ACTS OF SYNOD
OF THE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH.

HELD JUNE 15, ff., 1904.
AT
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN.

Morning, June 15.

Article 1.

After the President of the previous Synod, Rev. G. D. De Jong, led in prayer on the evening of June 14, in the church of the Fourteenth St. congregation, at
14th St., Holland, Mich., Speaking on Ephesians 2:22,
address
On the following morning, June 15, at 10:00 A.M., he
called the deputies to order in the Ninth St., Church,
of Rev.
the old historic Van Raalte Church. From God's Word
De
he read Psalms 121, 122, and 123, and singing from
Jong
Psalms 122:1, 2. After this he addressed an introductory
word, as follows:
Beloved Brethren in Christ, Delegates and Pre-Advisors of Synod!

Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As president of the last Synod it is my duty to open this broadest assembly. In the hour of prayer we directed your attention to "The dwelling-place of God in the Spirit." The King of the Church condescends to use us office-bearers as God's co-workers for the completion of his spiritual temple.

If it is a great privilege to have a name and a place in the kingdom of heaven, placed as a living stone in this temple, it is still a greater privilege to concern ourselves in the interests of Christ's Church in its broadest assembly.

Important questions face us. Your attention is requested with respect to the Theological School, Domestic Missions, Heathen Missions, Church Order, the Baptismal question, and Unions. From this it appears that social questions are also to be considered.

The Church is indeed a spiritual institution, but, clothed with the power of the keys, stands in close relation to natural life.

In the consideration of these questions with respect to Church and School, doctrine and life, wisdom and caution are necessary. The uprightness of doves must be accompanied with the caution of serpents. It is necessary to bow unconditionally before the Word of God, given as a lamp for our feet and a light upon our path, and it is also necessary to receive the leading of the Spirit, who leads in all truth.

It gladdens us to meet the older brethren again. In our country called reunions are held. Relatives long separated by distance come together again; soldiers, who fought shoulder to shoulder for hearth and altar, shake hands. This also takes place when
Synod meets. And as at these reunions we remember with sadness concerning those whose place became vacant, so also our joy is tempered when we remember those whom the Lord took from the militant Church to the triumphant. The aged brothers H. H. Delperink Langereis and J. Hooeijn with the still youthful Theo. Smits are no more. Next to them the following names also appear in the necrology: the brethren J. Schepers, G. Hoeksema, and G. E. Boer, names to which particular memories are attached. Rev. J. Schepers was the first candidate in our Church; Rev. G. Hoeksema along with Rev. G. Broene was the first who graduated from our Theological Seminary; and Rev. G. E. Boer was the first professor, and fellow-soldier and worker through whom the Lord richly blessed the Church and the School. They all rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. Their passing calls to us, "Work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

Let us then pray to the Lord for his blessing on our assembly.

Article 2.

After the prayer the credentials are presented. It appears that the following brethren were present as delegates:

Classis Grand Rapids East
  Ministers: Revs. J. S. Hoekstra, J. Groen, T. Vander Ark
  Elders: S. S. Postma, B. Sevensma, J. B. Hulst

Classis Grand Rapids West
  Ministers: J. Keizer, J. Noordwier, H. Beets
  Elders: G. Smitter, E. Hekman, H. Vander Ark

Classis Hackensack
  Ministers: J. F. Van Houten, K. Poppen, J. A. Westervelt
  Elders: Jas. Christie, J. C. Van Baan, L. Brouwko

Classis Holland
  Ministers: J. Manni, M. Van Vessel, D. R. Drukker
  Elders: A. Lanning, J. Holhock, G. Hoekse
Classis Hudson
Ministers: P. Kosten, K. Van Goor, D. Vander Floeg
Elders: P. Botbyl, P. Pontier, A. Struick Cz.

Classis Illinois
Ministers: H. Vander Werf, P. Van Vliet, S. Breen
Elders: S. Dekker, G. Dykhuizen, J. Meeter

Classis Iowa
Ministers: L. Van Dellen, J. Vander Mey, A. Vandenberg
Elders: H. Jager, W. Van Vliet, J. Visser

Classis Muskegon
Ministers: M. J. Marcussen, R. L. Haan, G. Westenberg
Elders: G. Vlaeman, H. Jager, T. Agema

Classis Oostfriesland
Ministers: H. Ahuis, O. Bode, H. O. Bode
Elders: H. Peters, G. H. Freericks, W. Bakker

Article 3
The presented credentials are approved.

Article 4.
The following officers were elected: President, Rev. E. Breen; Vice-President, Rev. J. Groen; Second Clerk, Rev. M. Van Vessel. The Stated Clerk, Rev. H. Beets, serves as first clerk.

Article 5.
After the officers are seated, the newly elected president speaks briefly and led in prayer. The Public Declaration was read, and the standing delegates pledged with a resounding "yes".

Article 6.
The theological professors are welcomed as advisors of Synod.
Article 7.

The time of the sessions were decided to be from 8:00 to 11:30 A.M., and from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M., with a break of 15 minutes at 9:45 A.M. and 3:30 P.M.

Article 8.

Decided to work through committees of Pre- advice as formerly. The following members were appointed by the chairman to formulate the committees—one from each Classis—Revs. Poppen, Haan, Keizer, Ahuis, Kosten, Van Dellen, Drukker; elders Sevenoma and Dekker.

Article 9.

Committee for resolutions of sympathys Revs. Noordewier, Hoekstra, C. Bode. (Cf. Art. 145.)

Three Committee to review the Acts of the previous Synod to determine which minutes must be considered; Rev. K. Van Goor and elder H. Jager. (Cf. Art. 152,ff.)

Committee to welcome delegates from corresponding churches Revs. Vander Werp and Drukker.

Article 10.

Since the Theological School has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, Synod decided to send a cablegram of congratulations. Committees Revs. Van Goor and Drukker.

The following was sent:

Prof. Noordzij, Kampen, Netherlands

"Congratulations. God bless your unique institution."

Synod of the Christian Reformed Church.

Article 11.

Closing Devotions.

Afternoon, June 15

Article 12.

Opening Devotions.

Article 13.

Rev. G. D. De Jong, secretary of the Curatorium, read the
Article 14.

Rpt. Rev. H. Beets read the report of the Board of Heathen Missions. As Above. (Supplement IV.)

Article 15.

A Rule was adopted that when reporters of boards and committees are not delegated to Synod they shall be seated in the committees for their business with advisory vote. And also at Synod as long as their reports are being considered.

Article 16.

Rev. Haan reports for the committee on committees. (Art. 8.)


3. Theological Schools: Revs. Van Dellen, Haan, H. C. Bode, Poppen, Noordewier; Elders Postma, Dekker, Botbyl, Bakker, Sevenema. Advisor Rev. De Jong. Report Friday at 8:00 A.M.


Jager, Lanning. Advisor Prof. Ten Hoor. Report Tuesday at 8:00 A.M.

7. Unions: Rev. Groen, Keizer, Vander Ark; Elders Struick, Beeswkes, Dykhuisen. Report Tuesday at 2:00 P.M.


10. Appointments: Revs. Vander Werp, Groen, Beets, Keizer; Elders Beeswkes and Dekker.

Article 17.

The above report is approved, and it is decided to adjourn until Thursday, 10:00 A.M., to give the committees opportunity to prepare their reports.

Article 18.

Closing Devotions.

Forenoon, June 16.

Article 19.

Opening Devotions.

Article 20.

The minutes of June 15 were read, received, and approved.

Article 21.

Rev. Hoekstra reported for the Committee for Heathen Rpt. Missions. His report is received as information, to be considered point by point.
Article 22.

Point 1 is rejected. It concerned a request (Cf. Supplelllont IV, V) for reimbursement of $100.00 advanced by the Board for the writer for the De­partment of Missions—from 1902 to 1904—upon the ground of Acts 1900, Art. 95, 2, 3. Synod considered that the decision of Synod 1902 (Art. 152, 4) elim­inated the co-worker for the mission department.

Article 23.

Point 2 was adopted. The Board thereby received permission to revise Art. 25 of its Rules in such a manner that the monthly reports be changed to quarterly reports. (Supplement IV, V, 2.)

Article 24.

Closing Devotions.

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AFTERNOON, JUNE 16.

Article 25.

Opening Devotions.

Article 26.

Delegates

The Reception Committee for welcoming delegates from Corresponding Churches introduced to Synod Dr. E. C. Oggel as representative of the General Synod Churches of the Reformed Church of America, and the Revs. Mar­ousson and Lewek of the Chicago Hebrew Mission.

Article 27.

Dr. E. C. Oggel began his address by bringing greetings from his church and presenting various statistics. He pointed to various matters where­in the two Churches—his and ours—agree. Further, he requested Synod to give heed to the word of the Apostle: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men." There is
need of this. He concluded by extending the best wishes from his church to us. The president replied in fitting words.

Article 28.

Now Rev. J. W. Marcusson, pastor of the Chicago Hebrew Mission, spoke. He thanked our Church for the help given this mission, and read a resolution concerning this. He spoke further about the mission among the Jews, its origin and progress, and stated that he believed that through the Jews the world would ultimately be evangelized. Intercession was requested as well as financial support. The president also addressed this brother in an appropriate manner.

Article 29.

Rev. Joe. R. Lewek, missionary of the above-named Mission, then spoke about his work in Chicago. Unbelief among many of the Jews there is strong and bold, he said. But the mission sometimes bears fruit. Among others recently a traveling rabbi was converted to Christianity through the instrumentality of this mission. Brother Lewek was also thanked.

Article 30.

Synod adopted as a Standing Rule that all motions that are made at Synod are to be translated into English for the benefit of our American brothers. The president will take care of the translation.

Article 31.

The report of Heathen Missions is again considered. First Point 5. Adopted. Thereby the Board received permission to engage a married couple for work in and around the Boarding School at Rehoboth.

Article 32.

Point 6. The request of the Board for authority
to expand the Boarding School at Rehoboth up to two dozen children, if finances permit. The intent is to obtain the means through special sources such as societies, Sunday Schools, etc. Adopted.

Article 33.

Point 7. Permission is granted to terminate the store at Rehoboth, since the location, etc., makes the affair unprofitable. Permission granted.

Article 34.

Permission is not granted to sell the property at Fort Defiance. Point 7 of the Report. (However, see Art. 44.)

Article 35.

Closing Devotions.

FORENOON, JUNE 17.

Article 36.

Opening Devotions.

Article 37.

The minutes of June 16 are read, received, and approved.

Article 38.

It was decided to meet in Executive Session to consider the case of Brother A. Vander Wagen, (Supplement IV, II, and V,3). Whereby it was determined that Executive Session did not exclude ministers, elders, and Literary professors. Brother A. Vander Wagen be at the disposal of Synod whenever it wished to call and hear him. Brother Garvelink, treasurer of the Board of Heathen Missions, was seated with advisory vote, as long as matters pertaining to this mission were being considered by Synod. Missionary L. P. Brink was also seated as an advisory member.
Article 39.

After extensive consideration of this matter, Brother Vander Wagen was heard, who addressed the assembly with stimulating words. The public was again permitted to attend.

Article 40.

Since the time of adjournment had arrived, closing devotions were held.

AFTERNOON, JUNE 17.

Article 41.

Opening Devotions.

Article 42.

Missionary L. P. Brink addressed Synod concerning this matter, as did also various other brethren. Finally the following amendment and motion was adopted:

Synod decides with respect to brother Vander Wagen:

1. As long as he has his business or a part thereof, he cannot be accepted as missionary at a salary of $1,000.00, as proposed by the Board.

2. That he will be remunerated for which he from time to time can and is willing to do for the mission.

3. That such work mutually will be under the supervision of the Board.

4. As long as he performs this work he shall do so as a missionary assistant.

5. If, however, he terminates his business, the Board receives the right to employ brother Vander Wagen until the next Synod at a salary of $1,000.00, with the conditions mentioned in the Report of the Board. (Supplement IV, II.)
Article 43.

Church at Zuni

It was decided to grant the Board permission to build a small church at Zuni. The cost is approximately $500.00.

Article 44.

A motion was made to reconsider Art. 34—concerning the sale of the property at Fort Defiance. This motion was adopted by the required two-thirds majority of the vote.

Article 45.

After a long discussion it was decided to grant the Board permission to sell the house and the stall at Fort Defiance, should there be a good opportunity. The reasons for coming to this decision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sale of property at Fort Defiance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Opposition by the ruling officials there in various ways, so that the work among the children is hindered, and among the adult cannot be what it should be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Because only every other week preaching and catechizing can take place, because the nearby Roman Mission requested and obtained the right to share the work with us, which apparently cannot be changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Because the time granted to work with the children is altogether too short to do effective work. (Cf. Supplement IV.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article 46.

Decided to empower the Board, in the event Fort Defiance can be sold, which at present seems to be the case, to purchase the Z. I. Ranch, ten miles north of Zuni for $2,000.00, there to build an adobe home for the missionary and a small number of boarding school students, if possible, orphans of the Zunis. The Board declared it intended to station Rev. Fryling there. The reasons for buying this place:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Z. I. Ranch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. This ranch borders the reservation of the Zunis, and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
yet not on it, which is very desirable for unhindered work.

b. It lies on the highway between Zuni and Gallup, so that many Indians pass by.

c. It has two splendid wells, which causes many Indians to go there with their herds, and gives opportunity for mission work.

d. Many Navajo Indians live in the vicinity so that brother Fryling can continue to work with this tribe.

e. According to consensus this is a desirable mission station, so that another Church has had its eye on it.

f. The price is not considered unreasonable.

Article 47.

Decided to empower the Board to sell the Tohatchi property. The reasons:

a. The goodwill of the superintendent of the government school is very changeable.

b. The time granted for catechizing is far too short. Only a half hour.

c. The classes are of necessity, because of the limited time, much too large.

d. No adult Indians live around there.

e. Water provision is uncertain and limited.

And at any rate too expensive.

f. Missionary Brink said he did not want to stay there for any length of time because there is not sufficient opportunity to work among adults as well as employing qualified interpreters.

Article 48.

Decided to empower the Board, provided the property at Tohatchi can be sold at a reasonable price, to open a mission station at Gallup, N.M., at first in a rented home. The Board intends to place Rev. L. P. Brink there. Reasons:
a. Many Indians live in Gallup, and many come there regularly, so that there is plenty of opportunity to speak about the one thing necessary.
b. One of our coverts and a few former catechumens live there, so that we can work among them.
c. There is opportunity to hold religious services there with the Indians.
d. There is a possibility of starting a small day school there, if we provide a noon meal.
e. There is more opportunity to master the language, since educated Indians live there.
f. It is near Rehoboth, so that the missionary can keep an eye on it, and be the spiritual counselor.
g. A rented home seems best to save expenses and to learn how well the work will turn out.
h. Finally, the transfer of Rev. Brink, as also Rev. Fryling, promotes the necessary concentration of our missionaries, since they are now too far separated.

