, 11 April 2013).

Development

- Contracted with Pneuma Advisors for 260 hours of development consultation at a total cost of \$21,000.00, with additional compensation to be negotiated with the acceptance of additional responsibilities (action 12-19, 27 November 2013).

Governance

- Elected Nancy Landrigan as moderator, Snookie Patterson as vice moderator, James Hart Brumm as clerk, and Jenna Pearson as ASEC delegate through May 2013 (actions 12-09, 12-10, and 12-11, 23 May 2012).
- Appointed James Hart Brumm as Fowler Board delegate to ASEC through May of 2013 (action 12-20, 27 November 2013).
- Elected Miriam Barnes as clerk, June 2013 through May 2014 (action 13-04, 11 April 2013).

Property

- Contracted with Rumble Energy to install solar panels in the Meadows and submit the application for New York State financial support (action 13-02, 25 January 2013).

The summaries were shared for the information of the delegates. No questions were raised about any of the items reported.

VII. Synod Ministries Board Brian Dykema, Reporting

“Love picks up where knowledge leaves off”
Saint Thomas Aquinas

Dear friends, peace with you always and forever. The above quote is one of my favorites. It reminds me that we can't understand everything and nor should we, for God's command to us was to love each other, not to figure everything out. As we gather together I hope and pray that love will motivate all that we do and decide.

Over the past few years the members of your Synod Ministries Board have worked to love our fellow congregations and classes by supporting missions, providing education and encouraging discipleship and revitalization. I am so very proud to serve with each member who clearly wants to be apart of this ministry of providing care and health to our brothers and sisters. Our three sub committees that consist of Discipleship, Mission and Revitalization have been working hard to develop new ideas, events and services to enhance our congregation's abilities to love God and love one another. Each of these groups is passionate in their work and their efforts are greatly appreciated. They have helped to develop discipleship and consistory enrichments events, care for preaching elders and ministers, supported CRTC, encourage leadership development through initiatives like Ridder Church Renewal, mediation training, and a joint confirmation retreat at Camp Fowler, and support mission efforts like Gifts for Persons with HIV and AIDS and volunteer and financial support to the victims of hurricanes Irene and Lee and super storm Sandy.

Presently one of our main objectives is the development of a program to support and strengthen synod congregations through financial grants. The synod of 2012 gave us the task to develop the grant program and bring a recommendation to the 2013 synod assembly. It is our belief that grants in the areas of revitalization, discipleship and mission will indeed strengthen our synod congregations. Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

R-1 That the Regional Synod of Albany support the Synod Ministries Board in providing financial grants in the areas of revitalization, discipleship and mission.
(See the attached grant form)

R-2 That the Regional Synod of Albany establish a grant fund in the amount of \$15,000 supported by the interest earned from the synod reserve funds.

Through these acts of service and support we hope hearts will find healing, lives will be impacted for Christ Jesus and our churches will experience a fresh wind of faith.

Today more than ever we need to work together to share our common love for our Lord. We need to put an end to the boundaries or limitations we have built around and within our churches. We need to dare to meet people where they are rather than expecting them to come to us. We hope, through our efforts, to encourage such an attitude, that our church walls won't seem so thick and our hearts will feel free to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In addition we would like to acknowledge the heart felt love and service of Phyllis Palsma and Nancy McNiven. Their leadership and devotion to God and to our churches have been an inspiration to all. They are gifted sisters and to each we owe our thanks and gratitude.

We are praying for you all and thank you for the opportunity to serve for God's glory and our spiritual health.

“This is my Command: Love each other as I have loved you”
John 15:12

REPORT OF THE REVITALIZATION WORKING GROUP

On behalf of the Albany Synod Revitalization Working Group (RWG), I am honored to offer a brief report of our history and activities. In September of 2010, the Classis Ministries Board formed the RWG, and its first meeting was held on September 27, 2010. Ministers and Elders from each classis were invited to participate in this group, and we were charged to meet regularly in order to:

- Share what is happening in our classes regarding church revitalization
- Share and learn about various resources that can be applied to our unique contexts for ministry and mission
- Develop processes that can be used in synod congregations
- Lead and equip people for revitalizing ministries that assist classes and congregations in vision and mission planning
- Reflect upon our past and dream about our future as congregations engaged in ministry and mission in New York State.

RIDDER LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

This has been an exciting year for the RWG, as we have begun the Ridder Church Renewal Journey of Personal and Congregational Transformation! Seven RSA congregations and their pastors have embarked on at least a three year journey of personal and congregational renewal. In partnership with Journey at Western Theological Seminary, a Ridder Introductory Event was held this past November at Hunter Mountain NY for the three northeastern synods, and over 17 congregations have signed up. The first event was for pastors and catalysts in Houston TX this past March 5-7, and was a profoundly powerful experience. The first gathering of pastors and congregational leadership teams and catalysts (5 trained coaches who come alongside participating congregations in the process) will be this November, also at Hunter Mountain.

It is the hope of the RWG that this cohort of 7 congregations and their pastors be the first of several more RSA congregations that will engage in this wonderful process of personal and corporate renewal. The Synod Ministries Board has approved a grant process for current and future congregations to participate in Ridder. Many thanks to RWG member Abby Norton-Levering for her work on the Ridder Regional Implementation Team!

MEDIATION AND VISIONING

Due to our increased emphasis in the Ridder Leadership Initiative and RSA staffing changes and transformation, the formation of the Mediation Team is still a work in progress, and the work of congregational visioning processes will also move forward when possible.

PASTORAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Finally, work continues on the *Pastoral Residency Program* established by RSA last year. This program enables recent seminary graduates who may be having difficulty finding permanent placements due to lack of openings or congregations that can't afford a classis minimum full-time call the opportunity to have a real in the field ministry experience. These graduates can be placed in one or more congregations for a one to two year period, offered a stipend and housing, be mentored and supervised by the classis, with assistance from the regional synod in offering coaching and mentoring opportunities. It is an opportunity to immerse gifted people in the unique ministerial context of our region and thereby create opportunities for revitalization and possibilities for new worshipping communities.

Currently, two RSA congregations have pastoral residents, and one more congregation is in a search process. In addition, the RWG is currently working with input from the Capital Region Theological Center to apply for a judicatory based grant from the Lilly Foundation for this Pastoral Residency initiative to provide financial resources for RSA congregations to participate.

The RWG is ever thankful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue to come alongside the classes and congregations of our synod in cultivating renewal and new life in our common ministry and mission.

Scott DeBlock, on behalf of the Revitalization Working Group:

David Corlett, Dot Forte, Abby Norton Levering, Becky Town, Rudy Visser, Nancy McNiven and Bob Hoffman (Synod Staff)

REPORT OF THE DISCIPLESHIP WORKING GROUP

Group Members: Brian Dykema, Derek DeJager, Barbara Cullum, Miriam Barnes, Pam Walsh, Bob Hoffman and Nancy McNiven (Synod Staff)

The members of the Discipleship working group have continually held before themselves the question of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In our context, this question must be asked with the critical awareness that we live not only in a post-Christendom culture, but also a culture that is increasingly post-Christian where local congregations struggle to sustain healthy ministries in their local communities. The Reformed Church in America Discipleship team offers the following definition of discipleship:

Discipleship is the practice of following Jesus Christ, becoming more like him in all we say, think, and do, empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Christ in a lost and broken world so loved by God.

