

1890

[1890] Synodale Handelingen der Hollandsche Christ. Geref. Kerk in Amerika, gehouden te Grand Rapids, Mich., den 4den Juni e.v.d., 1890.

TRANSLATION:

**ACTS OF SYNOD
OF THE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

ASSEMBLED AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

June 4, ff., 1890

Note to the reader: This translation has not been corrected and will be found to be inaccurate in some instances. The reader should consult the original Dutch editions before quoting from this volume.

The Acts of the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church
Held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 4th, 1890.

After the Rev. E. Bos, President of the Synod of 1888, had delivered his sermon on the evening preceding the Synodical Sessions, and had preached on I John 2:27, he now at the morning session announces that the Delegates sing Ps. 135:2,3, after which he read a portion of Matt. 23, and then thus addressed the Delegates.

My dear Brothers:

"NO GOD, NO KING," this is the cry now uttered from the lips of mankind, and a whole army of anti-Christ, Communists, Nihilists, and Socialists, proclaim these dreadful principles thruout the day and the year in our fair land.

And what Rabbinical and Pharisaical haughtiness governments here and there disclose, when they foster this spirit; the spirit of dissolution and destruction. This is straight from the great abyss.

We acknowledge our Fathers and our Masters in our communal life, and sanction them also. And this we do for the sake of the Lord, and for his Word's sake, since we are bound to observe all the rules of man. And may our Lord spare us and our children from this godless stream, which attempts to overthrow his altar and his throne.

This word of Christ can in no sense be applied to our public life. It points to a lawful government in the world and is guarded by Christ and his apostles. In that portion of Scripture which was read, the Lord Jesus speaks to his Church. It is a kingdom; but not of this world. It is indeed God's Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven.

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My Brothers, We are assembled here as representatives of the Church of Christ. We are shown our positions, we are given our calling.

No father, no master in our journey as pilgrims.

Is this not so? If we meditate on this Word, is it not a people shown here, orphans without a King.

Orphans are we, dear Brothers, and that without a King.

We look up to no one here below. From no one do we expect a word of command.

In God's Kingdom we may call no one Father nor Master.

How poor, miserable and helpless we are in such a Kingdom. The citizens of this Kingdom are the most wretched of all peoples. Nobles were called to this Kingdom, but there were none. Luckily that none were found. And woe where they were. Then the Pope, the Cardinal, the Bishop, the priest appeared, also Books lettered in red, and dogma with it. A helpless people; a powerless people; a wretched Class; and in addition a disjointed heap.

I repeat: without Father, without a Master, even without a Mother. Then would it not be well to discontinue once and for all the mention of a Mother Church here below? God's Church, and we as a part of it are his body; he who was anointed after the order of Melchizedek, concerning whom the Holy Scriptures state: without a Father, without a Mother, without a family, without a reckoning.

God's Church does not find its fountainhead in an earthly Father, nor in an earthly Mother, nor even in a family unit here below. Strangers are we, the believers here on earth,

One Kingdom of God; one Kingdom in the Heavens. As a citizen of God's Kingdom; no earthly Father, no reckoning of generations; only that Father who is in the Heavens: our Father.

And the free Jerusalem above, that is our Mother. God, the Lord deliver us from all fantastic ideas of having a Mother Church anywhere. Our calling with those who make up the whole Church of God here, is to be without a Father, Mother, or a Master.

According to human thought the State of God is poor, miserable, and exposed. Without rule or order she lies exposed and in a state of helplessness.

And yet, she is the city of God.

And we, possess a heavenly Father.

His is the Heavenly majesty, the eternal Father, almighty, full of Glory, the Fountainhead, the giver of all good. Father of all his children, the living God, ruling over the heavens from his lofty throne, over the earth, the sea, and the depths under the waters.

This God then is our Father, he is both the Fountainhead, and the basis for our existence.

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We are his children; he keeps and protects and shelters us, the objects of his care.

We lift up our prayers to that Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also have a King, one is our Master, even Jesus Christ, God and Man, the Anointed. He teaches and instructs us. We his Church give constant heed to him. He prays for us and blesses us. Let us cast our gaze on him, the Great High Priest of the House of God. He is the King, the King of Zion. Thru his regal Word he commands us. May he be our only King, and may we submit to him, -truly to him alone.

As severe as his command sounds: to acknowledge no Father, no Master, so natural is his command, to look up to the Father, him who is in the Heavens, and there with him the Christ, our Master.

Therefore, My Brothers, let us understand that we are brothers in the house of the Lord. Let us once more with unity of mind, and with oneness of Spirit, be busy in matters pertaining to the Church, which we here on earth represent. May the Lord be our Law-giver, our Ruler, our King.
So be it.

The speaker now leads the Assembly in prayer.

Art. 1. The Mandates are now read and the following delegates are present
(The delegates are not listed, since this does not add to the translation)

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The entire page lists the delegates, ending the list on page 5.

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Art. 2. The Officers of the Synod: L.J.Hulst, Pres.
R.T.Kuiper, V.P.
A Keizer, Clerk
J.Riemersma, Asst.Clerk.

Art. 3. The President of the previous Synod, after expressing his appreciation to the Synod for the confidence in him, and after wishing the new President success in his task; surrenders the Chair to the newly chosen President, the Rev. Hulst.

The Rev. Hulst takes the Chair, states that his task is a difficult one, and asks the Synod to have patience with him as he conducts the Sessions. He asks for all the assistance the Vice-President can give him, and then prays that the Lord may bless his efforts.

Art. 4. The President now asks the delegates to rise while the Formula of Unity is read, and all the delegates respond to this with an audible "Yes".

Art. 5. Time of the Sessions: A.M. 8:00-11:45; P.M. 2:00-5:45.

Art. 6. The President calls to mind the passing of the brothers: the Revs. S. Baron, L. Rietdijk, and O. Stuit. after which he welcomes the Ministers: the Revs. H.H.Diepering Langereis, P. Van Vlaanderen, H. Potgieter, who have come to us from the Netherlands since the last Session of the Synod. He also welcomes the new Ministers, the Revs. E.Vanden Berge, A. Meijer, P.Van Vliet, E.Breen, J.Manni, who have been placed in the Lord's Vineyard since the previous Synod. He also greets the Rev. S.I.v.d. Beek, a delegate from Classis Hackensack. Concerning the presence of the Professors, the Synod will abide by Art. 8 of the previous Synod.

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Art. 7. The Revs. Noordewier, Post, and Schut are chosen to check the previous Minutes Synod 1888, for the Articles which need more discussion.

Art. 8. The Rev. Plesscher was detained in his trip to the Synod, from Lincoln Center,

he, nevertheless sends his greetings to the Synod.

Art. 9. It is decided that the first Article of the Agenda, dealing with Home Mission matters be given attention, so that there may be a later report. A Committee is chosen for this.

Art. 10 Matters pertaining to the Theological School will be up for discussion on Friday morning.

Art. 11. The Rev. Noordewier reports on Home Mission Work, and this is accepted. See Supplement I.

Art. 12. The Missionary Pastors render their reports:

- a) The Rev. Breen states that he has carried on his work in seven Congregations. He states that he has worked with much joy and he feels that his work has been blessed.
- b) The Rev. Marcuse has visited only two Congregations, and he will accept a call to Lafayette, Indiana.
- c. The Rev. Van Vessum that he has also found much joy in his labors. Since the previous Synod, he has called on 511 families, 142 of which have been taken into the Church either by Baptism or by Confession, he has conducted 235 Services, and has taken charge of 59 Consistory Meetings

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he conducted Catechism Classes for 98 times, served 17 communions, and officiated at 20 Baptisms. Now he has accepted a call to Cincinnati, Ohio. He is to arrange with the Mission Committee, a suitable time for addressing the Synod in a word of Farewell.

Art. 13. The Rev. Schut reports on the monies received for the distribution of Bibles among the Heathen. It is decided to transfer these funds to the Rev. T. v.d. Bosch to be used now for the distribution of Bibles among the Indians.

Art. 14. The Synodical Committee reports, and this is accepted. It is included in the Supplements under Supplement II. Communications are read from the Church in South Africa, and also from the old Reformed Church in Bentheim.

Art. 15. Reporters are to have the same privileges as at previous Synods. (Art. 13, 1886) The Rev. Boer, the Editor of the "Wächter" falls under the same category.

Art. 16. A Constitution for the Synodical Committee is read, according to Art. 94, 1888, and this is accepted "in toto". (See Supplement IV)

Art. 17. Agenda II, 2; Classis shall appoint the Curators in the following manner: Classis Hudson, 1; Cl. Illinois, 1; Cl. Iowa, 1; Cl. Holland, 2; Cl. Grand Rapids, 2; Cl. Muskegon, 2; with the understanding that the Curators at present will function until September 1. The travelling expenses of the Curators will be borne by the Church in general.

Art. 18. Agenda III. Heathen Mission matters: a motion to place this in the hands of a Committee failed to pass. This is tabled until a later Session.

Devotions and adjournment.

June 10, A.M. Session.

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The roll call shows additional delegates present as well as alternates.

Art. 19. The previous Minutes are read and accepted after a few changes.

Art. 20. Heathen Mission matters are again under discussion. (Art. 18) It is decided that the Heathen Mission workers residing in our country, and working on our own fields will be permitted to attend the Synodical Sessions, and in addition their travelling expenses will be paid by the Church.

After the Minutes have been read it was decided to add to Article 18, the following phrase: " in conjunction with and under the supervision of the Committee on Heathen Missions.

Art. 21. Reports:

- a) The Treasurer of the Dollar Fund reports. The REvs. Vander Werp and Van Vessum are chosen to audit the Books, and report later.
- b) The report of the Emeritus Fund. (See Supplement V.)
- c) A Constitution for the above fund is read, (Art. 94, 1888) which is accepted and the matter will be discussed article by article later. While this matter is under discussion Agenda V. is brought up: Classis Illinois proposes that the needs for the Emeritus Fund be increased in the same manner in which the salaries of the Professors are. But after this is discussed, it is decided to remain by the former decision. This discussion end the Session.

Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 22. The discussion of the Rules for the Emeritus Fund are now in order. After altering some of the Articles, they are included in the Supplements. (See Supplement VI) A Committee is named besides the standing Committee to discuss the whole matter and present a later report.