Article 49.

Synod rejected Point I of Section III of the Agenda: "Synod decide that, for better and firmer maintenance of the mission work among the Indians, four members be appointed by Synod as Executive Board, under the supervision of Synod, assisted by a delegate from each Classis."

Article 50.

Synod also decided not to consider Point 2 of Section III: "Synod consider the possibility of establishing a foreign mission stations:

a. Such a mission would be difficult to control.
b. We have our hands full with our mission work among the Indians.
c. Our duty first of all is to bring the Gospel to the heathen in our own land.
Article 51.

The Stated Clerk read the Report of the Synodical Committee. It was received as information to be placed in the supplements. (Cf. Supplement I.)

Article 52.

Points 1, 4, 5 of this Synodical Report were approved. The letter of Mr. J. B. Hulst (point 3) was given to the Comm. on Church Order. (Cf. Art. 125.) The letter of Prof. B. Kuiper (point 6) was read and received as information. The communication mentioned in point 7, concerning cooperation with other churches, was placed in the hand of the Comm. on Church Order. The letter of Tres Arrayos was given to the Comm. on Home Missions.

Article 53.

The communication from the Reformed Church in South Africa was received with appreciation, and to be placed in the Supplements. The Stated Clerk will reply. The request to send a delegate there in the new year of 1907 was tabled until the next Synod.

Article 54.

Decided to adjourn until Monday, June 20, 2:00 P.M. Closing Devotions.

AFTERNOON, JUNE 20.

Article 55.

Opening Devotions.

Article 56.

Roll Call. Elder Mokma was present as delegate for elder Lanning. Brother P. Heeres as alternate for elder Vissman. Both newly attending members agreed to the Public Declaration.

Article 57.

The minutes were read, received, and approved.
Article 58.

An invitation from the three Christian Reformed Consistories of Holland, Michigan, was accepted with thanks for a steamboat trip for the members of Synod, their guests and wives, as well as all office bearers attending Synod.

Article 59.


Article 60.

Rev. J. Noordewier reports as Synodical Treasurer

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL TREASURER

FROM 1902-1904

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Syn.</th>
<th>Treasuerer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, June 1902</td>
<td>$2.51</td>
<td>000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received from 5 Classes</td>
<td>721.76</td>
<td>1,036.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$724.27</td>
<td>312.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements, 1902-1904</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage, June 1904</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Received as information and approved. Rev. Noordewier was continued in his function.

Article 61.

The treasurer presented a list concerning the expenses of Synod based on 13¢ per family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Grand Rapids East</th>
<th>189.54</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Rapids West</td>
<td>202.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>296.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>199.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>193.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>212.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ostfriesland</td>
<td>61.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Article 62.

Decided that the Treasurer of the Theological Advance School shall advance to the Treasurer of the to the Synodical Fund the necessary monies for this Synod, Synod. and furthermore any shortage that might occur between Treas. Synods in the Synodical Fund.

Rev. Noordewier is permitted to place the expense of interest for advanced monies since the last Synod under Synodical expense.

Article 63.

Rev. M. Van Vessem read the Report of the Board of Jewish Missions. This report was accepted, and will be placed in the supplements. (Supplement III.)

Article 64.

Rev. J. Vander Mey for the Comm. pertaining to matters concerning Domestic and Jewish Missions. This report was received, and will be considered point by point.

Article 65.

Point 1 of the report was approved, namely, the continuation of Rev. G. D. De Jong as treasurer by the Board until this Synod. But Point 2 was rejected that in the future the treasurer of the Board be appointed by Synod, and also to increase the remuneration of this functionary.

Article 66.

Furthermore Rev. Vander Mey reported concerning the point on the Agenda "Classis brings its correspondence with the Holland Christian Reformed Church in Argentina before Synod with the urgent request that one of our ministers be sent there
Church- for a period of approximately one year, and requests
there Synod to designate under which Classis this field of

Classis Iowa.

The Report that the following was mentioned in the correspondence:

a. There are two congregations, one at Rosario, and the other at Buenos Aires; both call themselves Christian Reformed, are based on the Word of God according to the conception of our Formulas of Unity, and conducted according to the Church order of Dordt.

b. They earnestly desire to unite with our denomination, in order to obtain the benefits and the enlightenment of the broader assemblies of our Church, to strengthen the position in their land before the law, to obtain spiritual support, and possibly financial.

c. Although most of them are poor and have to contend with many difficulties, they are of no other mind than to remain there, because the climate is very favorable and have rooted themselves already so that there is not a question of moving to North America or any other land.

d. Besides the two organized churches, there are other fields where it is necessary to work. For example in Tres Arroyos there is a settlement which meets regularly on Sunday. And in Buenos Aires alone there are 2,000 Hollanders. Since these brethren have for such a long time cried, "Help us, receive us in your denomination, support us with your word and deed!" And, whereas, they continue to call, your Comm. is convinced that a minister should be sent to South America for approximately a year to work among this people. Adopted. In connection therewith it was decided that the brother who goes there shall work under the direction of the Board of Domestic Missions. He is mandated to request the existing congregations or stations in South America of like faith and heritage to unite with our denomination, and if this
request is granted by two or more congregations, to organize a separate Classis there.

Article 67.

Decided (Point 4 of the Report) to retain rule pertaining to the operation of Domestic Missions by means of a Board with delegates from each Classis. Two Classes requested that the Mission become Classical. (Classes Grand Rapids East and West.) And with Classis Iowa had on the Agenda: "Synod make Domestic Missions Classical, determine the number of missionaries for each Classis, and pay them from the General Fund."

In connection therewith it was decided that the Board call a missionary-pastor especially for Grand Rapids and vicinity, or, if such cannot be done, to permit the present missionaries to work in said places for at least a year.

Article 68.

Decided that the minimum salary for home missionaries shall henceforth be $700.00 per year, and the maximum $1,000.00. (Cf. further Art. 19 in the Rules and Regulations.)

Article 69.

The matter of "Church Comity" is postponed until the Report of the Committee for Church Correspondence with the Reformed Church is considered. (Cf. Art. 74, 75, and Supplement IX.)

Article 70.

Decided that the First Clerk cast the ballot for Synod to elect formally the members of the Mission Board, nominated by the various Classes. This was done.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF HEATHEN MISSIONS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Classis</th>
<th>Board of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hackensack, Rev. J. A. Westervelt</td>
<td>Hudson, Rev. F. Doezema</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathen</td>
<td>Grand Rapids East, Rev. J. B. Hoekstra</td>
<td>Grand Rapids West, Rev. H. Beets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Grand Rapids West, Rev. H. Walkotten</td>
<td>Muskegon, Rev. H. Walkotten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Closing Devotions.

FORENOON, JUNE 21.

Article 72.

Opening Devotions.

Article 73.

The minutes of June 20 were read, received, and approved.

Article 74.

Rev. H. Beets reported for the Committee on Correspondence with the Reformed Church of America. The report was received and approved. To be placed in the supplements. (Supplement IX.)

In connection with this report it was decided:

1. Although Synod with sadness observes that the General Synod of the Reformed Church refused our proposal to begin closer correspondence, yet
it decides to continue the correspondence in the manner followed up until the present.

Article 75.

Churchoffice
Decided not to enter into the proposal of the Reformed Church concerning "Church Comity" in the Home Mission field.

Article 76.

Rev. J. Vander Mey read the report of Rev. J. I. Fles, secretary of the Committee for Jewish Missions. It was accepted. Decided to place it in the supplements. (Supplement V.)

Article 77.

Rev. Vander Mey now reported concerning matters of Jewish Missions. The report was accepted to be considered point by point. First of all it was decided to recommend Rev. E. Breen as member of the Board of the Chicago Hebrew Mission. Elder S. Dekker is already a member thereof. Furthermore it was decided to grant the above mission $2,500.00 annually from the fund for Jewish Missions, providing the fund allows this.

Article 78.

Rev. G. D. De Jong expresses his thanks to Synod, and especially the Board, for the confidence placed in him as treasurer of that Board for so many years. The chairman thanks him. Synod also expressed its gratitude to the First State Bank of Holland for the checking account without cost, as well as extending drafts free to the Domestic Missions.

Article 79.

Rev. R. L. Haan reports for the Committee concerning matters pertaining to the Theological School. The report is accepted to be considered point by point. Point 1 was ap-
proved, namely, the proposal: "Synod declare that the Curatorium under the given circumstances acted correctly with respect to Prof. B. Kuiper in granting him a three-year leave of absence to continue his studies.

Article 80.

Closing Devotions.

AFTERNOON, JUNE 21.

Article 81.

Opening Devotions.

Article 82.

Decided to have an evening session from 7:15 to 9:30 O'clock.

Article 83.

Rev. S. H. Swartz addressed as representative of the National Christian Association. He stated that this association was organized in Pittsburgh, Pa., and in 1874 was incorporated in the State of Illinois. Furthermore, he spoke of the necessary and profitable work of the association against secret societies. Finally, he urged us to stand firm over against these powerful forces in our land. The president thanked him in a fitting manner.

Article 84.

Rev. J. Groen, as representative of our Church with the N.C.A. reported. His report was accepted. It was also decided the request our churches henceforth to take an annual offering for this association.

Article 85.

Rev. C. M. McLeod Smith filed his credential as delegate of the Synod the the Reformed Presbyterian
Church, and as representative of the National Reform Association. Received as information.

Article 86.

Continuation of the Report concerning matters pertaining to the Theological School. A request for a more clearly defined relationship of the Curatorium to the Church and its competence, (Presented by Classis Grand Rapids West) was not granted, since it considers the Regulations concerning this insufficiently.

It was further decided that Article 17 of the Rules and Regulations of the Theological School shall be: "These Rules and Regulations can only be revised by Synod, or by the Curatorium with the approbation of Synod."

Synod also declared that it was not burdened by the action of the previous Synod, Art. 29, IV, 7, B, since the Curatorium, consisting of delegates from the Classes, is the appointed body, to which Synod can mandate the matter.

The advice of the Comm. was also adopted to revise the Rules and Regulations with respect to Article 14 so that "only one Sunday in two months" be changed to "only one Sunday per month, while Article 12 was deleted with the provision that the regulation of preaching supplies remain with the Rector, and that when a student exhorts too much without permission of the faculty and without the knowledge of the Rector, he will not be permitted to take the examinations.

Article 87.

With respect to the proposal on the Agenda: "Synod help in the organization of a preparatory school for German ministers in the West," it was decided: "Synod rejects the organization of a separate seminary for the German element of our Church, but with an eye to the needs thereof, with special help from Classis Oostfriesland, to provide for those needs in our own seminary with respect to training German ministers."
Article 88.

With respect to the matter of the College it was decided:

a. To approve the work done thus far;

b. To approve the name John Calvin Junior-College.

Article 89.

Concerning the expansion of the Literary Department of our school into a College, it was decided:

a. The cost thereof will have to be met by separate funds;

b. That in the future these funds may only be used in the interests of the College;

c. That although in time become more self-sustaining, that the Church, nevertheless, shall remain the guarantor that the instruction of Reformed principles shall continue. The Curatorium is instructed to continue in the way that has been started.

Article 90

Decided to appoint a fifth professor for the Literary Department. (Cf. Art. 149.)

Article 91.

Closing Devotions.

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EVENING SESSION, JUNE 21.

Article 92.

Opening Devotions.

Article 93.

Rev. Rinink is seated as alternate for Rev. Breen, and Rev. G. J. Haan as alternate for Rev. Drukker. The brethren agreed to the Public Declaration.
Article 94.

Rev. McLeod Smith—cf. Art. 85—addressed Synod. He said that his Church, the old Scotch Covenant Church felt linked to us through the bonds of history and faith. His Church sings only the Psalms in its worship service, excludes members of secret societies, and forbids musical instruments in worship services. It is strongly in favor of temperance, and strict Sabbath observance; no one can be ordained as an office bearer unless he abstains from the use of tobacco. The Covenanters forbid any of their members to hold political office, or to vote, as long as the Constitution does not recognize Christ as King of the nation.

Especially through the National Reform Association endeavor to make propaganda for their political ideas. The Covenanter Church is a Mission Church. It has prospering mission-posts among the Indians, the colored, Jews and Chinese in our country, as well as in Syria, Cyprus, and China. It has a seminary with two professors, and a college with ten teachers. Last year revenues for Heathen Missions was $21,000.00, Domestic Missions, $13,000.00; for all its work, $222,491.00, almost $23.00 per member.

The Vice-President thanked the speaker for his fitting words.

Article 95.

Decided to appoint Dr. R. Janssen for a period of two years as Lector in exegetical theology for an annual salary of $1,500.00. (Cf. Art. 127.)

Article 96.

Decided to appoint Prof. A. E. Broene as Literary Professor for a period of two years. Salary, $800.00. (Cf. Art. 150.)
Article 97.

Salary

Because of unusual circumstances Prof. Ten Hoor will receive a gratuity of $150.00 for the next two years.

Article 98.

Leave

Prof. A. J. Rooke received a leave of absence for a year (1905-06) to pursue post graduate work.

Article 99.

Pension

The pension of Mrs. G. E. Boer was established Mrs. Boer at $200.00 per year.

Article 100.

Dormitory

The proposal to empower the Curatorium to build a suitable dormitory was rejected.

Article 101.

The First Clerk was appointed to cast the ballot for Synod to elect the members of the Curatorium, which he did. The following brethren were elected:

Classis Grand Rapids Easts

- 4 years: Delegate, Rev. J. Groen; Alt., Rev. T. Vander Ark.
- 2 years: Delegate, Rev. L. J. Huls; Alt., Rev. J. B. Roekstra.

Classis Grand Rapids Wests


Classis Holland:

- 4 years: Rev. G. D. De Jong; Alt., Rev. J. Manni.

Classis Muskegon:

- 2 years: Rev. H. Walkotten; Alt., Rev. J. I. Fles.

Classis Illinois:

- 4 years: Rev. K. Kuiper; Alt, Rev. P. Van Vliet.
Article 102.

The Comm. for the Theological School is also appointed to draw up a quota for the Theological School, and make a gross list for the appointment of a fifth Literary professor. (Cf. Art. 90.)