Using this as a starting point, our group discerned that a healthy understanding of discipleship is one that values a hands-on engagement of the world as much as it values the cultivation of one's intellectual understanding of who Jesus is and who Jesus calls us to be. Thus, the events we have planned and made available to Albany Synod congregations have each included a service project component.

Our event for fall 2011, *Head, Heart, Hands, and Health: A Journey of Discipleship*, held at the First Reformed Church of Scotia on Saturday, October 20, was made up of two segments. The first segment focused on spiritual disciplines, engagement with Scripture, sharing faith stories, and developing healthy relationships through formal and informal groups. The second segment was our participation in the *Stop Hunger Now* program where we assembled over 20,000 meals for hungry people around the world. This two-fold approach to holding a discipleship event has been very well received. It is worth noting that several young people came out to help with our participation in the *Stop Hunger Now* service project.

Two representatives from our group, Derek DeJager and Nancy McNiven, attended the annual C.O.S.E. (Council of Synod Executives) leadership training event in Tempe, AZ from January 14-16, 2013. The speaker at this year's event was Hugh Halter whose book, "And: The Gathered and Scattered Church," we were encouraged to read beforehand. The focus of the event was on Missional Church. In our processing of what we heard, along with interim Albany Synod administrator, Bob Hoffman, and Albany Synod Revitalization Working Group representative, Rudy Visser, we realized the urgency in our Synod for a renewed focus on the kingdom of God. A question that was asked of us at the event, and that we agreed must be put forward to our congregations is: "How are you using what God has blessed you with to bless the community around you?" All four Albany Synod representatives at the C.O.S.E. event have made a commitment to study what the Bible says about the Kingdom of God and write a devotional booklet for use in Albany Synod congregations.

The next event being planned and offered by our group is the consistory enrichment event: *So You Said "Yes" to Consistory. Now What?* to be held at the Niskayuna Reformed Church on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. As with the event held previously in Scotia last fall, we are again including a service project as part of our time together. Our service project will be the preparation of *Albany Synod Welcome Home Gift Baskets* for homeowners affected by hurricane Irene and tropical storm Lee.

We express our thanks for the support the Synod has shown to us as we continue to work on cultivating discipleship in our congregations and seek the kingdom of God in our midst.

REPORT OF THE MISSION WORKING GROUP

Andy Mondore, Diane Reynolds, Peggy Becker, Rose Ann Ferris, Nancy McClure-Long, Shirley Hermann, Nancy Mc Niven, and Bob Hoffman are those who have worked with the Mission Working Group during the past year.

Core Values

Our core values were adopted in 2011.

Believing that involvement in mission is foundational to Christian Growth, we hold these values as core:

- Listening to our "calling" from Christ to be a people in mission, as a Synod, as classes, as churches and as individuals.
- Recognizing and honoring mission activity of the past and that which is happening now.
- Gathering and effectively communicating within our Synod opportunities for mission.
- Acting with a non-judgmental spirit, provide encouragement to all churches for their efforts to be people in mission.
- Developing and supporting programming which:
 - can serve as models
 - promotes relationships and activities between Synod churches,
 - is user friendly and easily accessible
 - is, whenever appropriate, "hands-on."

Mission Projects

In 2012, we collected and distributed over 130 welcome home baskets and totes to those recovering from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee flooding. This included those covered by SALT (Schoharie Area Long Term) recovery, Schenectady recovery, Middleburgh Reformed Church, Schoharie Reformed Church, and

Woestina Reformed Church. The Prattsville area was already covered by other sources.

A second round of welcome home baskets is being collected April 2 to May 16 for SALT families still returning to their homes. In addition, those attending the consistory event on April 20 participated in a service project to assemble welcome home baskets.

We again collected gifts for persons with HIV/AIDS. Over 100 gift bags were distributed and more were made and held for distribution throughout 2013.

Communications

We continue to gather mission contacts within each congregation so that mission opportunities can be shared more easily. Mission opportunities are also shared through the synod web site, classis clerks, *RCA Today*, and our *Currents* newsletter.

Future Opportunities

The Sea-to-Sea Cycling to End Hunger bike tour will be passing through Albany in late August. We are exploring possibilities to support the tour.

In light of the recovery work from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee we would like to create locations within the synod to house first responder supplies such as the Church World Service disaster buckets and other supplies.

“Big Day of Serving” is a one-day service project where participants often work on neighborhood beautification projects. These are done on a Saturday in fall or spring. The MWG is hoping to offer something like this in late April or early May next year. They will contact the right people at **Group Work camps** to find out what the logistics of Big Day of Serving are.

In addition to the printed report, Brian included the following items:

- The membership of the Ministries Board is a group of highly committed and dedicated individuals.
- There is a deep desire for each representative to encourage, support and assist one another in their work of ministry.
- The Ministries Board continues to provide quality events, activities and enjoys their partnership with Fowler in the various retreats offered jointly.
- Please pray for the Ministries Board and each representative serving on it, and support the Ministries Board by participation in their events and offerings.

The Report of the Synod Ministries Board is referred to the General Review Committee for their recommendations to the Synod.

VIII. GENERAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (I) **Rev. James Brumm, reporting**

The General Review Committee Report was given in two segments corresponding to the committee's review of the reports they received, the SMB Report and the President's Report. Rev. James Brumm presented the following section on the review of the SMB Report.

Report of the Synod Ministries Board

Your committee appreciates and commends the work done by the SMB and by the working groups. We would like to encourage the Mission Group to explore ways they might more actively support the work of the Discipleship Group. Discipleship realizes people learn by doing, Mission is providing opportunities to

do (and so is Discipleship). More collaboration could be useful.

We hope that the SMB will continue to look for ways to communicate the promise and possibilities of both the Ridder Leadership Initiative and the Pastoral Residency Program to consistories and so that all of them, particularly those in smaller congregations, could see the benefit of supporting and utilizing these programs in the current austere economic climate.

We would also encourage the Discipleship Working Group to look at other training models already being used within the Synod, such as the twelve-hour Consistory training (six hours a year in a two-year cycle) done by a cluster of congregations in Albany Classis, to see how and if such programs could be successfully expanded or offered to other classes and congregations in the Synod.

In response to the two recommendations in the report, your committee recommends the following.

R-1 That the Synod instruct the Synod Ministries Board to make financial grants available to classes and congregations through the classes in the areas of revitalization, discipleship and mission, as outlined in the grant application form, with review and possible renewal of the program in 2016.

Reasons:

1. In our polity, the Synod properly relates to classes, not directly to congregations. The grant forms presented by the SMB already acknowledge this relationship.
2. With a new program of this scope, a review after three years seems a prudent approach.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation.

Discussion followed concerning the inclusion of “classes” in the recommendation and whether this would create an additional layer in the process of approving and receiving grants. It was noted that in our polity the Regional Synod relates to the Classis and not directly to the congregations. A question was also raised about whether the whole classis would need to review and approve grants or whether this could be done by an executive committee or another group within the classis. It was noted that the classis would have the privilege of making that decision.

THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED.

With the approval of the recommendation, the grant form will be changed to include the classis.

R-2 That the grant program be funded up to \$15,000.00 each year from prior years interest, dividends and gains earned by the synod’s invested funds, subject to review and possible renewal in 2016.