The standing Committee consists of the Rëvs. Kuiper, Vander Werp, and Elder Van Bree. The last named Committee consists of the Revs. E.v.d. Vries, and H. Potgieter, with the Elders A. Lanning and S.S. Postma.

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Art. 23. Agenda IV. A request is made to the Synod to have Art. 65 of the General Rules revised. This Article reads: The question is put if a person under Censurehip cancels his Membership in the Church; whether he then is outside the jurisdiction of the Church. The answer states that the Church then can do no more for this pitiable person. The Professors give their opinion on this and after much discussion, it is decided that this Article be declared void. and that it be removed.

Art. 24. A report is submitted by Classis Hudson, concerning the Mandate given her at the previous Session of Synod (Art. 48, b) in regard to the union with the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church. The Synod accepts this report and then asks for more information on this. The Rev. S.I.v.d. Beek is given the floor and he speaks thus:

- a/ It is now already nineteen years ago that a discussion of a union was begun.
- b/ Since that time the bonds between us have been visibly tightened, so that there even now is an exchange of pulpits, Holy Communion is celebrated together, and Certificates of Membership are exchanged.
- c/ The Church had met with Classis Hudson and discussed a union, and had agreed on every point but one which prevented it. In Doctrine and Church Order there was unity, but in addition to the Psalms, the fifty two hymns in connection with the fifty two Sundays are sung. They do not wish to force the use of these on us any more than they wish ours.
- d/ The report from Classis Hudson is accepted and placed in the Supplements, (VII) The matter is now referred to a Committee of five members, to report on this later. The Committee: the Rev. Noordewier, v.d. Werp, Drukker, and Elders Keppel and Karsten. These represent Classis Hudson, and the Rev. De Baun will sit in in an advisory capacity.

Art. 25. Agenda IV, 1: concerning the E.B.P.Fund. This matter is placed in the hands of a Committee, which will report later.

Art. 26. Agenda, VII, Matters pertaining to the "Wachter" are discussed.

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The Editor is to be assisted in his work by three persons in addition of a Committee of Oversight. (See Art. 38 below)

Art. 27. The Synod appoints the Rev. P. VanVlaandren to preach the Synodical sermon on next Tuesday evening, since he is the last Minister arriving from the Netherlands.

June 6,

Art. 28. The Minutes of the two previous Sessions are read and accepted. It is decided to add this clause to Article 20, "in consultation with, and under the supervision of the Heathen Missionary Committee".

Art. 29. The matter of the Theological School is next in order. (See Article 10) The Revs. Hulst, Noordewier, and Elder Garvelink, named to find a suitable location for the Theological School, report on their findings. The first question to be answered: Does the School need its own Building? The Professors state their opinions and feel that it would be most practicable if there were a separate building. But they stated that there was an even greater need for a Library. After much discussion it was decided that a separate building would best answer the purpose. Then the question arose where the building should be placed. The Professors and the Curators are both asked to state their opinions. The Student "Corps" also presents a petition that the building be erected in Grand Rapids. Living conditions and housing are discussed, and these in connection with the salaries of the Professors. While this discussion has been going on the time for adjournment has come, and this Session ends with Devotions.

Intermission.

Art. 30. The time for adjournment is set for 5:00 P.M., and the Sessions will resume at 1:30 P.M. on Monday.

Art. 31. It is decided to discontinue the discussion of the Professors salaries and to

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Consider the location of the new School building at this time. Zeeland and Holland are considered as the places suitable for the building, and a general discussion follows. As the time for adjournment approaches, and the matter is still under discussion, it is left unfinished until Monday afternoon, and will be taken up then.

June 9, 1890,

Art. 32. The President conveys the greetings of the Rev. Frieling, who is unable to attend the Sessions due to the serious illness of his wife. The rollcall shows some changes in the attendance of the delegates.

Art. 33. The location of the School is again up for discussion, and a number of the delegates express their opinions, and various places for the School are proposed. After the President leads the Synod in a prayer, the matter of a location is put to a vote. The vote will be a majority vote for a decision on the location. When the votes were counted, Grand Rapids received 70, Holland, 26; and Zeeland, 2.

Art. 34. Choosing Trustees is next in order: The Revs. Hulst and Noordewier retire, as well as the Elders Garveling and Riddering. Brother Gelock has passed away. The Revs. Hulst and Noordewier are reelected, as well as Elder Garvelink. The new Trustees are the Rev. Bos and Elder A. Van Bree. The Synod adjourns.

Page 12. The President is asked to bring this thought before the Delegates, that Miss Ellen vanden Berge, who presented such a tempting offer to the Synod, in the form of a house and a lot, etc. should the Synod decide to locate in Holland, for the location of the Theological School; be thanked by the Synod for her generosity. She will receive proper recognition for her generous offer in a communication from the Synod, and signed by the President and the Clerk of this Assembly.

Art. 36. Concerning the building of the School, the Synod decides to put the Trustees in charge of the matter, without stipulating the place in the City, the methods of procuring a place nor the costs. Before the construction can begin, the necessary funds must be assured or collected, while the land on which the building is to be placed may be purchased at once,

Art. 37. The Rev. De Baun is the first person to contribute and that with the sum of \$50.00 in memory of his late wife. The Rev. Noordewier presents \$400.00 for the school and another \$100.00 for the library, the Rev. Kuiper, \$75.00 for the School and an additional \$25.00 for the library.

This generosity demands a word of thanks to the donors, which the President does in the name of the Synod. He also orders this to be put into the Book of Minutes.

Art. 38. Agenda VII, Art 26, This deals with the "Wachter" A Committee on oversight for the publication is named by acclamation. They are the Revs. Hulst, Ekster, Broene. And as assistants not three but twelve are named who will contribute Articles for publication once each month

Art. 39. A Committee for the regulation of Emeritus matters is chosen.
(Committee not listed in the translation)

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Art. 40 The Committee reports(Art. 25) On the E.B.P Fund.

It is decided that Student B.H.Ennink will be supported by Classis Hudson; J. Vander Mey by Classis Muskegon; S. Koster and G.Berkhof by Classis Grand Rapids; J. Groen, G. Jansen, and H. Walkotten, by Classis Holland. Classis Holland will receive \$200.00 from the General Fund for the Student Groen. The funds received later and returned to the Fund will be distributed among the Classis which gave them, if they were under the jurisdiction of a Classis for a longer or a shorter period of time.

The Report is accepted and after a few changes included in the Minutes.

Art. 41. Agenda VI, Art.2. in which Classis Iowa asks for a review of Art. 66 of the previous Session of Synod as follows: A committee from the E.B.P. Fund invite young men from their circles and send them to Grand Rapids, after a choice has been made, to take the Entrance Examinations at Grand Rapids. It is decided: A Classis may send a student if he has completed his Entrance Examinations with the program set by the Synod.

as follows: a/ A certification of Membership from the Consistory, as well as a recommendation, or a recommendation from friends who are not Church Members.

b/ A statement of good conduct.

c/ Signs of an inner piety.

Art. 42. In regard to the placing of the Sunday School Lessons in the "Wachter"(Agenda VII,2) these are to continue in the publication as formerly. In regard to reprints of the Lessons and explanations, and a request for Sunday School Calendars; the Synod decides not to go into this matter at this time.

Art. 43. Elder S.S. Postma is chosen as general Treasurer of the Theological School and Student Fund. He is also to receive \$50.00 annually for his services.

Art. 44. The Committee on the union with the

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True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church(Art. 24) comes up for discussion. The Report on this is accepted and a discussion follows at length.

Art. 45. The Minutes are read and accepted, after some articles are altered a bit and improved

Art. 46. The Synod continues a discussion on Art. 44 above.

Art. 47. The Rev. W.G. Moorehead, D.D. from Xenia is present as a delegate from the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church. He is presented to the Synod by the Rev. E. v.d. Berge. His Mandate is read and he is seated as a Corresponding member.

Art. 48. The Rev. J. Keizer informs the Synod that Dr. M Veenboer has promised \$25.00 to the Theological School. This will be recorded in the Minutes, and the Rev. Keizer will thank the Doctor in the name of the Synod.

Mr. B. De Graaf and the Rev. L.J.Hulst each promise \$50.00 and this is to be included in the \$6000.00 promised by the City of Grand Rapids. The Synod thanks these givers and this gift will be included in the Minutes.

Art. 49. The discussion on Art. 46. is again resumed and it is decided: The Synod accepts the report on the union with the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, with the understanding that they may use the 52 songs to correspond with the 52 Sundays, in connection with the Heidelberg Catechism, but the Holland and German Speaking Churches will not use these (See the Committee report in Supplement VII.) Furthermore this decision is to be sent to Classis Hackensack and at the same time...

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a request to support the various funds in the Church. The President extends the right hand of fellowship to the Rev. S.I.Vander Beek, adding appropriate words and the Reverend answers in kind asking for the Lord's blessing on the union.

Art 50. Dr. W. G. Moorehead will address the Assembly and the Rev. De Baun thus addresses him:

Our dear Brother: I greet you in the name of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, and it gives us much pleasure to see you in our midst as a delegate from the United Presbyterian Church, and especially since your Church is so large and ours so small. We rejoice in the fact that we know and believe that you stand firm in the fundamental truths as formulated in the confessions in our Churches. In our times with an adulteration of doctrine and a weakening of the fundamentals in worship; we hope to strengthen our hearts, standing shoulder to shoulder, and opposing the forces of those who stray or oppose it.

The difference in language may be a hinderance to a union, but I can assure you that we are at your side working hand in hand for the spreading of Christ's Church here on earth.

The Rev. Dr. Moorehead now replies:

Mr. President and my dear Brothers: It falls to my lot to convey the greetings of the General Assembly of our Church to you. May the peace and mercy of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you.

I add that a Committee has been appointed to meet with your Committee, that we might learn to know each other better, discuss our needs and the Fundamentals which are so dear to us. The above, I was to state in an official capacity, and now permit me to add some personal remarks.

I wish that for a few minutes I might have the gift of tongues, although here and there I am able to grasp a few words of your discussions, yet I must appear a foreigner to you.