Article 103.

It is left to the Curatorium to appoint some one to replace Prof. Bocks. (Cf. Art. 96.)

Article 104.

Rev. De Jong reported for the Comm. concerning Cleveland (Art. 89, Acts 1902), where it appears that the matters there were settled in a peaceful manner.

Article 105.

Closing Devotions.
Article 107.

The minutes of June 21 are read, received, and approved.

Article 108.

Elder Postma reports for the Comm. of Supervision of De Wachter. His report is received. (Supplement VIII.)

Article 109.

Rev. Noordewier reports for the Comm. for Publication matters. It was received and considered point by point.

1. A motion and a plan for the enlargement of De Wachter is not accepted.

2. Decided henceforth to provide two columns in De Wachter for young people. A permanent co-worker will be appointed. Turned over to the Committee on Appointments. (Cf. Art. 159.)

3. The question of advertising medicines in De Wachter is left for the Comm. of Supervision to determine.

4. Synod did not enter into the matter: Synod provide that all announcements appear early enough in De Wachter for the most distant congregations.

5. Nor did Synod enter into the matter (Agenda, p. 24) concerning the advisability of establishing a Board of Publication.

6. Decided the Church News such as calls, acceptances, declines, etc., in De Wachter be placed without comment.

7. Decided to to continue Rev. A. Keizer as Editor-in-Chief until the next Synod for De Wachter; Rev. G. D. de Jong as alternate editor; Mr. H. R. Brink as Business Manager, and Mr. H. Holkeboer as printer.
Article 110.

Decided to appoint a Committee to devise plans for a suitable list for Sunday School lessons. This Comm. shall see if some influence can be made on the Comm. for International Lessons, whether the outlines cannot be revised. (For members of this Comm. see Art. 159.)

Article 111.

Decided that every office bearer of our Church shall receive a copy of the Acts cost free. For the benefit of our American and German congregations a summary of the minutes are to be placed in The Banner and Ref. Bote, with the usual remuneration. (Acts 1902, Art. 146.)

Article 112.

Concerning the article in the Agenda, "That no motions of a weighty nature be considered that have not been previously placed in the Agenda, so that Consistories and Classes can beforehand deliberate on them." It is decided to adopt this as a Rule in so far as possible.

Article 113.

Decided: The Synod provide the Comm. for De Wachter a detailed mandate concerning its duties, including a regulation for the content of De Wachter. The concept thereof shall be devised by the appointed committee. (Concerning this see Art. 158.)

Article 114.

Closing Devotions.

Article 115.

Opening Devotions.
Article 116.

Quota
Theol. School

Concerning the quota for the following two years was set at 60¢ per family. Each Classis shall regulate each year the number of families of each congregation within its confines.

Article 117.

Nomination for Lit. Prof.

The Comm ad hoc presented the following nomination as advice from which to elect a fifth professor for the Literary Department, (Art. 90.): Prisc. E. S. Sevensma, A.B.; Mr. Boyd Bode, Ph.D.; Mr. Frank Van Vliet, A.B.; Mr. Wm. Rinck, A.M. Received as information, to be considered later in Executive Session. (Of. Art. 149.)

Article 118.

Sunday School Literature

The matter of Sunday School literature is considered, and decided to accept the proposal of brother J. Tanis of Paterson, N. J. to publish:

a. A Quarterly for Sunday School teachers
b. A Lesson Leaf for older pupils, weekly.
c. A Lesson Leaf for younger pupils, weekly.

The Synod to appoint editors for these publications with the necessary alternates, whose honorarium will be paid by Mr. Tanis. Appointments to be made by the Committee on Appointments. Mr. Tanis promised to publish new publications and also reading material for young people and articles for the Sunday School.

Article 119.

Union Report

Rev. Vander Ark reported for the Committee on Unions. It was received and discussed point by point. Finally the following was adopted:

With respect to Unions the Agenda has the followings:

1. "Synod decide and determine that members of present Unions cannot be members of the Church, with grounds. At the same time Synod provide a solution for the working man."

Classis Illinois
2. "Synod give direction whereby it will be possible for our workers to take a stand against Unions based upon a revolutionary foundation."

Classic Iowa

Concerning this matter your committee submits the following to Synod for consideration:

1. In the first place your Comm. judged it necessary to present to the members of our Church:

1. One may not demand of a Christian that he completely isolate himself from the society of this world in the natural domain. He would then have to leave this world. Only he operates from a different principle, and from that principle he speaks and acts differently than the world.

2. The Christian laborer may not be a silent witness of all the evil and unrighteousness found in the field of labor. Nor may he withdraw himself so that he does not see. He must not say "Am I my brother's keeper?" By virtue of his Christianity he is called effectively to arise in order to prevent sin and remove abuse.

3. Alone he cannot accomplish much generally. He must unite with others, so that with united strength the goal may be obtained. Therein his Christianity calls him. The press of circumstances, over which the laborer has no control, can at times place upon him the necessity to seek and to enter into organic union with others. And thus it could happen that a Christian laborer is not able to obtain work or receive a steady income, while he remains outside a Labor Union. He is looked upon as being less qualified for the desired job or else untrustworthy or makes misuse thereof, because he is not under the protection of the Union.

4. Under the present circumstances in the world of labor, organization is the calling of Christians
in their office. Now, however, the question is: Shall the Christian join a Union, such as it now is and strives to be? Or shall he put forth efforts to establish a positive Christian organization of workers? We answer: The Christian initiate efforts with others to establish an organization on a positive Christian basis. If a non-Christian organization has already accomplished so much, what could not a positive Christian organization accomplish? The Christian must take a stand for the best possible. And that is a local organization with positive Christian principles for all workers who will fight under such a standard. There are awesome drawbacks connected therewith of a manifold nature such as funds, leaders, etc. Some of the drawbacks are difficult to remove. Only the thought of God's blessing and the power of the Christian principle give courage. No salt yet so salt, no light so light, no principle so powerful as that of the Reformed. But also no principle, so difficult to apply in everything and to everything consistently.

5. Should someone differ with us and believe that a positive Christian organization is neither desired nor commanded, while he nevertheless wishes to join an organization; or, if it was apparently necessary to become a member at once, and that he could not wait until such an organization is established, then he should test the organization by the Word of God. He also should take into consideration whether it is a free, independent organization, or with others is affiliated with a larger organization. If the latter is the case, then he should test this higher organization. And he remain outside the Union, if he learns that the Unions:

a. Whether an oath or promise is required for unconditional obedience to the majority or to the Board, with the exclusion of his duty with respect to God, the State, the Church, the family, or whether it maintains the exclusive right to dismiss his membership, which is a sin against the 1st and 5th commandment, and also cannot be harmonized with I Corinthians 7:25 and Galatians 5:13;

b. Officially desecrates the Sabbath by holding
business meetings or sanctioning the same, when its Board or its Committee does so; By holding train excursions, or in any way that is in conflict with the principle of the 4th commandment and in part also against the law of the State;

c. give the right in its Rules or decisions, or in the appointment of pickets to the use of violence, or in its strikes and boycotts going in that way which straightway leads to the occasion to all kinds of deeds of violence, which are sins against the 5th and 6th commandments;

d. forbids or makes it impossible for a member, who, as a Christian to do what he is commanded to do, or demands of him to do what he as a Christian may not do. This is an insult to Christ of the representation of the office in the Christian;

e. by obtaining funds in a manner and for the purpose which are condemned by the Word of God, for example, dance parties, card parties, games, Sunday excursions, etc.:

f. a ritual (a document, whereby religious rites are regulated) which is kept secret for everyone who is not a member.

g. in its essence is a secret or oathbound organization. If he discovers that the Union which he wishes to join includes one or all of these, he refrain from joining until it improves itself. If he does not find these interlocking evils in the local Union, but does find weaknesses, it would be permitted him to join, providing he shall receive the opportunity to take reforming action according to his calling. This is spoken of as permissive. The ideal remains; a labor organization in a positive Christian spirit. (Which of course does not says a Union with a positive Christian confession.)

II. Concerning Church Polity, you Comm. advises that Synod mandate the Consistories with respect to the following and consider as a rule by which to acts:

1. that Consistories by means of investigation become informed with matters pertaining to the industrial field and with
principles, etc., of the Unions. Then it will appear that not all Unions are alike. They are to be divided into two classes. Some Unions have degenerated and daily proceed upon the wrong way. Again others remain more with the original purpose and aspirations of the labor movement, are not thoroughly under the influence of the wrong spirit, and do not cooperate with that which is to be condemned. However, no single Union, insofar as we have tested them, are completely free from abnormalities. According to the knowledge that it possesses, the Consistory faithfully warn against the snares and dangers found here. The Consistories awaken the believers to a more serious attention to this matter;

2. that the Consistories tolerate no one in the membership of the Church, who is a member and intends to remain so, of an organization against which charges can be made of the above named injustices. The Consistory act slowly, instructing, but leading to censure if necessary. (Of. Church Order, bottom of p. 42;)

3. that the Consistories punish those members of the Union, who make themselves guilty of violence or other irregularities with or without orders from the Union;

4. that the Consistory furthermore bear with those, who, through the force of circumstances, belong to a neutral, tolerable Union, but advise everyone to remain outside the so-called neutral Unions as long as possible, and admonish all who belong to break with it, or better yet, advise all to engage in establishing of a Christian organization so that the powerful labor movement be led in a better footing, and make it appear that Christianity has powerful saving power.

III. Since this is all that your Committee believes it can do beforehand, it proposes that Synod appoint a Committee, which:

1. during the next two years make a special study of the matter of the Union;

2. present the principles and activities of a Christians laborers association;
3. Take into consideration the report presented to the last Synod, and also the overtures of Classis Iowa and Grand Rapids;

4. to report to the next Synod;

5. (if Synod gives us as Comm. the liberty to propose qualified persons), shall consist of the gentlemen Prof. Schoolland, the Revs. Groen and Brink of Grand Rapids, and the elders Bakker from Chicago and P. Stam from Paterson.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Comm.,

T. Vander Ark, Reporter

Added to the above the following amendments were added:

1. The Synod grants the Committee mentioned in Point III the mandate to consult as much as possible with other Churches and organizations who sympathize with us, in order to engage in united action.

2. This Committee at the same time function as a Committee of Propaganda to awaken as much as possible action for the good of the labor movement.

3. The appointed Committee is granted the right to add others to their number.

Article 121.

Rev. Van. Goor reported for the Comm. on Church Order. Section IV. The report is received, to be considered point by point.

Article 122.

Closing Devotions.

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FORENOON, JUNE 23.

Article 123.

Opening Devotions.
Article 124.

The minutes of June 22 are read, received, and approved. Rev. P. Ekster, alternate for Rev. J. Keizer, is seated after agreeing to the Public Declaration.

Article 125.

The Comm. for Church Order continues its report with Rev. Van Goor reporting. After discussion and a few changes, the Report was finally adopted as follows:

1. "Classis Hackensack asks: What shall be done with persons applying for full membership of the Church, who have no intention of partaking of the Lord's Supper? Also: What shall be done with those members, who constantly neglect this ordinance?"

   The judgment of your Comm. is:

   a. Since the Reformed conception is correct that by means of profession of faith to be admitted to the Lord's Supper, and these persons do not have that intention, they naturally cannot be admitted.

   b. That the unbreakable union between Baptism, making profession of faith, to baptize, and partaking of the Lord's Supper must constantly be presented by means of preaching, instruction, and urged by personal admonition, and if necessary by church discipline, that by unspiritual perseverance in the wrong way ultimately will lead to exclusion from the Church, in order to maintain its standpoint sacred.

2. "Synod consider whether the time is not ripe to take steps, in consultation with other churches, to obtain a basic review of the Church Order. And if no revision is forthcoming, that we then obtain and English translation."

Consistory, Lagrange Ave., G.R.M.
Taking into consideration that there is ground for revision, but that we as a younger and smaller denomination cannot do this alone, your Comm. advises to enter into correspondence with the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands, with the recommendation to engage in such a revision. (For Comm. members see Art. 159.)

3. "Synod review Art. 4, Sub. 5, No. 2, of the Church Order, and formulate it as follows: That the calling of the same minister twice in succession shall not be permitted in the same vacancy, at least not within a year."

Classis Illinois

The Comm. has no objection to granting this request.

4. "Synod review the decision with respect to the dissolution of marriage, which was taken in 1898 (Acts 1898, Art. 62) and return to the decision of 1854. As ground for divorce be recognized willful desertion of an unbeliever, I Cor. 7:15."

Since there is no concrete case, and there is a difference of opinion with respect to the point in question in the enumerated text, your Comm. advises that a Committee be appointed for this matter, especially to make an exegetical study. (As members of this Committee see Art. 159.)

5. "Whether permitting ministers belonging to a denomination with which we are not in correspondence to preach in our churches in not in conflict with our ecclesiastical rules."

Classis Grand Rapids East.

Although it is not known to us that such an ecclesiastical rule exists and the remainder of the instruction concerning the character of the correspondence not being well circumscribed, your Comm. judges that no Consistory permit ministers outside our denomination to preach, except that he stands within the Reformed confession.
Reception of Members

6. "Synod attempt to bring uniformity in the receiving and transferring of certificates of membership with corresponding churches."

Classis Iowa

a. Since there is a difference of opinion in the understanding of the two articles of the Church Order (pp. 46, 47) concerning "members from other churches", your Comm. advises to delete them.

b. Since it is necessary to maintain the purity of the Lord's Supper, it follows that all who are transferred to us should be examined whether they are devout in the confessions and are in a position to partake of the Lord's Supper.

c. The form for reception be left to the Consistories. Only grant the congregation the opportunity to submit objections.

7. "Synod make a definite ruling whereby ecclesiastical supervision over the congregational work of candidates and those who formerly served the church as ministers be competently assured."

Classis Grand Rapids East

a. The Comm. judges that, if our candidates after three years have not received a call and yet desire that their candidature remain in effect, to address themselves to their Classis, so that it can deal with them according to necessity. This would be good as a guarantee to the Church, and by renewal direct attention to these brothers. (See the amendment below.)

b. With respect to point b the thought of your Comm. is that the office does not belong to the person but to the organism of the Church, these brothers or emeriti be declared or be the responsibility of the Classis. Only in this way is ecclesiastical supervision guaranteed.

8. "Classis believes the time is ripe to institute Particular Synods, and requests Synod to divide the Classes into Particular Synods."