Reasons:

1. The SMB recommendation was unclear as to whether this was one-time or annual funding.
2. It is our understanding that the unrealized income (income we have not collected) from the Synod’s invested funds was over \$60,000.00 for the first two months of 2013.
3. Again, the review at the end of three years seems prudent.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation.

Discussion: A question was raised about whether there were any other matters or budget lines already being supported by the invested funds. The answer was that there are

none currently being planned. If there would be a substantial shortfall in our budget income we might have to turn to the invested funds to support the budget, but that would be the only item of need. It was also noted in discussion that the unrealized income reported thus far in 2013 is substantial because of the favorable market. This may not always be so and synod must be aware of that.

THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED.

The Resolutions Committee offered prayers of thanksgiving for the members and work of the Synod Ministries Board and blessing for the future of the grant program initiated today.

IX. FOWLER BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Nancy Landrigan, Moderator, reporting

Nancy Landrigan, moderator of the Fowler Board of Trustees presented the following report to Synod.

In May 2009, the Regional Synod of Albany affirmed the creation of the Fowler Ministries Board (FMB) and placed the Fowler Camp and Retreat Center under its care. For four years, the FMB carried out this responsibility prayerfully and carefully. Last year, the Synod voted to give the FMB the full rights and responsibilities of a Board of Trustees and for the past 12 months, we have been operating as such. Our mission has been, and will continue to be, to bring the word of God, as manifested in his son Jesus Christ, to those whom we serve – the children who attend our summer camp weeks, those who come to our urban camps, congregants who come in retreat, youth groups who come to learn leadership skills or just to have fun, pastors who come seeking solitude and quiet contemplation in the prayer cabins.

This work is both joyful and challenging. We live in a world in conflict and many still struggle in dubious financial situations. We continue to be challenged by shrinking congregations and smaller budgets. We live within our new Synod structure and wait expectantly for the changes still to come.

We look forward and continue to move forward.

Bringing the Mission

Community, simplicity, and caring for creation: we are a Christian camp, and we bring those themes to our kids. We anticipate serving approximately 850 children at Camp this coming summer, and another 350 at our six urban camps. Last year, 160 adults volunteered a week of their summer (260 if you count day camps) and gave the greatest gift a child could receive – quality time with an adult who listens, who cares, and who shares the word of God.

For the third year, we are offering an all-ages week of camp. This “Una Tierra” week for students in grades 3-12, will be offered twice this summer due to its popularity in 2011 and 2012.

In 2013, we will roll out an all new SWIM (Students Working in Ministry) program. This program engages 10th and 11th graders in ministry and encourages them to grow in their faith and in their leadership. Beginning in 2013, youth participating in this program will attend LEAD week (Lead, SErve, Act, Disciple) and learn how to facilitate small group discussion, run camp sessions, assist chaplains, perform CPR, and complete at least 8 hours of community service. “Graduates” of LEAD week, may then do an additional week of camp and put their newly developed skills into practice as they serve alongside adult volunteers working with our younger campers.

Expanding the Program

We continue to expand opportunities to use the Camp facilities. The flat-rate rental structure implemented in 2011 for Pine, Troost, and Chi Rho has proven to be very successful. The prayers cabins, Vrede and Skennen, maintain a high occupancy rate.

Our program of intentional spiritual retreats has begun, and we are seeing more and more pastors take advantage of these contemplative offerings.

We continue to seek new and creative ways to make Fowler available for groups that provide both income and good ministry. If you have ideas, let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

Staffing to Meet our Growing Success

Fowler is blessed to have an amazing staff, people who are both good at what they do and passionate about the Camp they do it for. Whether their role is in the office or at the Camp, the team works together, with the Board, to make our Camp the very best it can be. We also continue to utilize the services of Jen Kenneally of Pnuema Advisors in our fundraising efforts.

Caring for the Camp

We are on the very precipice of the completion of the Master Plan. The end, as they say, is in sight. All of the bedrooms in Chi Rho have been renovated and redecorated. The new office, located in front of the ARC, was used for the first time last summer. Leet Nature Center (Suits) was completed and last summer housed our Art and Nature activities. Summit has been remodeled to house the Health Center. A second solar panel array will be installed at the end of May, with a goal of producing 50% of our electric on site. This is just one of many ideas we are implementing to be good stewards of God's good earth.

Managing our Resources

Our churches and our people have been extraordinarily generous to Camp Fowler, with RCA/RSA congregations providing one third of our financial support. This is the fourth year of Fowler raising all of its own support, and we again held a successful fund drive. The November Harvest Gathering not only generates one sixth of our needed income, but it also provides opportunities for fellowship and reconnection.

The Board has remained diligent with the Camp's finances and we monitor our budget and expenditures carefully. We continue to work with the Synod Finance Committee for their advice on fiscal and budgetary issues, and in fact, now have a delegate from the Finance Committee attending Board meetings. Fundraising events planned for this year include a golf tournament in July, an August concert at Camp, and the Harvest Gathering at Scotia, scheduled for November 4, 2013. All of our events are open to everyone, ask me how you can get involved! We continue to look for ways to hold similar events in the western portion of the state. I'm happy to be in conversation with you about this.

Working Alongside of You

The Moderator, Clerk, and Executive Director of Fowler were invited to attend the February meeting of the Rochester Classis. Our time together that day was well spent, both in sharing information and building relationships. The Board welcomes the opportunity to meet with all of our classes. Contact any Board member for further information.

Spreading the Word

Finally, our theme this year is "Unlikely People." Each day, we'll focus on an Old and a New Testament character. From Noah and Esther to Peter and the Syro-Phoenician Woman, children this year will be introduced to a variety of "unlikely people" loved and chosen by God. Because that's our story too, isn't it? Join with us, and let the adventure begin. There are lots of ways you can be a part of the ministry of Fowler – pray for the ministry, encourage your youth to attend camp, volunteer your time, make a donation. Whatever your gifts, we welcome them.

The Fowler Board of Trustees strives to share God's love in all of the work we do. We thank our churches, our Classes, and our Synod for the incredible support and belief in Camp's mission. "We love Him, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

In addition to sharing the information in the report, Nancy introduced members of the Board of Trustees, volunteers who have signed up to serve as chaplains and Day Camp leaders who were present at the meeting. Nancy also reported that the Camp is making strides to reach out to the larger state community by offering camperships to Refugee

children and Migrant Worker children. Nancy also encouraged use of the Prayer Cabins and the Retreat opportunities up at camp.

The Resolutions Committee offered prayers of blessing for the ministry of Camp Fowler and for all who participate in that ministry.

X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The president, vice president and stated clerk were elected by ballot.

For the office of President, Rev. Mark Andersen, vice president, was the sole nominee.

MOTION: To forego use of paper ballots and elect Rev. Mark Andersen to the office of President of the Regional Synod of Albany by acclamation. (CARRIED)

For the office of Vice President, the Nominations Committee presented Rev. James Brumm and Elder Brad Lewis as candidates. It was noted that other candidates may be nominated at this meeting but that they must come from seated delegates.

Mr. Brad Lewis was elected on the first electing ballot.

For the office of Stated Clerk, Rev. Robert Hoffman, current clerk, is the sole nominee.

MOTION: To forego use of paper ballots and elect Rev. Robert Hoffman to the office of Stated Clerk of the Regional Synod of Albany by acclamation. (CARRIED)

XI. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Robert Hoffman, reporting

The Nominations Committee of the Regional Synod of Albany is made up of the stated clerks of each classis. They have responsibility to present nominees for vacancies that appear on the Synod's Boards and Permanent Committees, Executive Committee and Synod officers.