I think we have much in common: we are both people from the old school. we desire to cling to the old and walk in old paths. There is no movement under foot to abbreviate our Confession, or to change it in any way, but we shall cling firmly to the Doctrine, delivered to us by our fathers, and especially in these days of indifference and dispersal. I am very interested in what happens here, and have my reasons for the same. Two students who studied at our Seminary, and now work in your Church, do not put us to shame, nor do I believe that they do you.

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Recently we received a communication from brother Kruidenier from Egypt, stating that he finds much enjoyment in his work there, and that he was making very good progress in the Arabic language. I shall not detain you much longer, but may I say this: that about six years ago there was a trend against inspired Church Music, and also a trend toward Secret Societies, but this is no more, and what happened in the last few years, made a definite stand on this subversive trend necessary. In this situation may we learn to know each other better. With brothers Kruidenier and E v.d. Berge, and another brother of your denomination with whom we correspond, the need of knowing each other better increases. May peace and love continue in your midst.

The Speaker is then asked why a few churches have recently left the denomination. He answers that they produced a Brochure in which they stated that the change was made because the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. which they had joined did more mission work than the United Presbyterian Church. They stated they knew nothing of the plan before the departed. Concerning Free Masonry, as far as he knew no one was a member of that organization in the

Presbytery of the Western Synod, nevertheless they will not tolerate anyone who is a member of any Masonic Order.

b/ The Committee appointed for this matter now reports, (Supplement IX) The report is accepted, and since the Rev. Rietdijk, one of the members of the Committee has passed away, T. Keppel is named in his place and the Committee is mandated by the Synod to serve another year.

c/ In the afternoon Session, when the Rev. Dr. Moorehead informs the Synod that he must leave, he is questioned concerning the exchange of pulpits with ministers of other denominations. He states in reply that this happens very seldom, and if and when it does, then the pulpit is permitted only to those Ministers very closely allied in Doctrine, etc. He informs the Synod that the General Assembly meets in Princeton, Indiana, the following year, and he asks that a Committee be sent to the Assembly, which will be as heartily received by them as he was by us.

He declares that his stay here has been a most enjoyable one, and before he leaves he hopes they may become better acquainted as time goes on. Our ancestors in Scotland had much to endure during their persecutions even as your ancestors did in Holland.

Let us keep this, our heritage in mind.

The Rev. De Baun is requested to ask the Rev. Dr. Moorehead to convey the greetings of the Synod, to the Church which delegated him, with the earnest wish for a closer union and that the ancient landmarks be cherished by both churches.

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Art. 51. The Revs. Noordewier and v.d. Vries are chosen by the Synod to compute the costs of this session of the Synod to the various churches.

Intermission.

Art. 52. The Committee on travelling expenses reports and the report is accepted.

Art. 53 The Report of the Committee on Home Missions is given, (Art. 9) and this is accepted and discussed point by point. In some Articles it is advised to record them in the Minutes with changes. In some parts where changes are made, these read as follows:

Honorable President and Brothers: Your Committee has met and prayerfully considered all matters in the Agenda pertaining to Home Missions. It pleases us to report as follows:

That the Missionary Committee compose a Constitution and present same to the Curatorium and also to the next Synod for its official sanction.

The Rev. Van Vessum plans to leave his task as Missionary-Pastor, and he will preach a sermon of farewell on the next Sunday evening. We would gladly have kept him in this work, but his Sender has called him to Cincinnati, and in this we shall keep silent, thankful, nevertheless, for all the good done to the Congregation by his work.

The Committee presents the following for your consideration. a/ An urgent request has been received from Harrison reading as follows: The request is made to the Synod, to relay as soon as possible, more assistance to the Western area of the United States, this through the Home Mission Board, and if it be at all possible that the work be carried on by both Ministers and Students during their vacation periods. The Synod accepts this.

b/ Concerning the request from Classis Hudson, that Missionary Pastors be not called before a three year period has expired, without a good reason; the Committee asks the Synod to disregard this, as it might prove detrimental to the work of the Missionary. The Synod also accepts this.

c/ The Committee advises that in case of an accident to a Missionary, so be in a train wreck, it be left.....

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to the Committee to reimburse him in whole or in part during his inactivity. The Synod decides that in such a case offerings may be taken if necessary for defraying expenses.

d/ Concerning the travelling expenses of Missionaries wives, the Committee will not consider this, but the salary of the Missionary be increased by \$50.00. This the Synod does not consider, nor will it enter upon a discussion of this, and thus remains by former decisions.

There are at present twenty two Congregations who are asking for support from the Home Mission Board, to assist in the support of their Ministers, or those who may receive Minister shortly in their Congregations. The entire request amounts to \$3200.00. Of this amount \$650.00 must be paid out to Congregations which now have Ministers. With an eye on the Home Mission Treasury, and with the usual collections from the Churches, and with the hope of acquiring a second Home Missionary Pastor soon, it will be impossible to satisfy all the requests; and thus the Committee recommends the following. The following Churches will receive funds.

(These are not translated)

Bunde and Prinsburg will receive \$100.00 and the first of these Churches to get a Minister will get this sum. Vriesland and Overisel, (Dakota) will get the same. With the above churches not listed this will amount to \$1350.00. If the Committee is to keep its promises, more offerings need be taken in the Churches, and those who owe the Mission Board, should make every effort to pay up their obligations at the earliest, as there is great need for the funds. The Synod decided to add Beaverdam, Rotterdam, and Borculo to the list for \$100.00 each. To Lodi, N.J. and Cleveland, West Side, \$50.00 each.

Finally there are requests for financial assistance in building parsonages etc. The Synod decides to take an offering for Firth, and the Clerk will make a request through the "Wachter" for this purpose. It also recommends an offering for Sheyboygan and for Oostfriesland. The Committee, H. Douwstra, Clerk.

Art. 54. The Committee on the Emeritus Fund now reports. The Committee appointed by the Synod for this purpose now reports.....

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a/ In the first place the matter of the Rev. K. vanden Bosch was considered, who now receives \$150.00 in place of the \$300.00 which he formerly received. Your Committee is of the opinion that this is to be the rule from now on with this brother, and if this is not satisfactory, to the Reverend that he be referred to Articles 8 and 15 of the rules for Emeritation.

b/ As to the widow Stuit, she is to receive \$200.00 per year, and your Committee judges that this be continued, and if this amount does not satisfy her needs, she is to refer to Art. 15 of the Rules for Emeritation.

c/ Mrs Rietdijk also falls under this fund. The sum on \$50.00 is set aside for her for every three months, as the Committee feels that \$150.00 would suffice for her per year.

d/ The Rev. Stadt receives \$200.00 per year, and this amount should not be reduced in his case, while the Rev. Coeling from now on is to receive \$100.00 per year.

e/ A request was also received from Classis Iowa, with regard to the Rev. J. Geulker who is in a very weak physical condition, and the Classis asks for his emeritation and that for a period of two years, with an annual stipend of \$500.00. The Committee was unable to give a definite answer to this request, and thus presents it to the Synod just as it was received.

The Committee.

E. v.d. Vries, Clerk

This report is accepted, and it was further decided to accept the request of Classis Iowa and the monies for this will be taken from the Emeritus Fund. The President informs the Reverend of this; he having absented himself from the Assembly while his request was under discussion, and he thanks all the delegates for their liberality in granting his request.

The time of adjournment is here and the Synod recesses until the following day.

Art. 55. The Minutes are read and accepted after some minor changes.

Art. 56. The Synod is informed that the Consistory.....

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of the Spring Street Church in Grand Rapids reserves the right to protest against Art. 49 of this Session of the Synod. The protest reads as follows: The undersigned, delegates of this Synod, protest against the decision of the Synod, whereby Congregations organically joined with us, are given the freedom and the right to make use of the 52 songs, and that in conflict with Art. 69 of the Synod of Dordt. This protest rests on the following facts:

1/ Article 69 becomes by this act a dead letter, and a new ruling thus takes its place, which applies only to a part of our Church, as these two denominations will soon be united.

2/ By the amendment which was accepted with the Committee's report, this right is now granted to all Churches as soon as they become English-speaking Churches, i.e. the right to use the 52 songs in their services. Thus with this beginning, the songs will be introduced into all the Churches, with the idea that the Holland and German-speaking Churches, because of the difference in language, will be deprived of their use for a time.

3/ We consider this in conflict, and very much so, with all sound principle in Church Order, that in one and the same group of Churches, in an organic union with each other, two rules now hold, and we feel as a most unfortunate result of this the superimposition of the new rule upon the old.

4/ The report of the Committee as well as the Amendment to it leads to opposition, since it desires to work for an organic unity, and yet the Churches of Classis Hackensack remain as an especially circumscribed group, and for the future when the union has been consummated. We mean that after the union no one can mark any difference between them and others.

5/ We believe that it was within the province of the Synod to find a means to come to a united agreement with this group of Churches, so that our position would have remained clear and thus much difficulty and inconvenience could have been avoided, which difficulties, we fear, will occur now.

6/ It grieves us that by this union coming into being, the principal question, if songs are to be sung, has been decided, and that as a side issue. And we had very much wished that this Assembly had taken this under special consideration. We desired this in part because the question of songs in the Church is of such a delicate nature, in part, since we still at all times meant to remain by the rule that at an open worship service, only God's word should be sung.

Because of all the above reasons, we place this protest before your honorable Assembly since by our silence in this matter we would seem to have given consent.

Signed: J.H.Vos, Wm Brink.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 2nd, 1880.

N.B. The delegates from the Spring Street Church base their protest on the supposition that with this union, in principle the introduction of songs (into Church worship) is accepted; yet the officers of Synod feel compelled to explain that just with the omission of songs in the Holland and German speaking Churches, she wished to forestall any such innovation.

In addition there were four other names signed to the protest, which did not appear to be a protest to the Synod, in which case the Synod found it necessary to delete those names.

Signed by the officers of the Synod.

Art. 57. The Revs. H. v.d. Werp and J. Post with Elder M. Notier were named as a Committee to read the letters which had been sent to the Synod, and to report on these at a later time.

Art. 58. Point IX b, is in order concerning the organizations "Patrons of Industry" "Unions" and "Farmers Alliances." This is delegated to a Committee which will report later.

Art. 59. Agendum, Point VIII, Classes Illinois and Muskegon, concerning the delegates to Synod. Synod decides not to enter upon this matter, and to leave matters as they are; both concerning delegates to the Synod and the time set for the Sessions.