Classis Iowa
Your Comm. judges that there are no preponderant reasons for this and thus cannot recommend it.

9. "Glassis is of the opinion that there should be more clarity and development in diagonal service, and proposes to Synod that a committee be appointed to compose a memorandum of this matter for enlightenment, and report at the next Synod."

Glassis Iowa

Your Comm. endorses this request. (For members see Article 159.)

10. "Synod expressly declare that no unapproved hymns be used in our Sunday Schools or Church services, and urge that this be maintained."

Glassis Grand Rapids West

Since the hymns which Glassis Hackensack have permitted for the society, although there are no approved hymns, your Comm. advises that Synod declare that for Church services to maintain definitely to the Church Order, Art. 69.

11. "Synod disapprove of choirs at public Church services."

Glassis Illinois

Your Comm. advises so to do. (Of the remark below.)

12. A communication from Mr. J. B. Hulst concerning a new issue of the Church Order and other matters are considered.

Second edition Church Order

As reply your Comm. proposes the following:

a. Since the first issue is sold out, naturally a new edition is needed.

b. To take advantage of a new edition of our Church Order and General Decisions, a Committee be appointed to make the necessary additions and corrections.

c. Concerning the question who is to publish this new edition and upon what conditions, that like the publication of the first edition, this be placed in the hands of the committee to be appointed. (For Comm. members see Art. 159.)
Finally a communication was considered by us concerning cooperation with the "Joint Conference of Reformed Churches Holding the Presbyterian System. Your Comm. recommends not to enter into this matter.

With best wishes also for this branch of Synodical work.

For the Committee,

K. Van Goor, Reporter

Concerning Point 7a of the Report the following amendment was added: "A candidate as member is under the supervision of the Consistory of the congregation to which he belongs, but concerning his work as candidate, he is under the supervision of the Classis under which he resists."

From the discussion of Point 11 it appeared that a choir was not disapproved in so far as it gives guidance in the singing in the congregation, but only when the choir sings without the congregation participating.

Article 126.

A rule was adopted that all study committees, who are to report at the next Synod, if possible to 6 mo. be informed the churches at least six months before Synod meets.

Article 127.

A letter from Dr. R. Janssen was read whereby he informed Synod that he had the freedom to accept the appointment as Lector in Exegetical Theology, (see Art. 95). With joy Synod received the same as information.

Article 128.

Rev. Van Vesseam read the Report of the Emeritus Board. It was received and will be placed in the supplements. (Supplement VI.)

Article 129.

Rev. Van Vesseam also read the Report of the Comm. for Varia. It was received to be considered point by point.
Article 130.

After it was decided to hold an evening session Synod adjourned with closing devotions.

EVENING SESSION, JUNE 23.

Article 131.

Opening Devotions.

Article 132.

The Report of the Comm. for Varia was discussed item by item, and finally approved as follows:

Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice for Varia.

Your Comm. has examined the provision of the law as well as the Acts of Incorporation, and finds nothing therein that conflicts with the Word of God nor the good order of the Church; and therefore advises to approve incorporation.

The supplement presented by the Board appears to be very accurate; meets the requirements of the required demands with respect to the Fund; Synod accept it unchanged.

Synod accept the advice of the Board to set a quota of 19% per family for the Emeritus Fund, which totals the sum of $200.00; the number of families in the denomination is 11,826; this figure in our estimation is fairly just. Each Classis regulate the quota each year as in Art. 116.

According to the Acts of Incorporation Synod elect the Board. There must be 5 members, residing in Michigan, for a period of three years. (For the members appointed see Art. 159.)

Concerning the Point on the Agenda: "Classis Grand Rapids West requests Synod to determine what actually is the official name of our Church: Christian Reformed Church, Christian Reformed Church in North America, or Christian Reformed Church in America, since various documents and articles do not appear to state definitely.......

Name of the Denomination
what the name is." Your Comm. found the following practised by the Church: The Agenda and De Wachter, "North America." The Theological School and Mission Boards, "America."

According to Art. 48, the Synod of 1880 the official name of the Church is "Holland Christian Reformed Church".

In 1892, see Art. 87, a proposal was made to delete the word "Holland"; this was followed by a decision of the Synod of 1894, Art. 26, from which it appears that with the deletion of the word "Holland", the denominational name is actually Christian Reformed Church.

Your Comm. advises with respect to this name that it be used with greater accuracy, and advises that with all future incorporations to use this name wherever possible.

3. Nexts "That the Synod give a clear statement as to the basis of union of the Classis of Hackensack with the Christian Reformed Church, because of the difference between the reports of Synod and that of the Classis."

Classis Hackensack

The matter whereover there is a difference is found in the expression, see Supplement VII, s. Acts of 1890, where we read internal government; Supplement VIII the words "they found no difficulty with internal government of that Church."

Classis Hackensack has a "Church Manual" dated 1878, and claims that at the above mentioned Synod this manual was placed in the hands of the Committee as their "Internal Government."

Since this cannot be denied, your Comm. advises that in the future in all ecclesiastical actions, the Church overagainst Classis Hackensack as well
as in its own circle to abide by this declaration of "internal government" as meaning "the Church Manual of 1878." (However, compare the amendment below).

4. Point 4: "Synod approve the division of Classis Iowa in two:
   a. Classis Iowa to consist of the congregations
      Fella I, Rotterdam, Luctor, Firth, Leighton, Maxwell, Peoria, Sully, Galesburg, Princeton, Fella II, Neder-
      land, Otley, Fort Defiance, Harvey, Oskaloosa, Alamosa, Prairie City.
   b. A new Classis (Orange City) to consist of the remaining 27 congregations in the present Classis
      Iowa

Since Classis Iowa has become large and especially widespread, and Classis itself can best judge concerning such a division, your Comm. advises that the division be approved, and to leave the manner of division up to the Classis.

5. The following Points "Synod mandate the Synodical Committee in cases of general, outstanding sins, especially Sabbath desecration, divorce, and misuse of strong drink, to draw up petitions against the same in the name of the whole Church."

Classis Iowa

Your Comm. advises to accept this overture in its totality:

a. for the advancement of the glory of God;
   b. the calling of the Church is to fight against all sin; and
   c. also to fulfill our calling over against the large world outside the circle of the Church.

6. Concerning Point 6: "Classis requests Synod to give directives concerning elders, who have need of financial re-imbursement during the time they attend Synod, how they can obtain the same."

Classis Grand Rapids West

Your Comm. is of the opinion that if a Consist- tory or Classis delegates someone, who declares that he cannot serve because he cannot miss his daily wage, that if then the sending......
body does not excuse him, it will be responsible for the necessary adjustments. It advises Synod to accept this idea.

7. Point 7: Classis Grand Rapids West requests Synod to delete these words, Acts 1902, p. 75; "And be the First Clerk of Synod."

Your Comm. advises to delete the words as requested:

a. because it believes that one Synod has no jurisdiction who shall be the officers of the following Synod;

b. Art. 3 of the Rules of Order makes an election necessary. Since this decision has not been reviewed, whereby a 2/3rd. majority is necessary (Of. Art. 31 of the Rules of Order,) it must necessarily follow that the decision of the previous Synod was not in conformity with its own Rules.

8. Point 8 of the Report on Varia: "Synod expresses its disapproval over the thoughtless action of Rev. L. Berkhof and of the Consistory of the congregation of Allendale and of Classis Grand Rapids West with respect to the severance of Rev. L. Berkhof from the congregation of Allendale, and requests that in the future such a matter does not take place again."

Classis Muskegon

Your Comm. is of the opinion that the first mistake was a matter of form; it believes that the request for severance in the first instance should not have been acted upon by the Consistory alone, but also through the Consistory by the congregation; secondly, the Consistory of Allendale was not sufficiently prepared, whereby the decision of the Consistory and of the Classis was done in haste.

Synod advises the congregations to prevent haste in similar situations, and recommends that for further study a vacation be given but not decide for severance.

9. Concerning Point 9: "Classis......"
Emr. Rave. Schut and Greve gave provisional approval for the emeritation of the Revs. Greve and Schut, and requests Synod to endorse the same."

Classis Iowa

Your Comm. advises to grant honorable emeritation, since both the brothers can no longer serve because of physical disability.

M. Van Vessum, Reporter

With respect to point 4 the following amendment is added: "A Committee be appointed to examine the "Manual" and compare it with the Church Order of Dordt, in order to come to uniformity as much as possible. This Committee be the same as those appointed to enter into correspondence with the revision of the Church Order. (Art. 159.) It consult with Classis Hokensack, and render its advice at the next Synod. Reason for appointing such a committee:

a. because it concerns a delicate and serious matter;

b. because the content of the "Manual" is foreign to the greater majority of the members of Synod, and that therefore it is inadvisable to decide this matter now.

Article 135.

Closing Devotions.

FORENOON, JUNE 24.

Article 134.

Opening Devotions.

Article 135.

The minutes of June 23 are read, received, and approved.

Article 136.

Concerning the request of Classis Hudson to re- view art. 94, Acts 1896, in so far that J. K. was valid, it was decided; since no grounds were
given for the above mentioned Synodical decision, considering that the delegates of Classis Hudson can give no satisfactory grounds for revision, therefore the matter is returned to that Classis and given power to act according to its just judgment.

Article 137.

The Comm. concerning the Baptismal Question (Section V) renders its Report by Rev. Van Vliet.

1. On the Agenda there was an instruction from Classis Illinois: "Synod declare whether the so-called baptism administered by J. Vanden Broek must be considered legal."

Having obtained all possible information concerning this matter, your Comm. can state:

On the one hand, it is clear that Vanden Broek was a legal office bearer in the Netherlands, and made himself unworthy of the office through gross ungodliness.

On the other hand, it has not been proved that in our country he has been restored to office by any office bearer, but gathered a group of like-minded, and in those meetings in his manner served the office and continues to do so.

Considering that now Vanden Broek through this assembly, like those, only by virtue of civil law, exists as a constituted congregation, and is acknowledged as their pastor and minister, with official mandate of this assembly, your Comm. could find no Confessional declarations whereby it could reject his office.

Nevertheless your Comm., after having obtained the desired information, is of the unanimous opinion concerning his conduct, that this case cannot be ranged under one of the known articles of the former decisions of the Reformed Churches, but that we must direct Synod to the Word of God.

Your Comm. comes with the following advice:

Synod declare that J. Vanden Broek according to the Holy Scriptures with respect to the office, yes even his membership in the congregation......
of Christ has made himself unworthy, and that consequently his baptism must be considered illegal, and is nothing else than a desecration of the Sacraments. All this for the following reasons:

1. Because it cannot be proved that he was legally ordained to office.

2. Because in all his "service" he has revealed himself as an instigator of mutiny and a schismatic of the Church of Christ, and the Christian Church may not acknowledge him as a member.

3. Because the Word of God speaks clearly concerning keeping sacred the office by the office bearer as the necessary condition for the legality of his service. In Acts 20:28 Paul points to this in addressing the elders of Ephesus: "Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock."

So they themselves by virtue of their office must project themselves as an example.

More clearly Paul points to what is found in I Tim. 3:1-4 and Titus 1:7-9, where it is clearly commanded that a leader, if he is to be recognized by the Church in his office, that he of necessity must be unimpeachable as God's steward, the husband of one wife, not greedy of filthy lucre, gentle, just, holy, self-controlled.

Your Comm. recognizes that this is directly more expressly to ruling elders, but at the same time also recognizes that the office is one and cannot be separated.

Therefore that which is required of a ruling elder to be a worthy office-bearer, should at least be necessary for a teaching elder.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Comm.

Synod accepts this advice. (For further matters concerning the Baptismal Question see Art. 139, 9, with the amendment concerning the same.)

Article 138.

The Wachter Comm. submitted the following as Rules
for the Committee of Supervision for De Wachter, according to the mandate in Art. 113. It was approved and adopted as follows:

Rules for the Committee of Supervision of De Wachter.

Art. 1. In agreement with Art. 71, Acts 1894, De Wachter has a Committee of Supervision, consisting of three members which are appointed by Synod, and meet at least twice per year with the editor and the business manager, these two without the right to vote.

Art. 2. Their duties are to regulate matters concerning De Wachter. In connection herewith the duties of this Committee consist of:

a. To serve the editor with advice as often as he feels need with respect to placing of any article.

b. To give the Business Manager advice concerning advertisements, those who do not pay their subscriptions, and also in everything which the Business Manager believes can be of service in the spread of our publication, and to submit to the judgment of the Committee.

c. To give the editor, the business manager, the co-worker, and the publisher to suggest as often and necessary in all the matters which the Comm. deems necessary, with respect to the financial and intellectual concerns of the operation.

d. With the unexpected departure through death or other causes of the general manager, or the co-workers, as well as the publisher, the Committee shall act and appoint successors until the following Synod.

Art. 3. The Comm. each year examine the books of the Business Manager, and report each Synodical year to the Synod with respect to the status of the fund, submit proposals concerning the personnel, and present its advice.

Article 139.

Rev. Manni reports for the Comm. of Protests.

The report was received and approved as follows:
Report of the Committee on Protests

Dear Brethren,

1. The first matter on which we must report is the appeal of Rev. W. R. Smidt. This brother appeals to Synod concerning a decision of Classis Grand Rapids West with respect to an elder who publicly accused the Consistory at a congregational meeting "that it had wrongfully taken money from the Benevolent Fund and placed it in the General Fund." Classis did condemn the elder. However, Rev. Smidt demands that it be declared "the designated elder had no reason to make the accusation at any place, and the same be declared publicly."

The situation is that the General Fund constantly borrowed from the Benevolent Fund, and that then a change took place with respect to the collections until the debt was settled, so that it appears that no complete account can be given, although the money did get into one or the other fund.

Your Comm. is of the opinion that Rev. Smidt demands too much, and advises Synod to abide by the decision of Classis, considering that no grounds could be found whereby it should be publicly announced, and also that Rev. Smidt gives no grounds for his request.


In this appeal Rev. Smidt likewise addresses a request to Synod over against Classis Grand Rapids West. The situation is that a censured member, who for sometime had been wandering around, attended a congregational meeting and voted. There was a tie vote, whereas Rev. Smidt, the chairman of the meeting, felt constrained to make known the censure, and to deny the member concerned the right to vote. The matter came to Classis. Classis condemned the action of the pastor.
New Rev. Smidt requested "That Synod demand that Classis retract this judgment." The ground adduced by him is that if a censured person would come to the Table of the Lord, he would be denied participation.