The minutes of the Albany, Columbia Greene, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Classes were reviewed on February 12, 2013, and the minutes of the Rochester Classis were reviewed on February 26, 2013. All the minutes were found in good order.

The Nominations Committee presents the following nominees to Synod boards and committees:

Synod Ministries Board (three year term, two term limit)

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------|
| Andy Mondore | Albany Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Patti Varga | Columbia Greene Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Nominee | Rochester Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Derek De Jager | Schenectady Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Roger Krutz | Albany Classis | First term | 2015 |
| Shirley Hermann | Montgomery Classis | First term | 2015 |
| Lois Fiegl | Rochester Classis | First term | 2015 |
| Michael Vamvas | Schoharie Classis | First term | 2015 |
| Nancy McClureLong | Columbia Greene Classis | First term | 2014 |
| Mary Dobrovolc | Montgomery Classis | First term | 2014 |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|------|
| Nominee | Schenectady Classis | First term | 2014 |
| Brian Dykema | Schoharie Classis | First term | 2014 |
| Fowler Board Of Trustees (three year term, two term limit) | | | |
| Steve Ennis | Albany Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Dawn Olsen | Columbia Greene Classis | Second term | 2016 |
| Brian Engel | Montgomery Classis | First term | 2016 |
| John Manahan | Rochester Classis | Second term | 2016 |
| Albany Synod Executive Committee (three year term, one term limit) | | | |
| Minister | Schenectady Classis | Minister | 2016 |
| Elder | Schoharie Classis | Elder | 2016 |
| Personnel Committee (three year term, two term limit) | | | |
| Larry DeLaMater | Albany Classis | Second term | 2016 |
| Peggy Funderburke | Albany Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Finance Committee (three year term, two term limit) | | | |
| Nominee | Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Nominee | Classis | First term | 2016 |
| Overtures and Judicial Business Committee (five year term, one term limit) | | | |
| Leighton Burns | Montgomery Classis | Elder | 2018 |

MOTION: to approve the nominations recommended by the Nominations Committee. (CARRIED)

Expressions of thanks were offered for the following individuals who have completed terms of service on the synod's boards and committees:

Albany Synod Executive Committee: James Brumm, Bruce Cornwell, Larry De La Mater, Rich Dykstra, Ian Leet and Miranda Rand.

Albany Synod Ministries Board: Jim Andrews, Joan Garnar, Ian Leet, Nancy Ryan, Joan Stanton and Roy Vanderwal.

Fowler Board of Trustees: James Brumm and Ronda Raux.

Personnel Committee: Ginny Fissette.

Finance Committee: Richard Vanderbilt.

Overtures and Judicial Business Committee: Christine Daniels.

The Resolutions Committee offered prayers of blessing for all those who have served and are now elected to positions of service for the Regional Synod of Albany.

XII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Richard C. Doyle, Jr., President

Richard began his report by thanking the Albany Synod staff for their support and encouragement throughout this second year of his service. He presented the following report.

Let me first start with what's on my mind and in my heart. It has been a humbling journey serving as your President. I entered this position with the understanding that our Synod needed healing, direction

and a clear understanding of its role and mission it should serve to the Classis, Congregations, Staff and Ministers. Each need builds and feeds on the other, each is just as important as the other.

Last year in my president's report I used a sentence from then past President Rev. Bruce Cornwell's report. I quoted Jack Welch, the former CEO of General Electric: "When the rate of change inside an organization is slower than the rate of change outside an organization, the end (of that organization) is in sight." This struck me for its honesty and simplicity and its call to action a year ago. It stills holds true today.

For this past year, your Albany Synod Executive Committee has acted and is continuing to act to change our "inside organization" to meet the needs of the "outside organization". ASEC with your approval and prayers have moved forward in restructuring of our Synod. The Synod Search Committee is actively interviewing candidates for the Synod Ministries Coordinator and the Synod Administrator positions. Staffing changes were made to reflect the new model, and expenses were reduced to ensure we are good stewards of your funds.

Last year I shared with you some personal observations that concerned me. These concerns are still very present in 2013.

- Declining numbers
- Yoked pastorates/ Clustered Congregations
- Vacant parishes

Let me share with you some data from the published Minutes of the General Synod 2012.

| <u>Membership</u> | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|
| Classis | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Albany | 1789 | 1824 | 1945 |
| Columbia-Greene | 804 | 859 | 913 |
| Montgomery | 754 | 820 | 877 |
| Rochester | 1118 | 1160 | 1199 |
| Schenectady | 2524 | 2574 | 2678 |
| Schoharie | 711 | 765 | 807 |
| TOTALS | 7730 | 8002 | 8419 |

Pastorates by Classis -2012

| Classis | Total Congregations | Churches with Full Time Installed Pastors | Yoked Pastorates | Pastors Under Contract or Vacant Churches |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Albany | 20 | 12 (60%) | 1 | 6 (30%) |
| Columbia-Greene | 20 | 4 (20%) | 2 | 12 (60%) |
| Montgomery | 13 | 6 (46%) | 0 | 7 (53%) |
| Rochester | 13 | 8 (62%) | 0 | 5 (38%) |
| Schenectady | 18 | 13 (72%) | 0 | 5 (27%) |
| Schoharie | 15 | 5 (33%) | 2 | 7 (47%) |
| TOTALS | 99 | 48 (48%) | 5 | 42 (42%) |

When you review these numbers, may I suggest you look behind the data and see the challenges and the blessings. Yoke Pastorates are under utilized opportunities for ministry. We are stretching the ministers and the congregations. Classes need to start a dialog between each other about merging. Congregations need to be in conversations about the journey God is calling them to travel together. We need to continue these examples like, combined bible study classes, joint confirmation classes, and “stronger” churches helping to stabilize, grow and nurture the ones in need.

I sincerely hope that the data will empower Congregations to start talking with other Congregations and Classis talking with other Classis. The questions that arise when analyzing these facts are just as many as the answers. We will not ask all the questions or find all the answers on our own. The one consistent comment I heard over the past year is that my statement from last year’s letter holds true.

“As for a solution, I do not believe that any one person, congregation, or classis has the answer. But I do know that when we all start a dialogue together, and when we begin to network and connect to one another, that we can learn from each other. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience in our synod. We need to build our steppingstones from our shared failures and successes.”

I firmly believe that we have started a dialogue in many ways, in many areas. We have looked beyond our own walls and walked out the doors. For example, we have 7 Congregations involved with Ridder Leadership initiative, 2 Congregations utilizing the Pastoral Residency Program (with more considering it), and the SMB’s program offerings continue to serve greater numbers of our congregations. Coupled with new friendships formed and simple discussions around work parties in Schoharie, Prattsville, Middleburgh and Rotterdam Junction, enrichment programs and Camp Fowler’s ministries, I see a new

spirit of energy and enthusiasm within our Regional Synod.

In conclusion, I want to thank the many people who have been a support and an encouragement in the process of fine tuning the Regional Synod of Albany over the past year. We are not done yet so I ask for your prayers, your insights and your support in the months to come for ASEC, the new Vice President and President and Synod Ministries Coordinator and Synod Administrator. May God continue to guide us and bless us as we strive to follow Christ in serving one another and the world so loved by God.