Art. 60. The President brings up the proposal from Classis Holland, as follows: The Synod give its attention to the movement in the Presbyterian Church, in the matter of a change in the "Confession of Faith." It is decided that the Synod express its sincere sympathy to the brothers in the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. who are and remain faithful to God's word in the question of revision.....

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and their Westminster Confession, and the Synod hopes and prays that they continue to oppose all deviations, and that they may be victorious in the struggle of all enemies of Jesus Christ, our universal head. See Supplement X.

Art. 61. Agendum: The matter in regard to the questions to be asked at the installation of members into the Church, the questions in Article 69 of the General Regulations, to be brought into line with

brought into line to a greater extent with those questions which are found at the end of the Compendium. It is decided to accept the following questions to be used for the installation of persons joining the Church.

a/ Do you acknowledge the Doctrine which is taught in the Old and New Testament, and the Articles of the Christian faith, and in the Christian Church here, to be the true and only doctrine for salvation?

b/ Do you promise thru God's grace to remain in this doctrine and to reject all heresies in conflict with it, and to live and walk in a new and holy life?

c/ And if indeed you should go astray, will you then submit to the discipline of the Church, and be subservient to the rule of the Church?

With this the Session ends. Intermission.

Art. 62. The report of the Committee chosen in Art. 58. It reads as follows:

1/ We are not prepared to present a well organized report nor a judgment concerning the purpose of the order of the "Patrons of Industry" nor to report the means by which they reach their desired goals. That the Order is a secret Order is shown by the fact that their methods of operation are shrouded in mystery. To this is added the social question, which is closely allied with this order, and introduced early in the organization of same, so that no one can with any assurance say where his personal rights end and those of his fellow-man begin.

2/ It may be stated that the organization is not bound together by a secret oath, but it is a secret organization nevertheless. Hence the members of the organization are sworn to secrecy, even before they are cognizant of the true character of the order.

3/ The ritual of the order is exactly like those of all secret organizations, and of such a nature that a Christian who truly desires to walk in a Godly path, cannot be edified by joining such an order nor taking part in any of its activities. There are two principle objections to this order.....

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a) In the highest sense it is a mockery, and thus it becomes a farce.

b) It smacks of Heathenism.

4/ It also seems to us that this order oversteps the boundaries of civil rights, and that it attempts to advocate a humanitarian ideal, which is in direct conflict with the spirit of Christianity. There are reports concerning this order of a striving for knowledge, wisdom and justice, etc,etc. When one considers how many such secret organizations strive for an anti-Christian ideal, then it is very dangerous for a Christian to ally himself with such an order. And on this point we would desire official proof.

5/ The order, with its fraternal secrecy and the rejection of others, appears to bring to us an added danger, for the communion of saints found among Christian brethren, in the fact promises are made which under other things makes it impossible to heed the first duty of the Christian "to do good to those who are of the household of faith".

6/ The Committee requests the Synod to permit it to collect more material and to send this on to the Classes Holland, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon, so that a denominational judgment may be forthcoming, and that thru the medium of the "Wachter" the public may become acquainted with the facts. The Committee requests also that this include the "Unions" and also the "Farmers Alliance" concerning which orders we are not prepared to make a report at this time.

Signed: The Rev. E. Bos, Pres.

Dr. G. Vos, Clerk

Rev. J. Keizer

Elder H. Beeuwkes

Elder A. Lanning.

The Synod accepts this report but it is not approved. Instead this is decided. In the matter of the "Patrons of Industry" Farmers Alliances, Unions, etc. the Synod directs their attention first of all to Art. 90 of the Synod of 1886, with a public warning in matters of this sort in the "Wachter" mentioned by the Committee in its report. The Synod charges the Committee to continue its investigations.

Art. 63. Matters of general interest are now brought up before the Synod, as per the Agenda as follows: The Synod adopt the same method for refunding travelling expenses to Ministers from the East or the West, as those coming from foreign lands.

This is accepted by the Synod with the understanding that the travelling expenses of a Minister exceed the amount of \$50.00.

Art. 64. The following matter is now in order:.....

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The Synod pass a judgment on the following: Must a young Men's Society of our Church, bath in its organization and in its existence, and in its programs, be under the supervision of the Consistory? The Synod will not enter into this..

Art. 65. From the Agendum, the President presents the following matter to the Synod. in which information is requested if Article 67 of the General Regulations is not in conflict with I Corinthians 7:15. After information from Classis Muskegon on this, from which Classis this matter originated, the Professors advise the Synod. This Article reads: If a man married to another woman, his first wife having deserted him, can either be a member or a baptized member of the Church? The answer to this was, No. The Synod also answers in the negative, and adds, "unless for adultery".

Art. 66. Another question: Can a man whose wife was legally separated from him because of Adultery, and then remarries while his first wife is still alive, be a member of the Church? The answer: By no means.

Art. 67. Reports by the Committee on Correspondence, see Art. 57.

These show that there were letters containing greetings and well-wishes to the Synod from:
a/ Oostburg, Rochester, Sheridan, Hardewijk, and Montague, all of whom excused themselves for not sending delegates to the Synod.

b/ A letter from the Rev. W. Coeling with greetings to the Synod, and a request for an ecclesiastical blessing on his second marriage. This is accepted as information, and the delegates are referred to Art. 68. of the General Regulations.

c/ A communication from Chicago; the decision on this is to return it to its source.

Art. 68. The President presents a request listed in the Agenda from Classis Iowa, asking that a German translation be made of the Formulas of Unity and of the Church Order of Dordt. The Rev. Hemkes reports on this for the Committee named in Art. 96 of the Synod of 1886. This report shows that the German Formularies differ from ours on many points, so that the Synod accedes to the request of Classis Iowa that the Formularies used in our Churches be translated, and assigns the task to the present Committee, and the Rev. Potgieter is added to the Committee in addition to the present committee members.

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The publication of a German weekly and the risks involved, is also under discussion.

This ends the Session. An Evening Session.

Art. 69. The report on Heathen Missions is read and accepted and approved. See Supplement XI for this report. Committee members are now chosen.

Art. 70. A communication from the Rev. T. Vanden Bosch, our Indian Missionary, directed to the Synod, which is accepted as information, and the Synod directs the Clerk to reply to this in the name of the Synod.

Art. 71. A matter in the Agenda, by Classis Hudson: The Synod forbid any of our Churches to call Ministers from the Reformed Church, unless such persons openly express a desire to affiliate with our church, and express that desire in writing. The Classis is referred to Art. 82 of the General Regulations.

Art. 72. The final point in the Agenda is brought to the attention of the Synod: The Synod review Article 58 of the General Regulations, and requests that this article be recast and that the responsibility rest not on the Consistory but on the Synod. The Synod refers the Assembly to Art. 69, b of the general Regulations.

Art. 73. A notation from the Spring Street Church of Grand Rapids is submitted to the Synod requesting that the Synod give a clear and understandable explanation of Article 68 of our Church Order.

a/ Explain the meaning of this Article, and state whether it must remain in full force as yet.

b/ State whether all persons who belong to our Church, or who intend to join, are bound by the requirements of this Article.

The decision: The Synod informs the Consistory of the Spring Street Church that their anxiety is put at rest by Art. 68 of the Church Order, which is signed by our Ministers and promoted by them.

Art. 74. The Rev. R.T. Kuiper is chosen as a member of the Synodical Committee, and the Rev. Riemersma as Treasurer of the Dollar Fund. The monies for this Fund are to be retained until the Treasury for which they are intended has need of them. Brother P. Heyboer is chosen as Comptroller of all the Church funds, the Student Fund excepted.

Art. 75. Since the Book of Minutes has been filled, the Synod places it in the hands of the Archivist, and a new Book will be supplied for the Minutes.

a/
Art. 76. At a proposal from Classis Muskegon, Synod decided to: have Baptismal Certificates printed for baptized members. The Officers of the Synod will see to this.

b/ Send the Agenda to the Consistories at an earlier date, more copies, and have timely explanations of the contents explained in the "Wachter" by the editor.

Art. 77. The Treasurer's report on the finances of the "Wachter" cannot be given at this time. A committee of oversight will function for the approval of the work accomplished.

Art. 78. Letters are placed in the hands of the Synod from the Holland Classis of the Reformed Church, as a result of Article 40, the last part, of the Synod of 1886. These are accepted as information.

Art. 79. After the Minutes are approved the Synod decides to adjourn until 1892. The Spring Street Congregation will act as the host for the next Assembly. (Grand Rapids). The Ministers of the Grand Rapids Churches are to thank the members of the Congregations for the friendly reception of the delegates, and the care extended to them while the Synod was in Session. The President now addresses the Delegates and since it is late, his remarks are brief. He states that we are most grateful to the Lord for his watch-care over the Assembly while the Synod was in session. At the beginning of these sessions, I thanked you for the honor to me, and now I must thank you for the patience you have shown. We are now returning to our homes. If remarks have been harsh, let us forgive.....

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and let us hope that the Lord will lead us and give us to trust in Him. I am aging. Should I be present at the next Synod; I know not. Let the Lord be our Guide.

The Vice-President takes the floor, and in the name of the Synod thanks the President for the manner in which he has conducted the Sessions. He expresses the well-wishes of the Synod with the hope that the Reverend may be present at the following session in 1892.

The Clerk and his assistant are thanked for their laborious task in the transcription of the Minutes and the Synodical decisions. After the delegates sing Ps. 90:9 the President ends the Session with prayer.

The Officers: (Rev.) L.J. Hulst, Pres.
" R.T. Kuiper, V.P.
" A. Keizer, Clerk.
" J. Riemersma, Asst. Clerk.

The Supplements of the Synod of 1890.

Supplement I.

The Report of the Mission (Home) Committee since the Synod of 1888.

Honored Brothers:

The financial report is first listed in the Supplement, but it is omitted in the Translation. Page 28.

The receipts reported in 1890, with the balance of the previous year amounted to \$ 2301.28 Expenditures were \$2213. 22. thus leaving a balance of \$88.00 with notes to the amount of \$1120.00.

During the last two years the Rev. Rietdijk left the Committee by his departure from Paterson, N.J. to Muskegon, Michigan, and Brother H. Beeuwkes replaced him. To the sorrow of all soon after this he passed away.