Your Comm. advises that the decision of Classis be upheld. Although a decision of the Church says that a censured person has no right to vote, but then it is also necessary that he be notified in advance. Therefore it was not in order to deny him the right to vote after he had already voted. Hence the decision of Classis reads as follows: "Classis judges that Rev. Smidt was formally right, but the manner in which he notified the meeting was not in order, although understandable in this particular situation, because by that action the censure came to the second step, which is not permissible without the approval of Classis."


Mr. O. Wierda

The entire appeal of Mr. Wierda comes down to this, that he has to work a few hours on Sunday as a guard in Campau Park, Grand Rapids, in order to maintain order, while at the same time he is forbidden to engage in any work for the upkeep of the Park on Sunday. The Consistory has therefore denied him to participate in the Lord's Supper, which was sustained by Classis. Under the conviction that both have gone too far in this, yes, that it has even created a lot of talk both within and outside the congregation, according to his testimony, he requests Synod to declare that the Consistory of the Christian Reformed Church of Grandville Avenue publicly declares that it has wronged him not only in its method of action, but in the action itself.

Your Comm. is of the opinion that Mr. Wierda demands too much. It cannot see that such a demand can in any way be justified. Nevertheless your Comm. judges that the Consistory should lift the censure and restore to full membership. Upon the ground that the work of Mr. Wierda falls under the works of necessity........
(Church Order, page 43, concerning Sabbath Observance, works of necessity.) (See the protest below of elder Hekman of the Grandville Ave. congregation.)

4. Protest of Mr. M. K. Vanden Bosch of the First Church of Grand Haven, Michigan. This protest is against Classis Muskegon. The matter is this: With the election of Consistory members there were 36 members present. Of the ballots received there were 5 blanks, hence only 31 votes. Of those 31 votes Vanden Bosch has 17. He judged himself to be legally chosen. But a new vote was held, because the blanks were included with the votes received. Appealing to Classis he was not upheld, wherefore he protested against this action.

Your Comm. is of the opinion that Vanden Bosch is within his rights. The blank ballots cannot be included. Only the legal votes can be considered. If the blanks were to be included they should rather be included with the majority than the minority.

5. A protest of the congregation of Fisher Station against Classis Grand Rapids, East. The matter is this: The marriage of a man and a woman was declared illegal by the Consistory of this congregation, while Classis decided not to oppose these members. The woman was married before, and was separated from her former husband. Before divorce took place, she was accused by her husband before the judge as not being qualified for marriage while many other trifling matters of difference existed between them. The husband sued for divorce, however, the wife presented a cross-bill, whereby the ground for divorce by the husband was nullified, and the wife requested and received the divorce upon the ground of extremely difficult treatment.

The husband left the church and later married. After this the woman married while she was a member of the congregation of Commerce St., Grand Rapids, Michigan. This marriage did not take place before she
received advice from two ministers of our Church, who told her that she had the right to re-marry, whereby she entered into marriage, the ceremony performed by one of the above ministers.

The Consistory of Fisher Station deemed this to be an illegal marriage. It brought the matter to Classis, and Classis declared that these persons should not be impeded, for which Classis gave the following grounds:

a. The bad treatment she received;

b. Cause given by the husband to believe that he engaged in immoral behavior;

c. The advice given to her by the Consistory, which she in her simplicity followed;

d. That he again married without making any attempts to live with his legal wife.

Your Comm. believes that the grounds adduced by Classis contains nothing whereby the Word of God gives a ground for a legal request for divorce, or that gave her the right to re-marry.

That the ill-treatment she received is no biblical ground.

Although there was suspicion concerning the immorality of the husband, there was no proof.

The Consistory has never advised her to divorce her husband, it did permit a member of the congregation to grant her protection, when her husband sued for divorce on false grounds. The wife, through her suing for divorce, is the cause that her husband could again re-marry.

Your Comm. finds that the Consistory of Alpine Ave. went too far to give a member of the congregation the right to help her before the judge, without the Consistory knowing to what lengths this person would go. Consequently your Comm. cannot understand how the Consistory could permit this woman to continue as a member, after she sued for divorce by presenting a cross-bill which was accepted. It also cannot under-
could engage in marriage, since the divorce took place on no other grounds than "extremely harsh treatment."

Considering that the cause of this wrong marriage rests with the Consistory of Alpine Avenue, which (although not directly by advice), yet permitted a member to be her protector, without knowing wherein this protection would consist; furthermore, that the Consistory resigned itself in what was done; and also considering that the Consistory gave her a clean certificate of membership to another congregation, and ministers had told her she might enter into marriage, your Comm. advises that this woman with her present husband be carried as members of the congregation, and that no more be demanded of this woman than that she confess that she erred because of wrong guidance and advice.

6. A communication from Mr. S. Vander Heyde of Pella, Iowa, consisting of charges against his Consistory.

Since this communication comes here without the knowledge of the Consistory or the Classis, it cannot be received here, and so to inform Mr. Vander Heyde.

7. A letter from Rev. J. De Vries, a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He requests Synod to pay attention to his case, considering that Classis Hudson will no longer deal with his person, although Synod directed him to Classis Hudson.

Your Comm. advises that we can go no further than was previously decided. At that time Classis had no work for him because there was not a single vacant congregation. The way is still open to Rev. De Vries to address himself to Classis Hudson. He also has given no reason why the Classis with drew its consideration of him.

8. An appeal by Rev. J. N. Trompen of Ramsey, New Jersey, in which he requests that Classis Hackensack be brought to the performance of its duty in executing the decision, Art. 38a, Article 300: "Synod reprimands Rev. J. N. Trompen and his consistory because they did not appear at the....."
special meeting of Classis and at the following meet-
ing of Classis, whereupon they were cited, and decided
they must make confession thereof before Classis
Hackensack; while this Classis on its part recall the
deposition and make confession for this deposition
of Rev. J. N. Trompen and his Consistory. 9

Your Comm. is of the opinion that Classis must
meet its obligation regarding Rev. J. N. Trompen, the
more because Rev. Trompen met his obligation with re-gard to Classis, according to the decision of Synod.

9. A protest from the Third Church of Muskegon
against the First Church of Muskegon and against
Classis with respect to the Baptismal Question. The
content of this protest is of such a nature that your
Comm. judged that the protest in its entirety be
placed before Synod. Also that it cannot present a
recommendation before Synod because of the difficul-
ty of the matter, and besides that your Comm. was in-
formed that it had to deal with the protest insofar
as it was protest, and that the Comm. for Baptismal
matters had to deal with it insofar as it pertained
to the Baptismal question. Our expectation is that
either the Comm. for the Baptismal Question or from
the discussion in the assembly a recommendation will
be forthcoming and adopted, whereby the existing
difficulty will be resolved. (See below.)

Respectfully submitted, your Comm. of Pre-advice,

J. B. Hoekstra, Chairman

J. Manni, Reporter

Elder Hekman notifies Synod that He wishes to
register his protest against the decision of Synod
with respect to the Wierda case (point 3).

Concerning the last part of the above report
dealing with the Baptismal Question the following
recommendation was received and adopted:

Synod decides:

1. It is not necessary to give a more elaborate
regulation, as Classis Grand Rapids West desires,
with respect to the attitude of the Church concern-
ing the baptism of......
children of baptized members. (Cf. Art. 56 of the Church Order with Note. (Edition 1897, p. 33.)

2. To appoint a committee with the mandates

   a. In the name of Synod to call to the attention of Classis Muskegon the stand of the Church with respect to the Baptismal system.

   b. To serve the Third Church of Muskegon with advice.

   c. To remind the First Church there to understand its duty, and if necessary, in the name of Synod, should this Consistory continue in its implemented course, to bring its complaint to Classis Muskegon. (For members of this committee see Art. 159.)

Article 140.

Concerning the protests of Rev. J. B. Jonkman and of the Consistory of the North St. Church of Zeeland, Michigan, against Classis Holland, after long discussion, in which Rev. Jonkman was permitted to participate, it was decided to appoint a Committee to investigate these matters in loco to endeavor to bring a satisfactory conclusion to them, and to report to the next Synod. (For committee members see Art. 159.)

Article 141.

Closing Devotions.

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AFTERNOON, JUNE 24.

Article 142.

Opening Devotions.

Article 143.

It is decided to hold an evening session and continue to work through to conclude Synod this week.

Article 144.

Rev. G. D. De Jong reported for the Comm. for
Duties of new Prof. of the Theological School, from which it appeared that the professor to be appointed will be called upon to teach mathematics and science.

Synod is requested to take this in consideration when the election takes place. This is accepted, even as the information that neither Prof. Broene nor the new professor to be appointed shall replace Prof. Kuiper.

Article 145.

Resol. of Rev. Hoekstra read the Resolutions of Sympathy. Approved. (Supplement X.)

Article 146.

After it was decided to meet in Executive Session at the beginning of the evening session, closing devotions were held.

EVENING SESSION, JUNE 24.

Article 147.

Opening Devotions.

Article 148.

In Executive Session Synod acted on the nomination of four brethren presented June 22 (Art. 117), to which was added the name of Dr. J. Vander Vries. After the vote was taken it showed that Dr. Boyd Bode received 6 votes, Mr. Sevensma and Mr. Rinck each 20 votes, and Dr. Vander Vries 1 vote. By re-vote Mr. Sevensma received 24 votes, and was declared elected. Mr. Rinck, who received 22 votes, was by acclamation appointed as alternate. The annual salary to be $750.00.

Article 149.

Salary Decided to increase the salary of Prof. J. G. Prof. VDB Vanden Bosch to $850.00.
Article 150.

Synod received with joy the information that Prof. A. E. Broene accepted the appointment as professor in the Literary Department (Art. 96).

Article 151.

Rev. J. Vander Mey read the report of the Committee for Church Help. It was approved, and it was decided to place it in the supplements. (Supplement VII.)

Article 152.

The Committee to review the minutes of the last Synod reported a few minutes requiring the attention of Synod. It appeared that most of these matters had already been acted upon by previous decisions.

Article 153.

Returning to Art. 80, III, and Art. 96, Acts 1902, it was decided to accede to the request of the Vesper, Wisconsin Church to continue the labor of Rev. Th. De Lange until the next Synod upon the conditions made previously.

Article 154.

Rev. H. Beets rendered his report as member of the Committee for Revision of the English Psalms in Rhyme. Adopted. He was re-appointed with Rev. H. Vander Werp as alternate. Since the above named Committee hopes in 1905 to present its preliminary work to the participating denominations for inspection, it requests our church as well as the others to appoint a committee to make such an investigation, and present its observations to the Revision Committee. Revs. H. Beets and H. Vander Werp were appointed as committee with power to add other brethren to its number. They are to report at the next Synod.

Article 155.

Concerning Art. 128 (Certificates of Baptized Members) Synod was informed this action has already taken place.
Article 156.

Decided to publish the Sunday School lesson in De Wachter for advanced scholars.

Article 157.

Report of delegates who were delegated to the assemblies of the corresponding churches: Revs. Noordewier and Beets to the Gereformeerde Kerken; Netherlands; Rev. J. Timmerman to the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; Rev. J. Westervelt to the General Synod Reformed Presbyterian Church; Rev. J. Smitten to the Associate Presbyterian Church; and Rev. J. W. Brink to the General Synod of the Reformed Church. This report received as information.

Article 158.

A motion of sympathy was adopted concerning the efforts of the National Reformed Association. A letter from Rev. S. B. Houston, delegate from the Ass. Presbyterian Church to our Synod, who, because of circumstances was hindered from attending, was received as information.

Article 159.

Rev. Vander Werf presented the Report for the Comm. on Appointments. It was approved as follows:

Your Committee for Appointments takes the liberty to present the following Brethren as members of the following committees:

1. Treasurer for the Board of Heathen Missions: Hon. J. W. Garvelink.


4. Synodical Committees: Rev. J. Groen, Ge. D. De Jong, and...........
K. Kuiper. The Stated Clerk is member ex officio and secretary of this Committee. (Syn. 1902, Art. 142,1,A.)


8. Representative of our Church to the National Christian Associations. Rev. J. Groen.

9. The appointment of delegates to the Reformed Presbyterian Churches, the United Presbyterian and Associate Presbyterian Churches to be committed to the Synodical Committee so that they may appoint delegates according to the best time and travel accommodations.


12. Writer for the Department "For Young People"s; Rev. H. Vander Werp. Remuneration the same as for the alternate editor.

13. Delegate to the Gereformeerde Kerken, Netherlands; No delegate, since, as far as we know, no pressing matters of general concern will take place at the Synod of 1905.

Senior Lessons; Rev. K. Kuiper; alternate, Rev. J. Manni.
Junior Lessons; Rev. J. B. Hoekstra; alternate, elder B. Sevensma. (Art. 118.)


16. Committee for Correspondence for Revision of the Church Order (Art. 125, 2); Prof. Ten Hoor, Revs. J. W. Brink and H. Beets.
17. Committee for Diaconate (Art. 125, 8); Revs. I. Van Dellen, P. Ekster, and Prof. W. Heyns.

18. Committee on Divorce (Art. 125, 4); Prof. W. Heyns, Prof. R. Janssen, Revs. J. Mann, J. Vander Mey, and J. Groen.


20. Committee for Muskegon (Art. 139); Revs. E. Breen, J. Groen, H. Beets, M. Van Vessew.

Article 160.

Resolutions of thanks were adopted:

1. To the Graham and Morton Transportation Co., for the pleasant steamship trip for Synod on Thursday. Resolutions of thanks will be published in the newspapers and to the aforementioned company.

2. To the consistories and congregations of our Church in Holland for their hospitality during the sessions of Synod, and for their refreshments on board ship.

3. To Rev. Vos for his many years of service on the Emeritus Board and other services. Also decided to remunerate the custodian of the Ninth St. Church $10.00 for services rendered to Synod.

Article 161.

Decided that the next meeting again be held in Holland, Michigan. The three congregations once again are requested to convene Synod and make arrangements.

Article 162.

The Revs. Breen, Groen, Van Vessew, and the Stated Clerk are appointed to make arrangements for the printing of the Acts and related matters.

Article 163.

The minutes of the sessions of June 24 were read and approved.
Article 164.

Synod having completed its work, the president, Rev. E. Breen addresses the assembly with fitting words. He pointed out that weighty matters were considered and decided. How it appeared that the cause of Missions and the School have become more deeply rooted in the heart of the Church. How the cause of both were considered as a serious calling. With satisfaction of heart he might view the work accomplished. A brotherly feeling could constantly be felt. Also our unity.