In addition to this report, Richard highlighted the following items:

- The Executive Committee has been working hard to change the inside of the RSA to meet the outside needs. A lot has been accomplished but a lot still needs to be done. Richard encouraged the delegates to pray for ASEC and work with them in the future to accomplish even more.
- The statistical tables continue to show a concern for our congregations, pastors and classis leadership as they endeavor to minister to and with one another in times of vacancy.
- Hope remains! Richard reminded that we are not alone because we have each other to turn to for guidance and assistance. It is very important that we continue to communicate with one another to learn ideas and resources from each other.

XIII. GENERAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (II)

Rev. James Brumm presented the second part of the General Review Committee report in regards to the President's Report.

Report of the President

Your committee is grateful for the work of Richard Doyle as Synod President for a much-longer-than-normal term during a time of uncertainty and expectation. While the reports of declining numbers are nothing new, it is important to keep this reality before us even as we answer God's call to a hope-filled future. Committee members also appreciated the idea that we must continue changing to meet the demands of ministry in our ever-changing world. We would point out that we should also be looking beyond the "knowledge and experience" within our synod to find spiritual transformation and awakening from above and to learn all we can from those who are experiencing expanding ministry that can be applied to our current cultural situation.

We appreciate and echo the President's call for dialogue within and among congregations and classes, but many of us were concerned that there is not a sufficient atmosphere of trust in the Synod for such a dialogue to work, and that congregations and classes will need motivation to proceed with this. We are also concerned that the President is quite correct in his observation that ministers and congregations are being stretched, and that burnout is a danger.

While the President made no proposals, we have three recommendations that rise out of his report.

- R-3 That the Synod instruct ASEC, working with the new Synod Ministries Coordinator, to make it a priority to foster constructive dialogue among the congregations and classes of the Synod, creating a safe, supportive, and prayerful environment to share ideas and resources as suggested by the President, to strengthen the ministry of each congregation and each classis, and our combined ministry as a Synod.**

Reasons:

1. The President called for dialogue among congregations and classes in his report.
2. While we cannot will dialogue to happen, we can foster and nurture it where it occurs.

MOTION: To approve R-3. (CARRIED)

R-4 That all six classes be encouraged to enter into processes of self-study and dialogue to adapt to current ministry realities while supporting the financial and spiritual health of their ministers, consistories, and congregations, and that the Synod Ministry Board be instructed to work with each of the classes as requested to help them secure such resources as they might require for their processes.

Reasons:

1. The President called for us to continue stretching and changing, while looking out for the well being of our classes, ministers, and consistories.
2. Two of our classes are already engaged in processes such as this.
3. While the Synod Ministries Board may not yet have experience in securing such resources, most things can be found by those willing to look, and this would be good experience for the SMB, working with the new SMC, to gain.

MOTION: To approve R-4. (CARRIED)

R-5 That the Synod thank God for Richard Doyle's service as President of Albany Synod and his continued ministry among us.

MOTION: To approve R-5. (Synod approved this recommendation with a heartfelt applause to honor Richard's service among us.)

A new motion was introduced from the floor by Rev. Sherri Meyer Veen. The motion was seconded.

MOTION: To instruct ASEC to appoint a task force, with representatives from each classis, to investigate, propose possibilities, (and conduct a general analysis of pros and cons) of refiguring classis lines within the bounds of the Regional Synod of Albany for report to the 2014 regional synod.

Reasons:

1. It is time to face our fears and stop talking informally and give serious consideration to how this may add capacity to our classes.
2. Losing votes in the higher body is not reason to keep us from considering this, or at least reviewing how we might achieve it.

Discussion: The following items were raised in discussion:

- Although it may not seem like it to us, but the loss of delegates at General Synod is important and not to be taken lightly.
- The motion introduces us to a good opportunity to discuss how we function as a synod with one another and as individual congregations and classes.

- Reporting in 2014 does not necessarily mean the task force's work will be completed. The report could be a status report including work yet to be done.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

XIV. LUNCH

Synod recessed for a delicious lunch, served by the members of the Kinderhook Reformed Church, following prayer offered by Rev. Rudy Visser. Synod reconvened following lunch with the gathering prayer offered by the Resolutions Committee.

XV. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD COUNCIL

Rev. Greg Town, Reporting

Rev. Greg Town is the representative from the Regional Synod of Albany to the General Synod Council. Greg attends each meeting of the GSC and provides a summary report to the Synod Executive Committee. Greg presented this more detailed report to the Synod delegates specifically highlighting the "Transformed and Transforming" part of the report as it will be a major topic of discussion at General Synod

Questions and concerns were raised to Greg about the insurance matter before the RCA as well as about the Board of Benefit Services oversight of the insurance funds.

Greg reminded that his term of representation ends in June of 2014 and at present Albany Synod is the least represented of all the synods.

GSC processes Discovery event data and forms General Synod recommendation

The GSC processed and discussed the data and input compiled from the 24 Discovery events. Continuing the discernment process, GSC corporately crafted a proposed recommendation to General Synod that focuses on three areas of ministry for the denomination's next season of ministry together (see below). This recommendation will be discussed, modified, and voted on at this year's General Synod.

TRANSFORMED AND TRANSFORMING *Radically Following Christ in Mission Together*

In cooperation with the Holy Spirit, serving with each other, and working with all the partners God provides, as we move toward a fifth century of mission and ministry, the Reformed Church in America will focus on three interconnected strategic priorities:

(1) Cultivating Transformation in Christ (*Jn 15; 1 Cor 3:6-8; Rom 12:1-2; 2 Cor 3:18; Matt 22:34-40; Lk 6:40; Acts 2:42-47; 2 Cor 5:17-18; Mt 28:18-20; Eph 4:14-16; Gal 3:28*)

- Developing passionate lifelong believers who live and love like Jesus.
- Deepening our spiritual journey in ways that are biblical and Reformed.
- Loving and embracing the diversity of all people.
- Opening ourselves humbly to deep change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Increasing our personal and corporate devotion to God.
- Building intentional intergenerational discipling relationships with youth.
- Engaging conflict in healthy and redemptive ways.

(2) Equipping Next Generation Leaders (*Deut 6:4-9; Lk 9:48; Eph 4:11-12; 2 Tim 2:2*)

- Increasing the awareness that God is calling youth and young adults to become leaders.
- Developing youth intentionally for missional, congregational, and pastoral leadership.
- Mobilizing emerging leaders for service in the church and world.

- Preparing leaders of all ages for fruitful ministry in diverse environments.
 - Cultivating diverse and healthy leaders so that churches can thrive.
- (3) Engaging in Mission** (*Lk 4:18-19, 10:25-37; Acts 1:8; Lk 10:25-37; Mt 28:18-20; Matt 14:14; Micah 6:8; Mt 13:44; Mt 9:37; Acts 2:42-47; Rev 7:9-12*)
- Contextualizing ministry and church in new and expanded ways.
 - Prioritizing youth involvement in missional ministry.
 - Serving as agents of change through putting our faith in action.
 - Promoting justice, compassion, and reconciliation.
 - Expanding mission that is both local and global with equal passion and commitment.
 - Equipping existing churches to move outward in ministry.
 - Embracing our mission to the world and sharing the good news of the gospel with everyone.
 - Multiplying missional communities and new churches that put the love of Christ into action.