The Rev. E. Broene left the Committee by moving from Jamestown to Grand Rapids, and the Rev. H. Douwstra, his alternate, from Holland took his place.

The Missionary work was a very rewarding and a very blessed work, concerning which our Missionaries are anxious to report.

It caused us much sorrow to learn that the Rev. Van Vessum felt it necessary to accept the call to the Church in Cincinnati, thus losing one laborer for the vast regions of this great land. The Synod should consider this phase of the work most seriously and support it with all its power. Signed, The Committee.

P.S. The Revs. Vander Werp and Van Vessum had been chosen to audit the Mission Fund finances and have found them correct. (The financial report of the "Wachter" is not included in the audit)

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Supplement II.

The Report of the Synodical Committee concerning the activities from 1888 to 1890.

Honored Brothers:

The Committee has the honor of reporting on its activities since the Synod of 1888.

1. Very soon after the Sessions of 1888, we received a communication from the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim and Oostfriesland, asking our pardon for not answering the invitation to the Synod of our Church, a matter which they had neglected. They stated the reason for this. They had forgotten the date of the Sessions of our Synod, and when it was called to the attention of their Clerk the time had already elapsed.

2. The invitation from the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands that we send a delegate, was accepted by us, with the Rev. E. Bos as our delegate.

3. The answers of the Reformed Churches of the Classes of Holland, Grand River, and Wisconsin, were sent on to us by the Clerk of their last Synod.

4. Classis Hudson supports a request from the Second Church of Paterson for an offering from the entire denomination for the construction of a Church and a Parsonage, when they learned what the Church and the Classis had already accomplished.

5. On October 9, 1888, a communication was received from the Rev. Frieling, stating the opinion of the Student Lemkes, after he was considered by the Curators and the Professors. His brother, Lemkes, recently arrived from the Netherlands, had failed in his Examinations here, and had presented himself here for an examination, requesting a special session for the Curators, which it was impossible for them to grant. Brother Frieling asked the Synodical Committee to take up the matter. The reply to this was that this was not within their sphere of work, nor could they see that said gentleman had been treated unjustly.

6. The Rev. J.C. Voorhis from Hackensack, N.J. also sent a communication stating that he, because of the needs of his Congregation and other Church affairs, could no longer function in the preparation of the Sunday School Lessons after the end of the year, 1889. The Committee accepted this letter. Then it was decided.....

to transfer the work to Professor Boer until the following Session of the Synod. Then the question was raised whether he wished to do this in English or in the Dutch Language. It was judged that if the English was too difficult for him he could use the Dutch. The Professor took this task upon himself, and stated that it might be a good idea to announce this in the "Wachter" and then to ask if English Lessons were desired; if there was a demand for the Lessons in English, he would attempt it. But if there were no demand he would use the Dutch Language.

7. Brother Pleune, the Business Manager of the "Wachter" stated that the minute the Sunday School Lessons were taken out of the "Wachter" and reprinted and distributed by a Mr. Tanis, our "Wachter" lost many readers. The Committee seeing that this was not going according to plan, nevertheless was helpless to stop it, and the following Synod will have this matter called to its attention.

8. The question is put to Mr. Pleune how he will proceed if the treasury of the "Wachter" is in "the red", and the printer cannot be paid. He states that he will have to request funds from the Treasury of the Theological School.

Our correspondence with sister Churches was confined mostly with invitations to send delegates to our Synod. Invitations to the following Churches were issued:

1. The True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the East. (Classis Hackensack)
No reply was received from this Church.

2. The Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands.
This Church sent no reply.

3. The Old Reformed Church at Bentheim.
A reply was received from this Church.

4. The Reformed Church in South Africa.
A friendly reply was received from the hand of the 72-year old Rev. Postma.

We thank the Synod for the confidence placed in us and for the opportunity to serve the Church in this capacity, and in conclusion we pray for the help and the guidance of our Heavenly Father.
Signed: The Committee, The Revs. Hulst, Vos, Kuiper.

A Letter from the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim

To the Homeland Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Dear Brothers in the Lord:

Your communication from the hand of the Rev. J.H. Vos, of Grand Rapids, to the Reverend Schoemaker at Veldhuizen, dated March 4, last was received at our Classical Assembly. You included an invitation to your Synod of June 4, and the days following, in Grand Rapids.

The Classis decided at this time to send only a letter to show our interest in our sister Church overseas. The letter follows: We wish to express our gratitude first of all, for your invitation to have us send a delegate to your Synod. The expressions of your sympathy gladdens our hearts.

Receive now from us our ecclesiastical greeting. The Lord grant you his blessing, his favor, and his assistance; for yourselves as well as for your Assembly, that this may be a blessing to your Church, and to the glory of God. From the old established Churches in this area, we can state that things are going well. At Emlenkamp both the membership and the influence of the Church are increasing. Other Congregations including van Laar are progressing also, but more slowly. Nevertheless, it will be some time before the Church will set the pace for this area.

At Emden, where services were held for a time by a Minister not wholly suited for this work, and where the Congregation has now been without a Minister for a whole year, the Church experienced a few troubles and matters became a cause for worry.

Now the Classis has named a Committee at its last session, who are to meet with the Consistory of Emden, and it shall make an effort to fill the unoccupied pulpit.

The Classis will advise Emden as well as provide financial support. We hope that with these conditions there may improve. Our Theological School, in many respects rests on the same old foot". The Treasury threatened to go into the "red" but this has been averted for the time being. Some of your Congregations were moved to send gifts to us. This assisted us very much financially. We feel once more obliged to thank you for this gift.

And while both you and we continue in the struggle against a common enemy, we pray that you may do this with the certain knowledge of the communion of Saints, first of all, and then that the blessing of the Lord may be yours.

Our greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ, as your Brothers, and this by the above named Classis.

J. Schoenmaker, Pres.

G. Noordhof, Clerk.

Wilsum, May 6, 1890.

A communication from the Church in Africa.

Burgersdorp,

April 21, 1890.

To the Rev. J.H.Vos, Sec. of the Syn. Comm. of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Dear Brother in the Lord,

Your letter dated March 4, was received by us on the 19th of April. Your invitation for a delegation from our Church to your Synod can be officially considered by our Assembly which will meet in May, 1891, at Rustenburg in the Province of South Africa. I bring this letter to the attention of all the Churches, however, by having it inserted in our Church publication, the "Monthly Messenger".

I trust that you will be able to read a more recent communication from us from our last Synodical Session on June 20.

How pleased I would be if I were able to visit your Church in North America, and if only for once, and at that time also meet some old acquaintances, perhaps, But my age, no doubt, will be a barrier to that wish. On the tenth of January, I celebrated my 72nd birthday.

In October, 1888, I became seriously ill, and the recovery from this has been very slow, but now I am beginning to feel like my former self again, and I have resumed my work at the Theological School once more, and that since February 1889. Now and then I have also conducted services in various Churches. If I may not seem too bold, may I request the felicitations from your Synod, and tell them I am aging but that I in no way feel my age, nor is either my sight nor my hearing impaired.

God's grace is great where I am concerned, I, who am his unworthy servant. With the prayer that God's Holy Spirit lead you in all truth, I am, your brother in the Lord.

D. Postma, Gen. Correspondent.

Supplement IV.

A Constitution for the Synodical Committee of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Art. 1. The Synodical Committee of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America, is composed of three members.

Art. 2. The members of this Committee are chosen from among the Ministers of the Church and by vote. Every second year one member retires from the Committee, who may be re-elected.

Art. 3. One member of the Committee shall function as the President, one as Secretary, one as the Treasurer.

Art. 4. This Committee carries out all the instructions mandated to it by the Synod.

Art. 5. The Committee carries on a correspondence with sister Churches in other lands, receives the communications from other Churches directed to it, informs others of the contents of these communications, if necessary, and answer them as the senders request.

Art. 6. If any Classis demands it, advice will be forthcoming from the Committee, in matters of importance, but it will never infringe upon the rights of Congregations nor Congregational meetings, nor upon its activities.

Art. 7. Should a Classis make a decision which is of common interest, or should a matter be brought up which demands the co-operation of all the Churches, and such a matter cannot wait until a next Synodical Session, the Synodical Committee will function in such a case, and if need be support it.

Art. 8. All correspondence or dealings of the Committee.....

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which demand publication, will be inserted in the "Wachter," the Church publication.

Art. 9. At each Session of the Synod, the Committee presents a written report concerning all its activities since the previous Session of the Synod.

Art. 10. To cover the necessary expenses of the Committee, the Committee may request the Synodical Treasurer to reimburse the members of the Committee against the receipts.

Art. 11. Any careless move or any error against said Constitution, will cause the actions of the Committee in regard to the Church to be void and of no power.

Art. 12. This Constitution was brought forth by order of the Synod of 1888, and became in force in the year, 1890, and it will remain in force until the Synod sees fit to change same.

Done at the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America, of June 3, 1890.

Signed: L.J.Hulst, Pres.

J.H.Vos, Clerk.

R.T.Kuiper Treas.

Supplement V.

The Report of the Committee in charge of the Emeritus Fund of the Holland Christian Reformed Church of America, to the Synod of said Church, assembled in Grand Rapids, Mich. on the 4th of June 1890, and the following days.

Honorable Assembly:

With a common feeling of depression and sorrow, and yet with humble gratitude, we report on our activities in behalf of the Emeritus Fund.

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1. We stated, "with a feeling of depression and sorrow" and this for more than one reason. a/ In the first place because our faithful Treasurer, Brother Gelock, who so faithfully served the Church, and regarded the needs of the retired Ministers, their widows, and the orphans, was very suddenly taken by death on October 24, 1889, and in the second place, b/ because we did not receive the required support which was necessary for supplying the needs of all those under this category. Nor did we receive all the funds from the supporting Churches, but rather from both recipients and from the supporters a voice of disapproval. 2. Still there is cause for gratitude for the place vacated by our Brother Gelock, deceased, was soon filled by our Brother Van Bree, and b/ because there was not so great a shortage as at our previous Synod, since when the Churches were informed, so many of them responded and the offerings increased.