And again it appeared that we still struggle in our Reformed life, but that it is already in our heart and bloodstream. It appeared that we had Reformed feelers so that we did not have to consult the Church Order constantly. May the Lord bless all that has been done according to his will. May he graciously cleanse through the blood of Christ all that has been wrongfully done. Afterwards the president thanked the vice-president, both the clerks, and the pre-advisors. In turn he was thanked by the vice-president. After earnest prayer by Rev. Breen, and the singing of Psalm 133:1, he pronounced the benediction, and Synod adjourned.

E. Breen, President
J. Groen, Vice-President
Henry Beets, 1st Clerk
M. Van Vessum, 2nd Clerk
REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

During this Synodical year your Synodical Committee had comparatively little work to perform. The first matter was a request from Rev. H. Roether of the Evangelical Free Church in Breslau, Germany, recommended by the General Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands, for help to build a church. Since there are so many needs in our own country, we believed that this work be left to the good care of the brethren on the other side.

Thereafter various letters were received desiring information concerning our own Church, our next Synod, etc., which were answered by our Stated Clerk, who, according to a decision of the last Synod is member ex officio and functions as secretary of the committee.

Bookdealer J. B. Hulst sent us a communication concerning a new edition of the Church Order which is worthy of your attention and which we offer for your consideration.

A request for recommendation of a collection for the Oakland Park Church of Grand Rapids, which lost its church building through a tornado, in De Wachter was granted.

A request from the Committee of the Emeritus Fund that we add two new members to the Committee, since the law of incorporation demands five members besides the president and the secretary, who cannot function as trustees. We appointed Rev. A. Keizer and the Hon. J. W. Garvelink, and trust that this will meet with your approval.

A letter was received from Prof. B. Kuiper, which you undoubtedly will read with great interest.
Finally, we place before your honorable assembly a letter from the Conference for closer cooperation of the Reformed Churches which hold to the Presbyterian system of Church Polity.

Since the members of your Synodical Committee serve only from one Synod to another (Art. 96, Acts 1898), they place their mandate again in your hands, thanking you for the confidence placed in them.

The Synodical Committee,

L. J. Hulet
K. Kuiper
H. Van Hoogen

POSTSCRIPT

Since the above was already written and signed letters of importance were received, namely, the following:

1. An official communication from the Deputies of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands for Correspondence with Foreign Churches requesting us to grant support to the Holland brethren in Tres Arroyos, Argentina. Since the concerns of these brethren in that land will be considered this communication surely can be entrusted to the Committee ad hoc.

2. An official communication from the Reformed Church of South Africa, requesting that a delegate be sent to their General Synod in 1907. Undoubtedly you will note this with interest.

H. Beets, S.J.

SUPPLEMENT II.

REPORT OF THE CURATORIUM OF THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL.

1902 - 1904

Honorable and Highly Esteemed Brothers:

The Curatorium of the Theological School has the honor to present the following to Synod.

As with respect to our previous reports, we may begin this report with a word of thanks to the Lord for the many tokens of His
undeserved faithfulness to us. The Lord has visibly blessed the School for which we praise his name. With diligence and devotion the professors and students have labored. Our School continually expands. Use of instruction is not only employed by the young men and young women of our own denomination but also by those who belong to other denominations. The faculty was called upon to issue a word of warning a couple of times to some students, but no one through misconduct or through careless study was expelled. Only one student of the Second Class was not permitted to take examinations because of his failure to attend classes regularly.

a. The Faculty. The Curatorium has executed the mandate given by the previous Synod. (Acts 1902, Art. 122, a.) From Dr. R. Janssen, called as professor for Exegetical Theology, we received a reply that he desired to serve our school. The stipulations of this call are of such a nature, that the Curatorium did not think that the ordinary ordination was appropriate, and has introduced Dr. Janssen with a fitting word of installation. According to information Dr. Janssen is a doctor of philosophy. In preparation for his candidate's examination in theology, Dr. Janssen has been granted leave at the end of the school year 1902-1903 to go abroad.

From Dr. B. Wielenga we received a reply that he did not feel free to accept the call extended to him by Synod, so that Rev. W. Heyns, his alternate, was called as professor for Practical Theology, who also accepted the call, and with the school year of 1902-1903 was installed in the customary manner.

The faculty at present consists of professors G. K. Hemkes, F. M. Ten Hoor, W. Hayns, and Dr. R. Janssen in Theology; A. J. Rooks, A.M., K. Schoolland, J. G. Vanden Bosch, A.M., and E. Kuiper, A.B., professors in the Literary Department. In the summer of 1902, has sustained his candidate's examination at the University of Chicago. An indication that this youthful does not lack a desire to study and ambition for study. When he attended the June meeting in 1903, he requested a leave of absence of at least two years and at most three years in order to obtain his doctorate abroad, the Curatorium found no objection in granting this request, but was happy and thankful that along these lines to promote the welfare and the growth of the Church and the School. In his place Cand. A. E. Broene, A.B., was appointed for one year.

From the Synodical Agenda we observe that directly and indirectly comments are made concerning this. The Curatorium is prepared willingly to show cause, should Synod judge
such to be necessary. The Curatorium allows itself to point out that letter 4 Instruction Classis Hudson, apparently rests upon a misunderstanding. The so-called post-graduate course of Prof. Kuiper is not necessary, as Classis Hudson appears to mean.

Our esteemed emeritus professor, Rev. G. E. Boer, in the latter part of March, 1904, was called by the Lord from his earthly career to enter into the rest that God has provided for his people. The memory of him will continue to be a blessing.

b. The Curriculum. The curriculum in both departments has markedly improved, through the addition to the faculty of professors Heyns and Van Boeumen; the first-named gives instruction in the Literary Department in Bible Study, Dutch History, and Dutch Language. The College Preparatory course in this Department is divided into four: Latin-Greek, Latin-German, Latin-Scientific, German-Scientific. Three Hundred dollars was provided for the expansion of the laboratory.

e. Examinations. In September 1902, 20 applicants were accepted, of which 12 enrolled in the theological-preparatory course, and 8 in the teacher or college course. In June 1903, 6 students were admitted to Theology, while 6 were made eligible for a call. In September 1903, the number of applicants reached 44 (during September this increased to 55, of which 12 left during the school year), 18 enrolled in the theological-preparatory course and the remainder for the teacher's or college course. In June 1904, 2 were admitted to theology, and 10 were declared eligible for a call.

d. Expansion of the Literary Department. The previous Synod (Acts 1902, 34, IV, e) gave a mandate to the Curatorium "to take steps to establish an endowment fund for the expansion of the Literary Department, and, if necessary, to appoint a person for this purpose." This has been done. Successively the ministers J. W. Brink, M. Van Veenen, and H. Beets were appointed as Financial and Educational Agent. None felt free to accept the appointment, so that we also because for financial reasons decided not to proceed in appointing such an agent. Thereupon the Curatorium appointed a committee to promote this cause consisting of Rev. J. Groen, Prof. A. J. Roos, Mr. G. S. Postma, and Mr. J. B. Hulst. This committee is active in procuring $25,000.00 for an endowment fund, which amount will be sufficient for the establishment of a Junior College. By means of the Press and speakers it has pleaded the college cause; it has corresponded with Consistories and Classes.
and various lists of subscriptions obtained a sum of almost $9,500.00.

e. Dormitory. Because of the increase of student enrollment, and with a view of the difficulty to obtain suitable living quarters, the Curatorium decided to establish a student dormitory. Two suitable dwellings on one plot of ground were rented for this purpose. Expenses were advanced from the Fund of the Theological School to make these ready. The balance from student entrance fees can cover this advance in a couple of years.

f. Finances. According to the books of the Treasurer, which were found in order, the status of the following funds are as follows:

THEORETICAL SCHOOL

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<td>9,705.55</td>
<td>$15,203.60</td>
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<td>11,425.91</td>
<td>$16,425.76</td>
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<td>$19,025.13</td>
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GENERAL STUDENT FUND

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance, May 31, 1902</th>
<th>Recipts</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disbursed to the Classes and the Theological School</td>
<td>$4.49</td>
<td>145.47</td>
<td>$149.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance, May 31, 1903</td>
<td>$2.95</td>
<td>194.47</td>
<td>197.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disbursed to the Classes and the Theological School</td>
<td>$197.16</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$0.27</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIBRARY

Balance May 31, 1902 $5,961.40
Receipts Total $6,122.36
Disbursements $274.72
Balance, May 31, 1903 $5,887.68
Receipts Total $6,144.11
Disbursements $244.65
Interest-bearing Capital $5,897.46
Balance, May 31, 1904 $ 99.46

DOLLAR FUND

Balance, May 31, 1902 $ 263.00
Interest received 1902-1904 $68.00
Total $ 331.00
Disbursed to Gen'l Student Fund $68.00
Balance, May 31, 1904 $ 263.00

DORMITORY

Funds Advanced from Theol. Sch.$ 431.69
Student Entrance Fees $460.30
Total $ 912.19
Rent and Running Expenses $374.94
Total $ 537.25
Refunded to Theol School $105.36
Balance, May 31, 1904 $ 431.69

Information. With the foregoing the Curatorium adds the following comments:

1. In September, 1902, Cand. Wm. Stuart, B.D., was examined and declared a candidate.

2. Classis Hackensack was not represented at the June, 1903 meeting of the Curatorium; the Curatorium deemed it necessary to inform Synod concerning the same.

3. In the summer of 1903 painting and repair were made at the School at a cost of $440.00.

4. In the place of the late Prof. G. E. Boer, Prof. G. I. Hemkes was appointed as librarian and archivist.

Questions. courteously Synod is requested to give consideration to the following matters:
1. The appointment of Dr. R. Janssen as Lector in Exegetical Theology for two years at an annual salary of $1,200.00.

2. The appointment of Prof. A. E. Broene as professor in the Literary Department for a period of two years at an annual salary of $600.00.

3. To increase the Literary Department teacher personnel by one professor.

4. To grant Prof. F. M. Ten Hoor an honorarium of $150.00 annually until the next Synod.

5. That during the school year 1905-1906 Prof. A. J. Rooks be granted a leave of absence to pursue post-graduate study.

6. To set the pension of Mrs. G. B. Boer at $300.00 per year.

7. With respect to establishing a college:
   a. To approve the work performed.
   b. To establish the name as John Calvin Junior College.
   c. A request to give directives for obtaining the necessary funds for establishing the college.
   d. Synod declares:
      1) that the further expansion of the Literary Department be financed by separate funds so that the quota of the Theological School is not increased.
      2) that these separate Funds shall only be used for the needs of the college.
      3) that should the college in the future become more self-sustaining, it shall remain under the supervision of the Church for the preservation of a confessional direction of the instruction given.

8. To empower the Curatorium to build a suitable dormitory.

9. To rescind Art. 12 of the Rules for the Theological School with the stipulation that the regulation of preaching remain with the Rector, and when a student receives the privilege of exhorting in a congregation that this shall not take place without the consent of the faculty and without the knowledge of the Rector, or he shall be excluded from examinations.

The Curatorium,

G. D. De Jong, Secretary
SUPPLEMENT III

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Board comes to Synod with the assurance that the work among the dispersed is regularly pursued and crowned with blessing from the Lord.

Since the last Synod the brethren Haan and Gulker continued to work regularly in their respective fields, while Rev. Schut through illness and weakness was necessitated to discontinue his work.

Not long after your last meeting Cand. W. Stuart was called, who accepted this work, of which the flourishing congregation of Manhattan, Montana, is witness.

Rev. A. J. Brink found the freedom to accept your call to the great Western field, as also brother J. Dolfin, both of whom work with blessing and success.

In connection with brother Dolfin, at the urgent request from the West, although the treasury did not permit, the Board believed to call two, but based upon a salary of $600.00. From more than one quarter objections were raised to this. The Board, however, believes that it account for its action before your assembly.

Although attempts were made to send a missionary to the German field, these were all frustrated.

With the departure of the esteemed Treasurer, Rev. G. D. De Jong, from Classis Muskegon to Classis Holland, your Board decided to continue him as treasurer until the next meeting of Synod, since it was convinced that he was indispensable through his qualifications and long experience, and that another person would find it difficult to acquaint himself with this work in so short a time.

The report of the Treasurer is as follows:

June 1902 – June 1903

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1902</th>
<th>1903</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$4,067.88</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>5,166.92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,576.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$9,254.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lubbers Fund</td>
<td>$1,258.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$1,320.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund from the Syn. Treasurer</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$1,320.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
June 1903 - June 1904

Balance $1,358.15
Receipts $7,281.65
Total $8,639.80
Disbursements $6,883.65
Balance $1,756.15
Lubbers Fund $1,350.00

The Board decided that if Synod does not change its former rule, to advise Synod to continue Rev. De Jong as Treasurer and to make him a member of the Board, it also advises that his honorarium be increased.

SUBSIDY FOR 1903 - 1904

Palmer $100.00
Platte 100.00
Leota 125.00
Hosper 75.00
Friesland 100.00
Hull, N. D. 50.00
Otley 200.00
Firth 150.00
Maxwell 200.00
Grand View 125.00
Parkersburg 50.00
Renville 100.00
Kanawha 200.00
O. Friesland 125.00
Pease 125.00
Baldwin 125.00

SUBSIDY FOR 1904 - 1905

Lodi $100.00
Rochester 100.00
Sayville 100.00
East Paris 150.00
Cleveland East 150.00
Fisher Station 50.00
Rusk 200.00
Hudsonville 150.00
Eastmanville 200.00
Caldwell 150.00
Prosper 50.00
Reeman 50.00

Sheboygan $100.00
Ol. Illinois 25.00
Rusk 100.00
Hudsonville 150.00
Fisher Station 50.00
Cleveland E.S. 200.00
East Paris 100.00
Grand Rapids E. 50.00
Eastmanville 200.00
Caldwell 150.00
Reeman 75.00
Atwood and 150.00
Ellsworth 150.00
Prosper 100.00
Sayville 100.00
Rochester 100.00
Leota 150.00
Friesland 100.00
Hosper 100.00
Harvey 200.00
Doon 150.00
Ebenezer 125.00
Firth 200.00
Palmer 100.00
Kanawha 200.00
Embden 100.00
O. Friesland 125.00
Parkersburg 50.00

The books of the Treasurer and Secretary were examined and found in good order.

The work deserves to be continued with vigor while it brings forth good fruit.

The Board frankly would like to see the collections for missions be increased so that the Board is in a position to call according to need.

May the Lord use this Synod for a rich blessing for missions; may He lead thereto by His Holy Spirit.