2013 General Synod schedule and agenda reviewed and approved

The GSC set the agenda and schedule for the 2013 General Synod, to be held June 20-25 at Central College in Pella, Iowa. The proposed all-synod advisory issue will focus on the GSC recommendation noted above.

Report from Board of Benefit Services

The Board of Benefits Services has asked its executive director to conduct a "planned exit" from the current self-funded, not-for-profit medical plan because the vast majority of current plan participants will be able to purchase equivalent coverage at a lower cost. This comparable yet lower-cost coverage will be available through the insurance marketplaces (formerly called exchanges) created by the Affordable Care Act. These marketplaces will be geographically specific and will be operational by fall 2013 for insurance coverage that will begin January 1, 2014. More information is available at benefits.rca.org.

Ends policy monitoring reports reviewed and progress assessed

The GSC holds the general secretary responsible for fulfilling the ends policies established by the General Synod in its 10-year goal, referred to as Our Call; for overall fulfillment of the General Synod's Statement of Mission; and for the GSC's work as the General Synod's executive committee.

Reports reviewed by the GSC in the nine ends areas form the basis of its report to the General Synod. GSC also reviewed all of the Global Ends reports. Detailed reports with measurable data were provided in the nine ends areas as follows:

Church Multiplication policy

The RCA will foster a sustainable movement of church multiplication through starting new congregations.

Church Revitalization policy

The RCA will be a fellowship of externally focused congregations where lives are being transformed and communities are being renewed.

Discipleship policy

The RCA will be a fellowship of congregations filled with disciples, nurtured inwardly, focused outwardly, becoming like Jesus in all they think, say, and do in order to show the love of God in all circumstances to all people.

Leadership policy

The RCA will be a fellowship of congregations that are building a healthy, growing future by renewing existing leadership and identifying, calling forth, and training people with gifts for leadership.

Mission policy

The RCA will be a fellowship of congregations that connect and engage people to what God is doing around the world, through missionary and mission partners that cross boundaries in word and deed with the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ and enabled by the Holy Spirit resulting in:

RCA churches equipped for mission that are:

- Evangelizing unreached peoples,
- Empowering global partners,
- Engaging in compassion and justice.

Multiracial Future Freed from Racism policy

The RCA will be a fellowship of congregations resisting the sin of racism and committing to a multiracial future engaging all of God's people in mission and ministry.

Women in Ministry and Mission policy

The RCA will be a fellowship of congregations in which all women are equipped and empowered to fully exercise their gifts in the life, ministry, mission, and offices of the church.

Executive limitations monitoring holds general secretary and staff accountable

One of the significant GSC responsibilities in policy governance is to review detailed reports from the general secretary and staff around the RCA's mission, vision, and day-to-day operations. These monitoring reports are reviewed in depth at both the fall and spring meetings. They provide the single best mechanism for the GSC to evaluate performance in all areas of responsibility of the general secretary and staff. The general secretary and staff reported compliance or progress in all policy areas.

GSC affirms the general secretary's leadership of the RCA

The GSC received and discussed the report of its relationship and review committee, the standing committee established to review the work of the general secretary. The GSC affirmed the leadership of Thomas De Vries as general secretary. The session included an opportunity for direct conversation with Tom and concluded with a time of prayer. The GSC's responsibility in this regard is to evaluate the general secretary's performance in all areas of his work, as well as his performance within the General Synod Council. GSC commended the work of the general secretary in continuing momentum toward fulfillment of the denomination's 10-year goal; guiding the church in a time of prayer, discernment, and conversation about our future; and carrying out General Synod business.

General Synod officer reports

President Tom Smith, vice president Carl Boersma, GSC moderator Larryl Humme, and general secretary Tom De Vries shared reports on their travel and work on behalf of the General Synod Council.

Other GSC business

The GSC also addressed other business:

- GSC affirmed the motion to bring to General Synod a joint RCA/CRC statement of affirmation of commitment to a collaborative missional partnership.
- GSC affirmed the 2014 assessment proposals (for approval at the 2013 General Synod).
- GSC members shared their connections with the local church through Discovery events and classis visits.

- GSC elected Gloria McCanna, pastor of First Reformed Church in Fishkill, New York, as the next GSC moderator.

XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Search Committee:** Rev. Mark Andersen, convener of the search committee, presented an update on the activity and action of the search committee. Mark noted the committee began their meetings in January with a review of the position descriptions for the Albany Synod Ministries Coordinator and the Albany Synod Administrator. They received several applicants for the individual positions and interviewed the most qualified candidates. They recommended that the Synod Administrator's part time position be offered to Rev. Robert Hoffman and are pleased to announce that Bob has accepted that position and will begin working as administrator on July 1, 2013. The Synod Ministries Coordinator's full time position is still in process but will be completed and a report will be made to the Executive Committee by June. Mark expressed his thanks and gratitude to the members of the search committee:

Sharon Hann, Rochester Classis

Jan Hoffman, Schenectady Classis

Rudy Visser, Columbia Greene Classis

Tom Patterson, Personnel Committee

Stacey Midge, ASEC

Miriam Barnes, Montgomery Classis

Millie Zuk, Schoharie Classis

Rick Behan, Albany Classis

Jill Cullen, Finance Committee

John Stratton, ASEC

Mark also thanked the Synod for all their support and prayers throughout this process.

2. **Committee on Accounts:** Rev. Mike Meyer Veen, chairperson of the committee, presented the following report on behalf of the committee.

The Committee on Accounts, consisting of Mike Meyer-Veen, Jordan White, Norm Hamm, and Ned Barnes met on April 4, 2013. Committee member Sally Wiggand was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting also included representatives from the Fowler Board of Trustees (for review of the Fowler 2014 budget and the 2012 Financial Statements), members of the Albany Synod Finance Committee (for their regular meeting with review of the Synod's 2014 budget and 2012 Financial Statements), and David Froehlich (representing the accounting firm of DeChants, Fuglein & Johnson, LLP).

There was concurrence in expressions of appreciation concerning the work that had been performed by the accounting firm of DeChants, Fuglein & Johnson, LLP. This accounting firm thoroughly reported the financial status of the Regional Synod and Camp Fowler.

The committee presents the following recommendations to the Regional Synod:

- R-1 That the financial reports of the Synod of Albany and the Fowler Camp and Retreat Center for the year ending December 31, 2012 as presented by the accounting firm of DeChants, Fuglein & Johnson, LLP, be approved.**

MOTION: To approve the recommendation. (CARRIED)

- R-2 That the 2014 Fowler budget of \$741,500 be approved.**

MOTION: To approve the recommendation. (CARRIED)

R-3 That the 2014 Albany Synod budget of \$295,618 be approved.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation

R-4 That the assessed portion of the 2014 Albany Synod budget (\$229,618) be supported by an assessment of \$29.00 per active confirmed member. (About \$5,500 will be needed from Albany Synod Reserve Fund earnings or increased giving to balance the budget)

MOTION: To approve the recommendation. (CARRIED)

R-5 That the new Synod Administrator work with the ASEC and the Synod Staff to explore and implement more cost effective technologies into the overall operation of the Synod.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation. (CARRIED)