Nevertheless we shall inform you of a few of the details of our work. We feel that this is necessary, because too much has appeared in regard to this fund by persons writing about it, among other things that the Emeritus fund was certainly in need of revision, as also stated in the Agenda, and that this is desired at least by two Classes. A concise and accurate account of the activities and the experiences of the Committee, and of the condition of the Treasury will certainly be enlightening.

From the report to the Synod of 1888, for a two year period, there was a deficit of \$433.00 and it was then decided:

To ask all the Congregations to make an earnest attempt to overcome this deficit, by paying only one half of the Synodical expense, and to recommend this fund from now on, (Art. 52) and we can inform the Synod that the reminder to the Congregations has proved very effective.

Should a few Congregations be delinquent, this will become apparent in the report of the Treasurer, and then the matter can be rectified.

The Committee was also mandated to draw up a Constitution and to submit the same to the Curators, the Trustees, and to the Synodical Committee (Art. 94) and this has been completed in so far as we were able, so that the various decisions have been collected from the Acts of the Synod, and in addition, other regulations have been formulated which the Committee thought necessary to fulfill future needs. The complete regulations have been submitted to certain Brothers designated for this, that they might pass judgment on these regulations, and these are now, with a few changes submitted to the Synod for its approval.

At the last Sessions of the Synod there were four Ministers emeritus, but since then, two Ministers present at the last session have passed away, each of whom left a widow, and also ten children between them.....

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all of whom received support from the Emeritus Fund and thus increased the outgo greatly. Then shortly after our previous Synod, we were saddened by the death of our youthful co-laborer, the Rev. O. Stuit, reported to us from Cincinnati, Ohio. Although the small Congregations showed an exemplary manner by at first providing for the needs of the widow and her children, and by presenting her with the sum of \$400.00 at her departure, nevertheless by previous inquiry, it was deemed necessary to assist her financially. The Committee, in so far as it was able and obliged to do, considering the circumstances, had decided on a quarterly amount for her support, and a small bonus in addition to this. It can be, as stated by the Consistory, that this support was not sufficient, in which the Synod can fill in that which is lacking. The Treasurer can and will report on the amount which the widow received.

Then on August 6, 1889, our honorable brother in the work of the Church, the Rev. L. Miedijk passed away in Muskegon, Michigan, and on the second of Septl we received a communication from the Consistory of that Congregation, the Congregation having met on Aug. 26 informing us of their decision that the Congregation would pay the widow the salary up to Sept. 25., and that the widow might remain in the parsonage until a new minister would accept a call to the Church. And then at this time her needs would be the responsibility of the Committee of the Emeritus fund. At some time later, after much had been written in the "Wachter" the widow herself wrote to the Committee and stated that she both needed and desired support (with her seven children) and after the Committee had investigated her financial status, it stipulated a definite amount for her, and continued with this. We would gladly have the sanction of the Synod on these matters.

The Committee met in two sessions, the first being in South Holland, since our Brother Golock, now deceased, was in Illinois at that time visiting friends and relatives, at which time these matters were under discussion, but concerning which no Minutes were taken, and

On the sixteenth of October, 1889, at which time the Synodical Committee was present, by invitation, the Committee being the Revs. J.H.Vos and L.J.Hulst.

At this Session the Constitution was formulated for the Emeritus Fund, and after this was considered and a number of changes had been made, it was accepted temporarily, and later to be presented to the Synod for its approval.

It is necessary that we mention the cases of our two retired ministers.....

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the Rev. S. Baron of East Holland, and the Rev. K. Vanden Bosch of Grand Haven, both of whom were summoned to meet with us. The reasons for this were these: We had been informed from various sources that neither one of these Ministers should receive monies from the Emeritus Fund. This resulted in a refusal by some to contribute to this fund, and others who did contribute became niggardly in their offerings.

The Rev. Baron, due to advanced age and physical infirmity, could not be present, but he had sent a letter, in answer to one from the Treasurer, stating that because of the paucity of funds in the Emeritus Treasury, and because of the addition of two widows to the fund, his pension be cut in half, namely from \$200.00 to \$100.00. He stated that he wished this to be a gift both to the Church and to the Emeritus Fund. The Committee was very pleased with this and a letter of thanks was sent to him for his liberality. But his children, according to reports, were not satisfied with the new arrangements which he had made, and they asked him to cancel the balance of the amount due him, and thus decline the \$100.00 also. Our secretary carried out this request but then another letter was received cancelling this.

Later we were informed thru the "Press" that our Brother had passed away, and that at a ripe old age, and with this the whole matter came to an end.

The Rev. Van den Bosch was present in person. Since complaints had also been heard concerning his pension, the Committee was anxious to discuss this matter with him. To our sorrow, it was most difficult to discuss this with him; since he felt that he had been greatly wronged. After his departure and after the Committee discussed his case, it was decided that due to the paucity of funds in the Treasury, the amount to be allotted to him from now on was to be \$150.00 annually, and that this was to take effect during the next quarter. The Secretary informed the Reverend of this and the Treasurer acted accordingly. Now the Reverend receives one half of the amount which he formerly received, i.e. before the death of his first wife. The Brother was most dissatisfied with this new set-up and complained most indignantly at the recent arrangement by frequent communications with the Emeritus Committee. The Committee, however remained adamant, and if now asks the Synod to review his case thoroughly and thus to ascertain whether the Committee acted fairly or not. If any fault is found with the actions of the Committee, then the Reverend should be reimbursed, and then steps should be taken in the future which can withstand any criticism and according to which the Committee can act.

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With the two remaining Ministers receiving Emeritus funds, the Revs. Coeling and Stadt nothing need be reported except the usual correspondence.

Since the needs of the Emeritus fund increased, the payments to the recipients could not always be made on time, and at a meeting of the Curators, Trustees, and the Synodical Committee, the question was put how the Committee should go about it to acquire the necessary funds for this purpose; and the Committee was empowered to borrow money from any available Church fund and make it chargeable to the whole Church, if any Church fund had the necessary funds available. Thus the three brothers, Coeling, Vanden Bosch, and Stadt, receive the following amounts in the same order, \$100.00, \$150.00, \$200.00. \$450.00 annually

b/ Widow Stuit, with three Children, now residing in Holland, \$208.00

a/ Widow Rietdijk, with seven Children, \$200.00. This brings the grand total to \$858.00 per year. At the time the Synod of 1888 was in session there was a deficit of \$433.83 in the Emeritus Fund. This amount has been greatly reduced, as previously announced. The deficit now at the transfer of books amounts to only \$161.69

Monies received recently	91.36
Deficit at this time	70.06

Received June '88-'89	\$889.71
Disbursements	763.83
Balance	125.88

Received, June '89-'90	\$1332.14
Disbursements	600.16
Balance	410.23

From our report it also appears that this fund needs our special attention, and means must be found for acquiring the necessary funds so that the distribution may be successfully carried on.

The Article in the Constitution dealing with this seems to be the best solution thus far, i.e. two offerings annually by every Church in the denomination.....

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and that each one pay toward this fund according to his capabilities and his conscience.

Yet with all that is written in our publication, it still appears that this plan is not universally accented, and other measures will, no doubt, have to be taken. May your Committee be so bold as to advise that if there is to be a change, then the proposal of Classis Illinois be considered which states that: The Synod state that the necessary funds for the Emeritus Fund be acquired, thru reports by each Church of their financial ability, and in proportion to the needs of the fund, and that the Synod regulate these amounts at its Sessions, in the same manner in which it now regulates the salaries of the Professors of the School. Then the funds could be regulated according to need, each could contribute according to the ability, and the matter of the manner of collecting for this could be left to the discretion of the consistories. This would eliminate all deficits. The Committee, June 4, 1888.

The Report of the Committee of the Curators and the Trustees of the Theological School appointed for the purpose of completing the Matters pertaining to the Office of the late J. Gelock.

This Committee, consisting of the Revs. J. H. Vos, L.J.Hulst, and Mr. Garvelink, have investigated the administration of the affairs of the Treasurer, now deceased, J. Gelock, as carefully as possible, and after all matters had been prepared, the Committee met on the thirteenth of February in the year 1890, and at the home of the Reverend J.H.Vos, with Mr. Heyboer as comptroller, and with Mr. De Jonge, representing the heirs of the late Mr. Gelock.

After this meeting was opened with a word of prayer, all matters were thoroughly investigated, aided by the information which we had, and the following was found to be the case, on which all agreed:

That Mr. J. Gelock, as a profit to the Student Fund, had left a debt for his heirs to the amount of \$1114.70, and that there existed an unfavorable balance of \$69.64 for the Emeritus Fund, which comes to the heirs of Mr. Gelock as a credit. Also there was a debt against the heirs of Mr. Gelock of \$2175.13 for the Theological School. These two amounts bring the total to \$3289.82..

From this amount, the credit to the heirs was deducted to the amount of \$69.94.

Now that all notes of credit had been figured up for the heirs, and having received from them previously the amounts of \$850.00 and \$655.77, the Committee and the administrator of the affairs of the heirs considered the matter completed.

Mr. A. van Bree assumed the duties connected with the administration of the Emeritus Fund and Mr. S.S.....

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Postma, as alternate to Mr. Gelock, took upon himself the administration of the Student Fund and the affairs of the Theological School from the Trustees and the Curators.

This report must not be considered as a complete report, but rather as a general report of the whole matter, since a full report would be going into too much detail.

May the Lord bless the new Administrators as well as his inheritance.

Supplement VI.

A Constitution for the Emeritus Fund for the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America, compiled for the control of the Fund for Ministers Emeritus, their widows, and their orphans.

Art. 1. The Holland Christian Reformed Church wishes to carry on according to the ruling of Article 13. of the Church Order of Dordt, of 1618-1619, which Article reads as follows:

"Should it occur that a Minister thru age, illness, or otherwise, become incapacitated in any way so that he is unable to carry on his work, he will nevertheless retain the honor and the name of Reverend, and he will be cared for, in his need, by the Churches which he has served, as well as his widow or any orphans of said Minister."

Art. 2. That all the following regulations may occur in an orderly way, they will be conducted according to the rules formulated at the behest of the decision in Article 93 of the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, in Session on June 13, 1888, and following days.

Art. 3. The Management of this is entrusted to a Committee of five members; two of whom are Ministers and three, elders, and of these one will function as the President and one as the Treasurer. Every member on the committee must have an alternate.