In the Name of the Board,
M. Van Vesse, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT IV

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEATHEN MISSIONS

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren,

According to the Rules your Board again presents its Report to you, and again under five sections, namely, those of the Mission Field, the Missionaries, the Mission Work, the Work of the Board, and finally the Proposals of the Board.

I. The Mission Field. Since the Synod of 1902 the mission field has expanded. Not at Mission Springs as was proposed according to the decision of Synod. Man proposes but God disposes. It soon appeared that the spring at that place during the dry season dried up, so that it was inadvisable to build there. The small store built there had to be moved and another place had to be found for ground for our feet. The brethren Breen and Groen were sent out, and after much searching a place was found 6 miles east of Gallup near Zuni Siding, the so-called Smith Ranch, a piece of ground of 160 acres, which Smith had as squatter's rights. Next to it was a homestead of the same size
upon which he had the rights. On the first named land, which was 
school land, Smith had a home, a fine well, a pump with an en-
gine, several small buildings with fences. All of this he wan-
ted to sell for $1,650.00. This offer was accepted, the small 
store was immediately moved there, and up until now we are keep-
ing there for two years with Mr. Vander Vagen as storekeeper. 
Improvements were made with respect to the house, which was im-
deed necessary, at a cost of $150.00. Rev. Fryling took the 
homestead at the behest of the Board, and the Santa Fe R. R. Co. 
promised to give us another 60 acres adjoining ours, providing 
that our church build a boarding school there as well as indu-
stry. Since the Synod of 1902 gave permission for this (Cf. Acts 
p. 95), and trusting the love for missions by our Church, the 
Board took steps in that direction. Miss Nellie Noordhout, former-
ly from Zeeland, Michigan, was engaged as matron, and arrived 
in February, 1903, at this place, which meanwhile was given the 
significant name of Rehoboth, the Lord has made room for us. 
As yet nothing has come of industry, which was soon perceived, 
since our converts with whom we hoped to start, either went to 
other schools or were unwilling to live at Rehoboth. The opening 
of a day-school was also unsuccessful since not enough Inians 
lived nearby and were too scattered. The Board then decided to 
built a boarding school. And that succeeded. In December, 1903, 
we received six Navajo children, entrusted to us for a period 
of six years. Since they did not have good names, we named them 
as follows; Albert Gardiner, approximately 11 years; James Evang 
10 years; Gertrude Alger 6 years; Clarissa Pierson 6 years; 
John Elliot 6 years; and Henry Whipple 5 years. For the needs 
of Rehoboth a large amount of household goods was received from 
Michigan, with goods for the store a whole box car worth about 
$1,000.00, excluding freight. Moreover $750.00 was made avail-
able for an adobe building to be used as a store, and also suit-
able for other purposes. Some livestock was also purchased so 
that matters are proceeding at Rehoboth, although not yet per-
fected.

Besides Rehoboth we continue to have other mission stations 
at Forth Defiance, Ariz., and Tohatchi and Zuni, N. M. For im-
provement at Tohatchi $430.00 was expended which was highly 
necessary.

II. The Missionaries. The brethren Fryling and Brink con-
tinue to work in their old fields, namely, Fort Defiance and 
Tohatchi, and continue to work unwearied, although the former 
not without hindrance, as will appear below. Last fall both Rev. 
Brink and Mrs. Fryling suffered severe illness, but the Lord 
graciously restored them, for which we
also here we acknowledge the Name of his goodness. Our brother
A. Vander Wagen through God's mercy has been completely cured
and is as vigorous and strong as he was before. However, January
1, 1904, he resigned from his work with the Board. Our
brother believed that for the success of the mission work, it
was necessary for the social as well as the spiritual progress
of the Indian to establish stores in a Christian manner to op­
pose the influence of ungodly and indifferent storekeepers
with their Sabbath desecration, sale of liquor, etc. And since
there was an opportunity to obtain a license as storekeeper
at Zuni, and since he could not find another qualified person,
he believed that he should open a store, with the hope that in
time a qualified Christian from our own people would be found
to take over the business. Vander Wagen also bought a ranch and
store 10 miles north of Zuni, the so-called Z. I. Ranch. He did
this because he learned that the Roman Catholics planned to buy
this place because it was especially fit for a mission station, and then
they would be a hindrance to us as they are at Fort Defiance.
After much deliberation the Board must agree that there is a
good deal of truth and virtue in the conviction of our brother
that the Indians must also be helped socially, and that a store
as planned by him can be a means of winning the Indians to the
gospel. The Board also appreciates that although our brother no
longer draws a salary, he in many ways continued the work of an
Evangelist for the benefit of our Mission. And in our opinion
the whole Church may well thank him for obtaining the Z.I. Ranch
temporarily. What especially grieved the Board, however, that
brother Vander Wagen without sufficient consultation with the
Board resigned from his position, and did not concern himself
with his work as missionary and language study, because we be­
lieve that his work at Zuni is valuable, and in his own time the
Lord will crown it with his blessing.

To our joy we can inform you that brother Vander Wagen
made confession of what he has done as mentioned above at the
last Board meeting. Since in the meantime he has made prepara­
tions to turn over his business, and in fact has partly done
so, he has offered to serve us again at Zuni as before for a
salary of $1,000.00 per year even as the other missionaries,
since he declared that with his growing family he could not live
on $800.00. With your further approbation the Board did not be­
lieve it could do otherwise than to employ him again until the
next Synod, but with the stipulation that he not only confess
what was mentioned above, but also that he promise in the future
to confine himself strictly to spiritual work, and that he dis­
pose of his business, also that he
apply himself to his studies to qualify himself for the office of the ministry, which brother Vander Wagen promised to do. Finally, we report that which was mentioned above that Miss Nellie Noordhof is working at Rehoboth, and that Mr. D. Vander Wagen continues there as storekeeper and manager of the small farm, but asked to be relieved August 1, which was granted.

III. Mission Work.

1. Preaching. Rev. Brink conducts a Sunday evening service regularly in the English language in one of the school rooms in Tohatohi, where his listeners consist of a number of government employees, a few grown Indians, and about fifty of the older children, who, however, are not very conversant in the English language, and whom we fear understand little of what our brother preaches, and also from the fact that they have not had sufficient catechetical instruction. Rev. Fryling preaches the Word to a similar group in a similar room, but for almost the last two years could do this every other Sunday, since the Roman Catholic priests of St. Michaels, ten miles from Fort Defiance, where there is a Boarding School which cost $60,000.00, demanded equal time and received the same. Brother Vander Wagen speaks every Sunday evening in a government school room near the town of Zuni having an audience from 25 to 80, consisting of teaching personnel there, a number of children, and generally an encouraging number of adult Zunis. Their addresses are in whole or in part translated into the Indian language, something which they will not permit the other brethren to do on other mission stations.

2. Catechism. As a rule the three missionaries teach the school children once a week. At Fort Defiance and Tohatohi they use Bortius as edited by Beet and Boege, while brother Vander Wagen uses the children's Catechism of the Presbyterian Church. This last named booklet is also used by Miss Noordhof, who teaches her six pupils with zeal in the first principles of truth, which we hope will bear good fruit. Since her class is so small she can work much more effectively than in the government schools where the classes of necessity are much too large and the time too limited.

3. Sunday School. Every Sunday morning all our missionaries teach a Sunday School class, and Brink and Vander Wagen are superintendents of the whole Sunday School. The government employees who help them in this work are supplied with Quarterlies by the Board in order to obtain the best books, while the children are supplied with cards by us. And in passing we should remark that the Board also supplies a couple
I.

of dozen "Banners", in order to influence the helpers and converts for good.

4. Language Study. We gather that the brethren Brink and Fryling are making good progress in learning the difficult Navajo language. Rev. Fryling translated Borstius in that language and before long hopes to have this printed after another revision, which surely will be a very desirable step not only for the Indian children but also the older Indians for effective work under the blessing of God. Our brother also translated the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, a difficult task. Rev. Brink is busy with editing a Navajo dictionary, a necessary and useful but a difficult task which will demand much time. He also translated by historical stories of the patriarchs, very fitting subjects for a roving shepherd fold as the Navajo. The parable of the prodigal son was translated, and a Marriage Form was also compiled. Miss Noordhoff has also been busy learning the language as much as time permitted. Brother Vander Wagen translated a part of the Gospel of Mark, the Lord's Prayer, and a hymn. He appears to speak the Zuni language rather fluently.

5. Family Visiting. Family calls were made more or less regularly, which is rather difficult because of the wanderings of the Navajos and their inability to understand Christian ideas, while the brethren must continually struggle to express themselves in religious terminology. It appears more and more that during the first years they will regularly have to make use of an interpreter, not only for language study but also for family calls.

6. Reports. Reports were sent in regularly. They showed that the work was carried on regularly, although, alas, without much visible fruit.

7. Results. Although at the last Synod we were able to report with joy of the first fruits on the mission field, this time we cannot boast of this, except that a Zuni girl by the name of Nina was baptized, who has since married.

In part we can ascribe this minimal fruit in the fact that the brethren do not baptize until they actually can discern something of the work of the Lord in baptismal candidates, something which is commendable. To adorn blown up lists of converts, which we fear takes place at times, is not pleasing to God and blinds the Church. Yet this scanty fruit may well urge our congregation to more earnest and persistent prayer to the Lord of the harvest. The Board, moreover, has come to a firm conviction that it would be very wise, since our missionaries have gone through the first and difficult period of learning the language,
to follow the example of other Churches on the Indian Field, to emphasize on School work and our own institutions.

IV. The Work of the Board. The Board met regularly each year. The Executive Committee met several times. Especially concerning Rehoboth the work increased. However, the work was made easier because of the harmony that existed at these meetings, through the impression that the work of the Lord was being performed, and also that by the gifts for missions the love for missions by God's people was revealed. Concerning finances, the Treasurer's book revealed the following:

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, May 31, 1902</td>
<td>$6,315.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipts, June 1902-March 31, 1903</td>
<td>$5,115.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts for Industrial Establishment</td>
<td>$1,248.81</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disbursements, June 1, 1902 to May 31, 1903</td>
<td>$10,796.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, May 31, 1903</td>
<td>$2,584.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts June 1, 1903-March 31, 1904</td>
<td>$8,441.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$11,025.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements, June 1, 1903-May 31, 1904</td>
<td>$7,329.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, May 31, 1904</td>
<td>$2,971.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The excessive disbursements for the last two years was caused by the purchase of furnishings for the store at Rehoboth, the purchase of Smith Ranch, and the establishment of the boarding school at Rehoboth. To our sorrow we must acknowledge that with respect to the store that it was far from a success for various reasons, especially the wrong location. Hence we had to decide to end the affair. Fortunately we can use the remaining furnishings, according to the invoice of May 1904, costing $506.45, as much as all for the boarding school at Rehoboth.

It should be added that with respect to the above financial report, two notes of $50.00 and $725.00 respectively for the house in Graafschap.

The farm of Smith after cultivation, in our estimation, will eventually be financially profitable with irrigation and sheep and will also be instructive for our boys at the boarding school.

The Boarding school under the supervision of Miss Noordhoff will not be as costly as we first estimated. Since the opening
to the end of April 1904 (5 months) the cost for groceries was:

- For the children alone $134.20
- For clothing 74.22
- Total Disbursements $208.41

The cost of each child was thus approximately $35.00. Per month about $6.00 per child. The small expenditures for clothing is to a great extent our indebtedness to the Young Ladies' Society of North West St., Kalamazoo, which sent a rather large amount of clothing. May many follow this good example. Moreover, to our joy we can report to the honorable Synod the encouraging fact that various societies and Sunday schools have assumed the responsibility to provide for the expenses for the first years for the nurture of the boarding school children. These expenses were currently estimated at $125.00 annually. The Young Ladies' Society of 14th St., Chicago, has the honor of taking the responsibility of a specific child (Clarissa). Thereafter the Sunday school of 9th St., Holland, took James as their charge; the Young Ladies' Mission Class of Alpine Ave., Grand Rapids, to care for Albert, and the Penny Society of the Misses Rosbach and Nemes of Lagrange Ave., of the same city assumed the responsibility of Gertrude for her nurture. The congregations of Crosby St. and Goldbrook also take collections for this purpose, and with encouraging results, without having chosen a specific child. From other Sunday schools and societies we have more or less specific promises. And should it appear in the future that our estimate of $125.00 is too high for each year, then surely others will follow for whom the sum is too much. The Lord grant this, and cause many prayers to accompany the gift of love, so that the good work of our own schools may be expanded.

We add that Rev. Fryling, because of weakness and family circumstances, did not feel free to continue as Principal, whereat the Board appointed Rev. Brink as pro tem.

The secretary according to instructions visited the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington, D. C., at which time our Church and our people received the honor by means of an invitation extended to the secretary to attend a session of the House of Representatives and open with prayer, which was done. The Commissioner was very courteous and promised to give preference to our people for employment in the schools near our mission stations provided they can sustain Civil Service examinations.
to teach. Alas! various attempts by means of contacts proved unsuccessful.

This time the brethren Walkotten and Beets went to inspect the mission field, and we believe, not entirely in vain.

We must also report that the Incorporation of the Board took place in 1902, as permitted by Synod. The property at Graafschap was finally sold for a good price.

V. Proposal and Requests of the Board.

1. The Board requests Synod to instruct the Wachter Comm. henceforth to pay the editor for the Mission Department appointed by the Board $50.00 annually as formerly decided (Acts 1900, Art. 94, 2-3). And also to remit to the Board the honorarium advanced. ($100.00).

2. Permission to revise Art. 25 of the present Rules to file reports every four months instead of monthly, since distances make a monthly report unworkable.

3. Permission to call brother Vander Wagen on a salary of $1,000.00.

4. To be empowered to build a small church on our property at Zuni. Cost figured at $500.00.

5. Approval of the decision of the Board to engage a married couple to work in and around the Boarding School.

6. Empowered to expand the Boarding School at Rehoboth provided that the financial means, to be obtained from special sources, permit, to two dozen, preferably orphans from among the Navajos.

7. Permission to close the store.

8. Permission to sell the house and the barn at Fort Defiance providing there is a good opportunity, which appears to be the case at present.

9. Should this materialize to empower the Board to purchase the Z.I. Ranch for $2,000.00, and to build an adobe building for the missionary and a small number of school children, if possible orphans from Zuni. Intentions are to place Rev. Fryling there.