**Regional Synod of Albany
2014 Budget Proposal**

| Description | 2012 Actual | 2013 Approved | 2014 Proposed |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Classis Assessments | \$229,985.50 | \$232,058 @\$29.00 | \$229,618 |
| Congregational Giving | 51,365.95 | \$ 60,000 | \$ 50,000 |
| Individual Gifts | 3,450.00 | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,000 |
| Rental Income | 3,946.78 | \$ 4,000 | \$ 7,400 |
| Interest Income | 527.84 | \$ 100 | \$ 600 |
| SMB Event Income | 14,538.00 | \$ 5,099 | \$ 5,000 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$303,814.07 | \$304,257 | \$295,618 |

EXPENSES

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Banking/ Financial | \$ 4,253.88 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 2,000 |
| Deffered Comp | 8,279.04 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 |
| FICA/Offset | 9,111.81 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 10,000 |
| Payroll charges | 2,058.75 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 |
| Salary | 141,238.41 | \$137,418 | \$137,418 |
| Finance Manager | | | |
| Stated Clerk | | | |
| Administrator | | | |
| Administrative Assistant | | | |
| Ministries Coordinator | | | |
| Insurance Benefits | 8,938.49 | \$ 12,696 | \$ 12,000 |
| Expenses | 7,522.30 | \$ 10,693 | \$ 9,000 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Equip | 5,585.92 | \$ 8,500 | \$ 6,500 |
| Office Supplies | 802.50 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| Printing | 382.19 | \$ 2,250 | \$ 1,000 |
| Telephone | 9,817.98 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 7,500 |
| Internet | 987.60 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Website | 0 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| Web Comm | 588.00 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 500 |
| Postage | 127.28 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 500 |
| Audit | 3,500.00 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 3,500 |
| Building Contracts | 10,416.62 | \$ 8,250 | \$ 8,250 |
| Utilities | 7,507.59 | \$ 7,750 | \$ 7,750 |
| Taxes/ Insurance | 3,001.91 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 3,500 |
| Building supplies | 738.90 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,000 |
| | | | |
| RSA Meeting | 4,149.52 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 3,500 |
| Committee Mtgs | 4,167.64 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| NYS Council | 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Clerk's Expenses | 199.79 | \$ 700 | \$ 700 |
| Staff Mtg Expenses | 429.90 | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |
| RCA (COSE/PACT) | 2,527.37 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| | | | |
| SMB Program | 30,912.28 | \$ 33,000 | \$ 33,000 |
| Contract Staff Salary | 0 | \$ 20,000 | \$ 20,000 |
| Expense Accts | 0 | \$ 5,000 | 0 |
| | | | |
| <u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u> | <u>\$268,245.67</u> | <u>\$304,257</u> | <u>\$295,618</u> |

Fowler Camp and Retreat Center
Profit and Loss Proposed 2014

| | | Actual Jan. - Dec. 12 | Budget 2013 | proposed 2014 |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | |
| Income | | | | |
| | A-Summer Camp | \$278,430.08 | \$292,000.00 | 315,000 |
| | B-Retreats | \$54,926.00 | \$50,000.00 | 50,000 |
| | C-Festivals | \$4,708.00 | \$7,000.00 | 4,000 |
| | D-Cabins | \$120.00 | \$500.00 | 0 |
| | E-Store | \$18,384.12 | \$21,000.00 | 20,000 |
| | F-Chapel | \$1,200.00 | \$1,500.00 | 1,500 |
| | H-Chi Rho House | \$72,953.92 | \$80,000.00 | 80,000 |
| | I-Pine Lodge | \$7,125.00 | \$6,500.00 | 7,500 |
| | J-Trest Lodge | \$7,920.00 | \$6,500.00 | 7,000 |
| | K-Interest | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 0 |
| | L-Endowment | \$0.00 | \$25,000.00 | 25,000 |
| | M-Miscellaneous | \$5,311.14 | \$0.00 | 0 |
| | O-Prayer Cabins | \$6,895.00 | \$11,000.00 | 7,000 |
| | P-Special Gifts (Designated) | | | |
| | 1. Designated Giving | \$19,390.00 | \$12,200.91 | |
| | 2. Designated Church Giving | \$12,315.56 | \$7,709.29 | |
| | P-Special Gifts (Designated) - Other | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | Total P-Special Gifts (Designated) | \$31,705.56 | \$20,000.00 | 25,000 |
| | Q-Special Gifts (Unrestricted) | | | |
| | 1. Unrestricted Giving | \$128,962.09 | | |
| | 2. Unrestricted Church Giving | \$60,974.34 | | |
| | Q-Special Gifts (Unrestricted) - Other | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |
| | Total Q-Special Gifts (Unrestricted) | \$189,936.43 | \$195,000.00 | 195,000 |
| | S-Day Camp | \$6,900.00 | \$5,000.00 | 5,000 |
| | Total Income | \$684,571.25 | \$721,000.00 | 741,500 |

| Expenses | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|--|
| A. Camp and Retreats | | | | |
| 1. Summer Camp | \$23,115.05 | \$22,000.00 | 26,000 | |
| 2. Retreats | \$7,007.25 | \$7,000.00 | 8,000 | |
| Total A. Camp and Retreats | \$30,122.29 | \$29,000.00 | | |
| C. Publicity | \$11,245.34 | \$10,000.00 | 10,000 | |
| D. Food Service | | | | |
| 1. Food | \$25,464.79 | \$25,000.00 | 82,000 | |
| 2. Kitchen Supplies | \$5,189.73 | \$5,000.00 | 9,000 | |
| Total D. Food Service | \$30,654.52 | \$30,000.00 | | |
| E. Store Expenses | \$14,162.87 | \$10,000.00 | 18,000 | |
| F. Maintenance | | | | |
| 1. Cleaning/Paper Supplies | \$1,163.33 | \$0.00 | 0 | |
| 2. Furniture/Linens | \$2,163 | \$2,000.00 | 2,000 | |
| 3. Bldg/Equip Repair | \$13,593.83 | \$13,000.00 | 20,000 | |
| 4. Equipment | \$2,384.26 | \$2,000.00 | 2,000 | |
| 5. Insurance Policy | \$10,174.57 | \$10,000.00 | 36,000 | |
| Total F. Maintenance | \$29,481.99 | \$27,000.00 | | |
| G. Utilities | | | | |
| 1. Electric | \$9,250.44 | \$10,000.00 | 10,000 | |
| 2. LP Gas | \$7,006.45 | \$5,000.00 | 9,000 | |
| 3. Fuel Oil | \$16,530.19 | \$20,000.00 | 18,000 | |
| 4. Telephone | \$1,513.47 | \$2,000.00 | 4,000 | |
| Total G. Utilities | \$34,300.65 | \$37,000.00 | | |
| H. Vehicles | | | | |
| 1. Maintenance | \$1,897.16 | \$4,000.00 | 7,000 | |
| 2. Replacement | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | |
| 3. Fuel | \$5,171.45 | \$6,000.00 | 6,500 | |
| 4. Insurance | \$2,114.50 | \$4,000.00 | 3,500 | |
| Total H. Vehicles | \$14,267.89 | \$17,000.00 | | |
| I. Operations | | | | |
| 1. Office Supplies/Furniture | \$7,473.66 | \$5,000.00 | 9,000 | |
| 2. Periodicals/Assoc. Fees | \$399.90 | \$0.00 | 0 | |
| 3. Periodicals/Library | \$173.96 | \$0.00 | 0 | |
| 4. Donations (Bible/Ambulance) | \$1,870.00 | \$4,000.00 | 5,000 | |
| 5. Financial Exp (audit/budget) | \$1,548.82 | \$2,000.00 | 4,000 | |
| 6. Credit card/service charges | \$1,065.38 | \$2,000.00 | 1,500 | |
| 7. Development Expense | \$9,995.27 | \$10,000.00 | 15,000 | |
| Total I. Operations | \$24,527.96 | \$38,000.00 | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--|
| L. Personnel | | | | |
| 1. Payroll Taxes | \$17,356.49 | \$20,000.00 | 20,000 | |
| 2. Fowler Full Time Staff | \$153,049.12 | \$162,000.00 | 167,000 | |
| 3. Semmer Employees | \$90,297.44 | \$93,000.00 | 96,000 | |
| 4. Chi Rho Cook/Cleaner | \$19,999.98 | \$20,000.00 | 23,000 | |
| 5. Temporary Labor | \$3,256.00 | \$15,000.00 | 8,000 | |
| 6. Bookkeeper | \$10,426.24 | \$11,000.00 | 12,900 | |
| 7. Employee Benefits | \$62,174.05 | \$72,000.00 | 76,000 | |
| 8. Payroll Expenses-Paychar | \$2,691.09 | \$0.00 | 4,000 | |
| 9. Development | \$20,150.00 | \$20,000.00 | 26,000 | |
| Total L. Personnel | \$579,400.41 | \$477,000.00 | | |
| Total Expense | \$640,740.64 | \$721,000.00 | 743,500 | |
| Net Ordinary Income | \$43,780.61 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |

3. Overtures and Judicial Business Committee Report:

The Overtures and Judicial Business Committee received no overtures or recommendations to review, and was not called upon to offer counsel on any judicial proceedings, during the past year. Having had no business requiring action to report, the committee gives thanks to God for a peaceful year.

4. Resolutions Committee Report:

The following resolutions were presented by the Resolutions Committee.

R-1 Whereas the Kinderhook Reformed Church has provided nourishment for both body and soul by offering gracious hospitality, food and drink; meaningful worship, under the leadership of Rev. Rudy Visser; and music through the gifts of the Broad Street Chamber Players and organist David Smith.

Whereas we have had the opportunity to celebrate ministries and give thanks for the work of God within the bounds of the Synod;

Therefore, be it resolved this 6th day of May 2013 that the Regional Synod of Albany offers thanks and praise for all those making preparations, offering hospitality, and providing leadership for this meeting.

R-2 Whereas God has provided this synod with able leadership and a variety of gifts through the ministries of: Bob Hoffman, stated clerk; Richard Doyle, past president; Mark Andersen, president; and the anticipated ministry of Brad Lewis, vice -President;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Regional Synod of Albany gives thanks and praise to God for such gifted leaders and offers them our prayers, support, and thanks, asking for the Spirit's guidance and direction as God's work is carried on.

R-3 Whereas the **Synod Ministries Board** has faithfully carried on their work together in the past year to meet the needs of our Classis members through offering opportunities for enrichment, training, and support for consistories, elders, deacons and ministers, and for encouraging congregations and classes towards revitalization and mission;

Whereas the **Fowler Board of Trustees** continues to provide prayerful encouragement and guidance to Fowler Ministries so that Fowler's mission and ministry of sharing God's Word and caring for God's creation can be lived out;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Regional Synod of Albany extends our profound appreciation to the members of said Boards for all the work they have done and continue to undertake on behalf of each of our congregations.

R-4 Whereas our **synod staff** have continued to share their love for the church and their devotion to the cause of Jesus Christ by giving of themselves and their talents;

Therefore, be it resolved that we offer our heartfelt appreciation, encouragement and prayers of blessing for the staff of the Regional Synod of Albany.

R-5 Whereas **Nancy McNiven**, for the past 19 years, has served the congregations of this synod with her gifts, talents, and servant heart; and whereas she has concluded her employment as Coordinator for Discipleship & Communication, but has graciously agreed to continue to serve the synod as contracted staff;

Therefore, be it resolved that we heartily thank her for her loyalty, devotion and valued service to the church of Jesus Christ in Albany Synod and offer our prayers of blessing for her and her family.

R-6 Whereas **the search committee**, under the leadership of the Rev. Mark Andersen, has conducted its work with diligence, grace and prayerful deliberation;

Therefore, be it resolved that the RSA express its heartfelt thanks to the members of the search committee as we joyfully anticipate the completion of their work, and welcome Robert Hoffman as synod administrator, and look forward to welcoming a new synod ministries coordinator.

R-7 Whereas the **Classis of Montgomery** has graciously invited the Synod of Albany of 2014 to gather within its bounds;

Whereas the Pitcher Hill Community Church has offered to host the meeting of the Synod;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Synod of Albany accepts this gracious offer and agrees to meet on May 5, 2014, at the Pitcher Hill Community Church within the Classis of Montgomery.

**MOTION: To approve all the Resolutions presented by the committee.
(CARRIED)**

XVII. Report of the Regional Synod Ecumenical Delegate to the New York State Council of Churches Rev. Dr. Bill Levering

As denominations and their associated resources **shrink**, the role of regional cooperation becomes more important since **Councils of Churches assume leadership** in efforts that are in the general 'radar' of congregations and pastors. This radar is usually measured by what is a reasonable driving distance for meetings and events. They are also able **to coordinate efforts in advocacy and the delivery of social services** peculiar to the area or the history of the churches.

This is exactly true for the New York State Council of Churches that we support with our efforts and contributions as a Synod and as classes. The preamble to the constitution states that the Council is

"... called by the Word of God and mutually joined together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Gospel powerfully and to manifest creatively God's good and just purposes throughout New York State. Therefore, we covenant to care for one another, safeguard the presence of a vital Christian faith community in each place, provide hospitality to all, proclaim

the Gospel boldly in each place, and declare God's just will among powers and principalities."

In practice, this means that the Council has been very active in Social Justice **advocacy**, support of **Chaplaincy** services in our New York State prisons, and coordinating statewide ministries of **disaster relief** and programs. The Council has taken strong positions against hydrofracking, indiscriminate solitary confinement, and gambling. They continue to certify prison chaplains and work for justice in the justice system.

In the last year, a **revolution** of types has taken place wherein the organization has very intentionally redesigned itself to be less dependent on the efforts of denominational executives and more responsive and open to participation of smaller ecclesiastical units. This revolution took the form of a new set of bylaws, a larger set of elected board members, and a vigorous search for a new executive.

The RCA is well represented in these new movements. As your representative, I am the vice-president as well as the drafter of the new bylaws and the chair of the search committee. Dr. Bob White, of this regional synod, serves as the interim executive. Andrew Chestnut, an RCA member from Schenectady, serves as the chair of the finance committee. Several RCA pastors applied for the new position and many members of the committees are RCA people.

I encourage the **expanded funding** of NYSCC efforts by churches, classes, and synods since it is performing a pastoral and prophetic role that we are called to but rarely emphasize in the RCA. For more information, see www.nyscoc.org.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the annual meeting of the Regional Synod of Albany following the benediction of the Commissioning of the new officers. (CARRIED)

XIX. COMMISSIONING

The following newly elected officers of the Regional Synod of Albany were commissioned to their respective offices by Mr. Richard C. Doyle, Jr., Past President.

Mark Andersen President

Brad Lewis Vice President

Robert Hoffman Stated Clerk

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Hoffman, Stated Clerk

Mark Andersen, President