Art. 4. Each Classis will have a correspondent with whom.....

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The committee when necessary, can discuss the person or persons, requesting or receiving support.

Art. 5. The Committee is chosen by the Synod, so that members are appointed at each

Session of the Synod; the members already functioning can be re-appointed, and the Committee will choose its own officers: a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Art. 6. The corresponding Secretaries of the various Classes are chosen by the Classes, and they shall not only give the necessary information in sessions with Consistories and Counselors, but also see to the regular collection of funds as these are regulated, and then also to see to it that the monies are sent on to the Treasurer of the fund in due season.

Art. 7. No petition for support shall be considered other than that which comes through the Consistory and the Classis and the Correspondent of the Classis, to the Committee of the Emeritus Fund.

Art. 8. The support of Ministers Emeritus, Widows, and Orphans, shall be according to need. The Committee will set a definite amount of support (to the recipients) before a Synodical Session, after ascertaining in a most careful manner, the financial status, and the ability of those asking for support. All this shall occur with the Classical Correspondent, after being informed by the Consistory and the Classis.

Art. 9. Whenever a Minister because of illness or infirmity receives Emeritation, yet can serve later in a small Congregation, he shall place himself on call, and as far as his strength allows, serve the Church calling him. In case the Congregation which he serves can provide for his support, his pension will be discontinued for the time he is on active duty.

Art. 10. Should he be removed from the fellowship of the Church because of Doctrine or personal life, or because of any movement in the Church (instigated by himself) he should leave; from that very instant his support from this fund shall cease, nor shall he have any recourse, if he should be reinstated, if the Synod judge otherwise.

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Art. 11. Should a Minister-Emeritus, being a widower, enter matrimony again, his support shall not be increased; and in the event of his demise his widow will receive no support from this fund, unless said widow was a widow of a former Minister of the Church and had received previous support.

Art. 12. When a widow of a Minister marries again, or if she is excluded from the Church for any reason; either through legal channels or on her own volition, her support will cease.

Art. 13. Orphans of Ministers will receive support from this fund until they have become of such an age, and of such social maturity that they can supply their own needs, They shall at all times conduct themselves as behooves young people in the Church.

Art. 14. To provide finances for the support of this fund, Congregations will take at least two offerings for this each year. Special gifts and bequests will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Art. 15. In case of a difference in the amount of distribution between the Committee and the recipient, the Synod will decide the matter. The person who is not satisfied with the amount he receives will not be allowed to suffer in the interim. Whether a recipient receives too much or too little will be taken up with him.

Art. 16. The Committee will present an annual report of both receipts and disbursements, and the condition of the Treasury, on the general day set for computation, for the Synodical Committee and other organizations, and at each Synodical year of the Synod, and in addition an annual report shall be placed in the "Wachter".

Art. 17. In case of the passing of a Minister-Emeritus, a Minister's widow, or an orphan, at the beginning of a quarter, the amount due the recipient for that quarter shall be paid to the heirs of the deceased, or to other proper parties.

Art. 18. This Constitution may be changed, the Articles increased or decreased, ... as often as it appears necessary by the Synod.

This completes the Constitution of the Emeritus Fund, which was formulated at the behest of the Synod, which was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the thirteenth of June and on the days following, in the year 1888,

Supplement VII.

A Report by Classis Hudson

To the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, located in North America, and Assembled at Grand Rapids, on the fourth day of June, and the days following,

Honorable and affectionate Brothers in the Lord: Peace be multiplied unto you.

The Classis Hudson meeting in session on April 16, 1890, at Paterson, New Jersey, noting especially Article 48, paragraph 2, of the Acts of the Synod of 1888, which reads as follows: "To mandate Classis Hudson as soon as possible, to complete the ecclesiastical union with Classis Hackensack, and to bring it into being," now reports and calls the following to your attention.

A Committee from our Classis, consisting of Rev. J. Riemersma, and the Elders, H. Beuwkes and D. Koek, met once and again with a Committee of Classis Hackensack, appointed for the same purpose. The result of these meetings of the two Committees led to the desired union. Also Classis Hackensack should send one or more delegates to the next Classical session in order to discuss the union more completely, as well as to make the agreement final. Thus the Rev. S. Vander Beek presented himself at our Classis on April 16, last.

The Rev. Riemersma in the Classis that a committee named by Classis Hudson had met with a committee from Classis Hackensack, and had discussed in detail the grounds in which God's Word, the Formulas of Unity, and the Church Order of Dordt, would be affected by this union; and that by this discussion it was very apparent that both Committees were in perfect agreement with the fundamentals of our Doctrine, but that there were minor differences: a/ in the government of the Church,
b/ in the name of the Church.

c/ in the conducting of the worship service.

After this report had been read, with an expression of thanks, the present Classis decided to discuss the points of difference with the representative from Classis Hackensack, the Rev. Vander Beek.

In a discussion of the first point, the internal government of the Church, in the appointment of Elders and Deacons, the delegates soon agreed and the judgment was that that was not an important point of difference.

Concerning the second point, there was no difference of opinion. The Rev. Vander Beek remarked that one could scarcely call an English speaking Church a Holland Church, and he wishes, according to his Classis that the name, "The Christian Reformed Church" be adopted. If the Holland speaking Churches could eliminate the word "Holland" then as far as the name was concerned, it would be in complete accord with the Netherlands.

But now the chief objection came up for discussion, the point concerning the worship service. The Rev. Vander Beek stated that they wished to retain the use of the fifty-two songs. He showed or attempted to show that these were merely an outgrowth of those referred to in Art. 69 of the Church Order of Dordt, and also of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, the Hymns of praise of Mary, Zacharias, and Simeon, and that in the use of these one was not at odds with the spirit of this Article, even if it appeared that one was not acting according to the letter (of the law) and as a result of this, the Reverend hoped that by keeping these in the worship service, it would not be a stumbling block towards a complete union. After a lengthy discussion on this the Classis directed the attention to the mandates of each delegate to either a Classical or a Synodical Assembly, which Mandates especially give each delegate the right and the might to consider all matters in the light of God's Word, the Formula of Unity, and the Articles of the Church Order of Dordt. Should one overstep the bounds of these, then there was no

other choice, (no matter how suitable the 52 songs might be) but this:

a/ either the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church discontinue these songs, or
b/ the union be delayed for the time being, until at a regular session of the Synod it be pointed out that Article 69 of the Church Order of Dordt can be so altered that these may be included, and with ecclesiastical sanction, these may be introduced into the worship of the Church.

The Rev. Vander Beek could not, according to Classis Hackensack, accept point "a" to discontinue the songs, and point "b" was entirely outside of our jurisdiction, so that as much as we desired the union, and as much as we wished to bring it to a successful fruition, this was unable to be accomplished at this time.

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We thank the Synod for the confidence which it has placed in us, and we pray that the Synod may be granted both wisdom and light in solving a problem which we were unable to do, and that it may bring matters to a successful conclusion, to the blessing of the Church and to the honor of God. We close this report with the best of wishes.

In the name of Classis Hudson,

J. Riemersma, Pres.

H.D. Langeries, Clerk.

Supplement VIII

The Report of the Committee in regard to the Union with the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the East. (New Jersey)

To the Synod, in Session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on June 4, 1890, and the days following.

Dear Brothers:

The Committee reports the following on the above matter. From the report of of Classis Hudson to the Synod, it is apparent that no union was effected with the above named Church. No difficulty was encountered with the internal government of the Church, nor in the name which was proposed for acceptance, but the question in which there was a difference, if the manner in which the worship service is conducted, is at a variance with the Art. 69 of the Church Order of Dordt, since for a long time the 52 songs were used with the preaching of sermons on the Catechism.

Your Committee weighed very carefully all the difficulties connected with this problem and it is of the opinion, that it has been known to us for several years, that the 52 songs were being used, and that this was not a hinderance for Classis Hudson to consummate a union seeing that one of our Congregations, La Grave Ave., at Grand Rapids, has the same type of worship service, and that thus this should not be a stumbling block toward a complete union with the True Reformed Protestant Reformed Church. Moreover every Congregation of our Church does not use the same type of worship service, nor the same name for the ruling body, and therefore we state concerning the matter of the 52 songs that,

a/ the use of these is a question of form more than a question of essence.

b/ we ourselves are at odds with Art. 69 of the Church Order of Dordt, and even in our Book of Psalms there are some songs present.

c/ that the 52 songs can really stand the test of God's Word.

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d/ that the history of these songs places a heavy weight in the scale. The need not claim their origin in a spirit of song, but because of the necessary circumstances of the times; The Psalms in use at that time did not always agree with the text of the sermon, and thus it was necessary to compile suitable Church songs.

e/ that in this respect there is neither a transgression of the Church Order of Dordt, nor of the Scriptures. The Synod of the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church already decided in 1829 that no new songs might be introduced. Also for many years since this the the Synod has declared and shown that we in Doctrine, discipline, and practice, are one with them, and also that there was an earnest desire to be united with them.

Considering all this, we state and advise the Synod that there are really no valid objections in the way, and that the time is ripe for an organic union. It would give us much pleasure if the Synod accept this report, and that it conclude with the singing of Psalm 133:1.

The Committee, (Rev.) H. Vander Werp, Pres.

" J. Noordewier, Clerk

" R. Drukker

Elder T. Keppel

" P. Karsten.

Supplement IX.

The Report on the dealings with the United Presbyterian Church by the Committee appointed for same.

Your Committee lost no time in carrying out the mandate, placed upon it by a previous Synod. A letter was sent to the Rev. Turnbull in Detroit, whose address was known. The letter was as follows: The undersigned has been named as a chairman of a Committee of three to treat with a Committee of your Church, concerning the possibility of a union between the United Presbyterian Church and the Holland Christian Reformed Church. For facilitating matters for a meeting of the Committees, may we ask you to designate a suitable place for a meeting. If you cannot choose a definite place for a Committee meeting, may we say that one should be chosen with easy access to each delegate on the Committee.

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In the hope that an answer may soon be forthcoming, I remain your brother in Christ.
Signed, G. Vos

The above letter was sent on the second of July. For weeks we looked for an answer, but in vain. Finally on the thirtieth of August the Rev. Turnbull sent a reply.

"Your communication was received and I should have replied sooner, but my summer vacation and other matters intervened. I shall communicate with the Chairman of our Committee, and send you more details. In the meantime, I hope you will forgive my neglect.

Signed, Richard Turnbull

Also this promise that we should receive a promise within a week was not fulfilled, so that matters were again postponed, and we resigned ourselves to waiting. In the meantime we heard that the larger part of the Presbytery of Detroit had seceded from the United Presbyterian Church, and had joined the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. We associated the silence of the Rev. Turnbull with this state of affairs. To be assured of this we directed a letter to the Rev. Dr. Meloy of Chicago, who was present at a previous Synod. His reply was as follows:

"I have received your letter and hasten to reply. To my deep regret, I must inform you that the Rev. Turnbull played an important part in the secession of a few Churches from our denomination. Our Assembly had made the following decision: That a Committee, composed of the Rev. J. Sherman, Rev. Turnbull, Rev. J.M. French, Rev. J.C. Wilson, and the Rev. D.H. Goodwill, was named to meet with a Committee of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, for the purpose of entering into a closer union with each other.

In addition that the Rev. W.T. Meloy had been chosen to convey the fraternal greetings from his Church to our Synod.

Now the Revs. Turnbull, Goodville, and Sherman had resigned from the Committee. Permit me to say at this point, that our Church was not weakened to any great extent by this secession.

I am now at a loss on how I should advise you. My idea is that our Churches can be united after a time. In case you have delegated some one from your Assembly to convey the greetings to our Synod, may we remind you that our Synod meets at Springfield, Ohio, on the twenty second of May, this year. Should your delegate plan to come, he need not be present in Springfield before the Tuesday of the following week. If no delegate is to be present, it would be a good idea, if a written request were sent to our Assembly, stating that it appoint a new Committee to deal with a Committee from your Church.

The Committees could very easily meet during your Sessions so that a report could be brought in to that same Synod, Should this be satisfactory to you, then I desire to inform the Synod of your wishes. Signed: W.T.Meloy

As a result of this your Committee, consisting of the Revs. De Baum, L Rietdijk, and G. Vos, met and we asked ourselves what should be done. We were of one opinion that our instructions did not include a request that the United Presbyterian Church appoint a new Committee to meet with us. However we would meet with a new Committee if one were appointed for that purpose, and we replied thus to the Rev. Meloy.

" Our Committee has met since we received the friendly reply from you, and it has decided to take the following steps.

1/ With you as our intermediary, we wish to convey our Christian greetings to the Synod of your Church, stating however, that we have received no mandate from our Synod to do this in person.

2/ We would gladly make use of your suggestion that we inform your Synod of affairs as they are with us, but we feel that we cannot speak officially in this.

3/ It would please us if you once more could move your Synod to take the initiative and have them appoint a new Committee, so that both Churches may become better acquainted. You will understand that our instructions do not permit us to go ahead in this matter when your Committee is prepared to meet with us.

To our sorrow, no official answer was received either from the Rev. Meloy or from their Synod, so that we were again obliged to wait. Later we heard that a misunderstanding on the part of the Rev. Meloy was the cause of the delay, and that a delegate from their Church would be present at our Synod. Since we received this information shortly before this session, we decided that the best thing to do was to let matters rest and leave everything to the good judgment of the Synod.

Nevertheless your Committee is prepared to express its opinion on any matter that may develop, and inform you concerning it, if you so desire.

Signed: The Committee, J. De Baum
G. Vos

Supplement X

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church Of the United States.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 12, 1890

Reverend Fathers and Brethren,

The General Assembly of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, convened at Grand Rapids, Michigan, On June 4th, 1890, and following days, takes cognizance of the present "revision movement" in your Church.

As fellow laborers of the great cause of our Lord Jesus Christ, we felt ourselves under obligations to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved: That we as a representative body of Reformed principles express our hearty sympathy with that part of the Presbyterian Church which so earnestly advocates the maintenance of the Westminster Confession, which we believe to be the bulwark against the anti-Calvinistic, unbiblical tendencies, which make themselves felt in the Presbyterian Church.

We hope and pray that you may be abundantly endowed with the spirit of Christ, continuing your spiritual warfare against all error in His strength and in the end triumphing over all your and our spiritual enemies.

In the name of the Holland Christian Reformed Church:

L.J.Hulst, Pres.
R.T.Kuiper, V.P.
A.Keizer, Clerk
J. Riemersma, Asst. Clerk.

Supplement XI.

Report of the Clerk of the Committee on Heathen Missions

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Dear Brothers:

The Committee on Heathen Missions has the pleasure of presenting a short report to you.

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Soon after the last Session of the Synod, the Committee attempted to begin its work. Our field was a huge unknown area, and one hardly knew where to start or how. Two opportunities presented themselves however. It was a choice of a favorable field of labor, and getting men both willing and capable of taking the work upon themselves. A call was made to get some young men who could get their training at our School. This Committee was successful in getting one Douwe Drukker in the month of September, 1888, whom it accepted. This brother has now been at the school for a period of two years, and thus far the Committee has not been disappointed in its choice.

A year later another applicant was accepted, H. Frieling. Neither does this student give any reason for complaint. After a careful consideration, it was decided that these students would take all the subjects which the other students took, and that it would be some time before they would be prepared to go out into the field.

Thus it was necessary for the time being to procure assistance from other sources, and the more so since we were urged on with a desire to proceed with the work.

We contacted the young brother, Kruidenier, but there were two matters which prevented him from being interested; one, he wished to continue his studies at Xenia for one more year, and then he could not decide if his work would be on an Indian field or not. He really had his heart set on going to Egypt. Then we contacted two students who seemed to be sympathetic towards Missions, but our efforts here were also in vain. Now we took note of Student Breen who would be taking his final examinations very soon. In February of 1889 we extended a call to him which he declined. Now, what to do next? Our attention was turned to our Home Missionary, the Rev. Van Vessum. He was called twice and as many times declined. Finally the Ministers of our Churches were requested to interest persons in Mission work under the Heathen. The Committee met to see if any one was interested. But this did not bring any results. Then the Secretary, the Rev. T. Vanden Bosch informed us that he had often considered that type of work, but he had hoped some one else would go. Therefore he informed the Committee, that were he to receive a call, he would take it under prayerful consideration.

After considering this, we extended a call to him at once, and after a few prayerful weeks he accepted.

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He stated: "I am prepared to go to the Heathen, here I am, send me."

On the morning of October 23, 1889, we were both in Grand Rapids, and Brother Vanden Bosch was to receive his mission on that evening. The Committee had invited the Synodical Committee and the Professors of the School, and had asked one from each group to take part in the program. Brothers Boer and Hulst were chosen. The program was so arranged that each one contributed something. A large audience was present and each one seemed to sense the importance of the occasion. There were speeches and prayers with a fervent plea for help from the Lord.

Our brother has now been on the field for one half year, and that among the Heathen, but at the time this report was written he was not established anywhere; but may the Lord guide matters in such a way, that in the future it may be said: There he is, and under this tribe he has begun his work.

The work is of such a nature that it will not come into existence on its own. There are enough Heathen in this area but the Synod has stated "in an area where there has been no previous Mission work done" And if a Church organization establishes itself anywhere, then it spreads out its wings as far as possible in all directions, and covering an area of many miles, and preaching in this area, here and there, off and on, and time and again,

or to complete some other minor task, but not be able to gain a foothold. And this is doubly so, since permission must be obtained not only from the Indians among whom we wish to settle and work, but also from the Government. The Agent must be taken into account. He attempts, regardless of his religious principles or because of a lack of them, to bar one from regions favorable to those of his religious tenets, or suitable areas for friends of his.

Two members of the Committee were assigned the task of acquiring all possible information -two regions especially receiving their attention and interest; the Dakotas and the Indian Territory. The choice was left to our Missionary, the Rev. Vanden Bosch, and we thought the last mentioned area most suitable. Nevertheless, at the eleventh hour, we received so many unfavorable reports from that area, that we were obliged to discontinue giving it any more thought. Then we definitely accepted the Dakota Territory. We decided that our Missionary would locate at Greenwood and pass the winter there, especially with the idea that he study the Indian language, and besides to receive all the possible information from the Rev. Williamson, who had been in this area for some years. This plan was not successful. Not a single house was available for our Missionary, and we discovered that all 1800 areas were already taken.

Now our Brother was obliged to turn towards the West again. Finally he arrived in a southern area of the Dakotas in an Agency by the name of Rosebud. But in this area, the Episcopalians and the Catholics were already firmly established. They have ample areas and also the best. Nevertheless there were some areas here where no Church had ever worked.

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And now our Brother was again disappointed since the Agency planned to relocate. Whenever this occurs, the Indians also migrate with it, and if a Church and a parsonage are there, they will be deserted.

Nevertheless the Lord rules and our hopes remained firm under his auspicious control.

It was also the task of the Committee to set the salary for the Missionary Pastor. We asked for information on this from other ecclesiastical organizations and found that the minimum was \$1000.00. The costs of a Church and a parsonage must be added to this. The Missionary must provide for his own transportation, and a horse and a carriage must be available, the Missionary purchasing this and being then reimbursed from the Mission Fund.

The Treasurer will report on the funds in the treasury for Heathen Missions, when the time comes for the report, although we still have a few questions which should be answered.

Finally, I must call your attention to the personnel of the Committee. Two of the members who were appointed in 1888 are not with us now. The Missionary Pastor, as a member of the Committee was obliged to resign when he became the Missionary Pastor, and his alternate, J.H.Vos took his place. Another Committee member passed away.

When this report was being prepared, Brother Gelock was still with us and filled with enthusiasm for this work, and on the following day he suddenly became ill, even while he was engaged in the writing of a letter on this very problem and in the evening of that same day he died. He has passed into the rest which remains for the people of God, and may the memory of him continue to be a blessing to us.

Brother Gelock was replaced by Brother Vander Ven.

While we mention that three of the five Committee members retire, we hope with all our hearts, that under your guidance matters may be so controlled by our God and blessed by him that one can finally say, even if not in our age, that the blind Heathen, now estranged from the Lord, may finally acknowledge his Salvation.

The Committee:

E. Bos, Pres.

J.H.Vos, Clerk

R.T.Kuiper, Assistant