10. To be granted permission to dispose of the holdings at Tohatchi, if there is a fitting opportunity.

11. Should this occur, permission to open a mission station at Gallup (if this appears to be desirable), preferably first in a rented house. Intentions are to place Rev. Brink there.
12. Approbation of the following delegates to the Board as elected by the respective Classes:
   Rev. J. A. Westervelt for Classis Hackensack.
   Rev. F. Doezema for Classis Hudson.
   Rev. J. B. Hoekstra for Classis Grand Rapids East.
   Rev. H. Beets for Classis Grand Rapids West.
   Rev. H. Walkotten for Classis Muskegon.
   Rev. J. Post for Classis Holland.
   Rev. I. Van Dellen for Classis Iowa.
   Rev. C. Bode for Classis Ost Friesland.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Beets, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT V.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR JEWISH MISSIONS.

Esteemed Brethren:

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not any of his benefits." With these very meaningful words of David, your committee may at this time bring a report concerning its work. The Lord our God has blessed us above expectations. Permit us to bring a somewhat more expanded report than we usually do. Your committee has fulfilled its task as carefully as possible. It was instructed:

1. To lead the Jewish Mission in Chicago into an ecclesiastical channel.

2. To get one of our members on the Executive Committee.

In May of 1903 your committee visited the Chicago Hebrew Mission. It was a real pleasure to be there, although it caused sorrow that Prof. Hayne could not be present because of other duties and brother Dekker because of illness. We were received in a friendly manner, and were given an insight in all things pertaining to the mission. We cannot judge otherwise than that the brothers and sisters, who are engaged in the work here, do so with warmth and zeal. It still thrills
our heart with joy, when we think of how the young people and children are instructed in the Word of life and are directed to Christ, the Anointed One. How those young Jews and Jewesses could sing about the Savior, the High Priest, ours and their Redeemer. Furthermore, we believe that the finances handled carefully and wisely. As far as we know, all are church people. Prof. Scott, D.D., is president of the mission, and Rev. Lewek, the minister, is a member of the Congregational Church. Rev. Marcusson is a veteran of the Presbyterian Church and orthodox; he is superintendent of the mission. Mrs. Howland, secretary, is a member of the Reformed Church. Mrs. Rounds, the treasurer, is a member of the Congregational Church, and Mr. Blackstone is a traveling minister at his own expense. We believe that they all are sincere, godly people. We have a fairly firm footing in this mission. It is certain, as we continue, gain more influence. Yes, we believe that we see the morning red of the beautiful morning, whereby this mission comes under our control. Synod must also exert its influence. There should be a second member from Chicago on the Board to work with brother Dekker and to support one another. Our treasurer is also a member of the Board but cannot attend the meetings. Of necessity someone else should take his place. Brother Dekker is a member of the Executive Committee; this is according to the desire of the Synod of 1902. Your Comm. believes that it cannot do otherwise than with all modesty yet with all earnestness to recommend to the generosity of Synod that the Hebrew Mission at Chicago receive an annual sum of $2,000.00, always with the understanding that so much is received, although there can be no objection to this, since our people have clearly shown that this branch of labor in God's Kingdom is favorably received.

FINANCIAL REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, May 31, 1902</td>
<td>$481.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts, June 1, 1902 to May 31, 1903</td>
<td>$2,159.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,641.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Hebrew Mission</td>
<td>$1,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Mission, Gereif. Churches, Netherlands</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch Mission, Amsterdam</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heb. Miss. and Tract Ass'n, New York City</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chr. Hebrew Mission, Brooklyn, N. Y.</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew Mission, Cleveland, Ohio</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew Mission, St. Louis, Mo.</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traveling Expense, stamps, postcards, etc. $41.62
Total 1,841.62

Balance, May 31, 1903 $800.11
Receipts, June 1, 1903-May 31, 1904 2,670.20
Total 3,470.31

Disbursements:
Chicago Hebrew Mission 2,000.00
Hebrew Mission, New York
- - Brooklyn 50.00
- - St. Louis 50.00
- - Cleveland 50.00
Scotch Mission Church 100.00
Jewish Mission, Gereformeerde Kerken 100.00
Total 2,400.00
Traveling Expenses, mailings, etc.
Total 25.85
Balance, May 31, 1904 1,044.46

The receipts, disbursements, and vouchers, and all that pertains thereto were examined by the Committee, compared with the Controller's book, and found in good order in June 1903 and in May 31, 1904, as also in the former years since 1894. It is now ten years ago that Synod appointed a committee to interest itself in the mission of Israel, God's people of old. The small sprout has grown, has become a small tree that bears fruit. Our desire and prayer is that this small tree become a Palmtree casting shade, under the protection and blessing of Jehovah, the God of Israel. Your Comm. had reason to begin with "Bless the Lord." The people show a favorable disposal for the mission among the people chosen by God from all the nations of the world. And now broken off through unbelief, it is not rejected. The decrees of heaven still remain in their place. And as long as God's witnesses faithfully stand to shine in our eyes, so long they call to us: "Jehovah has not rejected the seed of Jacob." Jer. 33:19-26.

Yet a few words concerning the distribution of money, except that which has been promised to the Chicago Hebrew Mission.

The New York City Hebrew Mission is the oldest in our country, and one of the oldest in the world in this work. It began
The Reformed Church in 1866 in Rivington St., New York, and still has its headquarters there, where it is connected with tract distribution. In Rev. Bernhard Angel it has a worthy and zealous preacher of the gospel among the Jews. Brooklyn is also a worthy field which is worked by the youthful and zealous Spievaugé with blessing. In St. Louis the gospel is preached by the well-known Rev. Mark Lev, who has earned his knight's spurs in the war for his Savior and King. At Cleveland the work began on a good footing, but has been crippled by the leaving-taking of Rev. Lev. The Committee, which consisted of three ministers and two other men, has just about disappeared because of moving. The evangelist, Mr. H. Denning, carries on the work, and Rev. Hospers faithfully supervises the work. We also hope that our two ministers there, Revs. Bolt and Nagel also interest themselves in this work. Then the money sent to the Netherlands. Sometimes the treasurer receives gifts with the request: This is for the mission among the Jews in the Netherlands. Then again a change with the request: this money to be sent to the home of inquiring Jews in Amsterdam. First these gifts were sent separately, but this became too bothersome and costly. Therefore the Comm. decided to send each $100.00. And they are happy and thankful for it. And we are too. God, the Lord, bless all the churches, and also all the young people's, ladies', and men's societies, yes, all who have so faithfully supported us with their gifts and best wishes so well within as outside our Church. And we continue to recommend this work as a work of the Lord. Let no one forget that we owe a great debt to this people of old, and that through this work we pay back part of this great debt. Yes, we surely believe that if Christian churches not only want to grow but also flourish, they shall reach that goal if they not forget this people of old, from whom salvation comes. Let us pray and work in this with zeal until our Deliverer of Zion shall purge Jacob from its transgressions. For this is for them a covenant from me, says the Lord, when I shall be merciful to their sins.

S. S. Postma, President
W. Heyns, Secretary
J. L. Fles, Treasurer
S. Dekker
SUPPLEMENT VI.

REPORT OF THE EMERITUS BOARD

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

This time the Board comes to Synod with a feeling of joy and gratitude. It was in a position, even when expenses increased with the death of beloved brethren, to pay in full each quarterly during the past two years, something which could not be done in past years. It could also, according to the instruction of Synod, pay in full all arrearages. The goodwill of the churches and the faithful care exercised made possible by this, should also cause the Church to rejoice and thank the Lord. Given the mandate to incorporate the Emeritus Fund, such has been done, and the Incorporation awaits the approval of Synod. Should this take place, the Board then reminds Synod, that at this Synod the members must be appointed in conformity with the decision as appears in the Acts, the nominations of which will be presented by the Board. The Books of the Treasurer and the Secretary were examined and found in good order.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Disbursements</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>The Lubbers Legacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1902-1903</td>
<td>$2,590.54</td>
<td>$2,261.55</td>
<td>$328.99</td>
<td>$1,378.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1904</td>
<td>$2,250.34</td>
<td>$2,173.90</td>
<td>$76.44</td>
<td>$1,381.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board kindly requests Synod to approve the following allowances:

- Rev. W. H. Frieling: $200.00
- Mrs. H. Temple: $300.00
- Mrs. O. Stuit: $250.00
- Mrs. S. Broekstra: $250.00
- Mrs. E. R. Haan: $200.00
- Mrs. J. Stadt: $150.00
- Mrs. G. Vorst: $150.00
- Mrs. W. Veenstra: $200.00
- Mrs. J. Remeyn: $200.00
- Mrs. D. Langereis: $100.00

Total: $2,200.00
The Board advises that in making up the budget there be a quota of 1½ per family since the allowance had to be increased, and no more arrears can be expected since the classes have as much as met them.

With thanks to the Church for the confidence placed in the Board, it hopes and trusts that the Church will persevere in love and faithfulness as it has shown since the last Synod.

May the Lord be present with his Spirit in all the deliberations of Synod, and cause its work to be to the glory of his Name.

In the Name of the Board,

K. Van Vessem, Sec'y.

SUPPLEMENT VII.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR CHURCH HELP.

Esteemed Brethren:

Church Help might again perform its work for two years and actually be of help to some congregations. The status of the Fund is as follows: In these two years payment of notes in the amount of $290.00 was received. Interest amounted to $84.60, and collections amounted to $1,559.69. A total of $1,924.29.

In our Report to the previous Synod there was a balance of $257.45. With this amount we thus had a total of $2,191.74.

Yet with a minor exception. Of the $257.45 which was in the treasury at the last Synod, the sum of $181.49 was deposited in the Hoopers Bank of Orange City. This bank went bankrupt, and it was feared that we would not get our money back. First, however, ½ was returned and later another ½, a total of $90.74. Whether there is any hope of obtaining the remaining $90.75, we do not know.

We were able to grant help to the following congregations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congregation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edgerton</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Harbor</td>
<td>275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byron Center</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenosha</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusk</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Harbor</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudsonville</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellsworth</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,925.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With some expense for administration added to the disbursements the total disbursements are $1,931.00. This leaves a balance of $260.74.

The following churches paid on their notes:

- Sun 50.00  Middelburg 75.00
- Maxwell City 25.00  Sun 50.00
- Sullivan 15.00  Sayville 50.00
- Sully 25.00

We have in our possession at the present time the following notes:

- Noordeloos 30.00  Platte 200.00
- Platte 92.00  Atwood 200.00
- Rock Valley 75.00  Caldwell 200.00
- Caldwell 100.00  Kanawha 200.00
- Rock Valley 50.00  Rudyard 100.00
- Hull, Ia. 50.00  Maxwell City 100.00
- Sully 25.00  Rudyard 50.00
- Pease 100.00  Ellsworth 100.00
- Hesper 200.00  Lynden 300.00
- Pella II 90.00  Harvey 250.00
- Sully 50.00  Edgerton 250.00
- Leota 130.00  Oak Harbor 275.00
- Hull, Ia. 100.00  Byron Center 200.00
- George 125.00  Kenosha 200.00
- Vesper 100.00  Harvey 100.00
- Middelburg 125.00  Rusk 100.00
- Sullivan 50.00  Oak Harbor 100.00
- Palmer 150.00  Hudsonville 300.00
- Sayville 100.00  Lebanon 200.00
- Leota 125.00  Ellsworth 200.00
- Hull, Ia. 100.00  Total $5,592.00

From these dry yet informative figures we can add that the Church Help Fund Committee was incorporated, and thus before the law has judicial standing.

As one can see the receipts for this Synodical year were about the same as the last. Many congregations were very faithful in collections, but alas, other, even financially strong congregations, did not send in a single collection. At former Synods there were complaints about this with favorable results. Increasingly the idea is being established that Church Help has an indispensable place in our ecclesiastical life and for domestic missions offers powerful help.

Let us, however, cooperate in pointing to congregations who are remiss their duty, so that in the future no complaints need be made concerning their failure in this matter.
Church Help belongs to our churches, does the work of the churches, and serves not to forget not to forget any one church.

Our thanks for the confidence placed in us,

The committee for Church Help.

E. Breen, President
J. Timmermann, Secretary
J. Vander Mey, Treasurer

SUPPLEMENT VIII.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF DE WACHTER.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

From the approved books of the administration the status of the Treasury is as follows:

1902 - 1903

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, June 1, 1902</td>
<td>$1,131.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>$4,942.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,074.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td>$5,179.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, June 1, 1903</td>
<td>$894.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1903 - 1904

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, June 1, 1903</td>
<td>$894.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>$5,360.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,255.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td>$5,303.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, June 1, 1904</td>
<td>$952.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From June 1, 1902 to June 1, 1904, turned over to the Theological School Fund the total of $2,950.00.

Besides the above financial report your Comm. requests that Synod consider the proposals in the Agenda for expansion of De Wachter, and advises Synod so to do.

We have also been requested by the proponents for the concerns of the Sunday School to recommend to Synod the
publication of Sunday School lessons. One for the older and one for the younger pupils; also a quarterly for teachers. This also appears on the Agenda.

With respect to the personnel of De Wachter your Comm. advises to continue:

Rev. A. Keizer as Editor-in-Chief
Rev. G. D. De Jong as alternate editor
Mr. H. R. Brink as Business Manager
Mr. H. Holkeboer as Publisher

Your Comm. could continue on a cooperative basis with the personnel with no conflicts. Concerning the Comm. itself, it thanks Synod for the confidence placed in it, that without expense we might serve the Church in this work.

One of your members, Rev. H. Van Hoogen, because of leaving for Paterson, N. J., could no longer serve in the recent past, and thus at present there are only two of the older brethren who kept this matter running. We did the best we could.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Noordewier, President
H. Van Hoogen, Secretary
S. S. Postma

SUPPLEMENT IX.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE REFORMED CHURCH OF AMERICA.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Committee appointed by the last Synod to answer for the present the missive sent by the General Synod of the Reformed Church addressed to our Synod (Cf. Art. 157, Acts 1902), has completed its task in a communication, a copy of which we place in your hands. Thereupon a letter was received from the Stated Clerk dated August 1, 1903, which we also present to you, and from which we cite certain matters below. Your Committee has also according to instruction also made a reply, which also will follow.

I. First of all we had to formulate an answer concerning the answer of the General Synod with respect to the question of our delegate (Acts 1900, Art. 85) made at the General Synod of 1901.
"That our Christian Reformed Church would like to have more information of the attitude of the Reformed Church concerning secret and oathbound societies, and whether it definitely desires to wage war and continue to do so, yes or no." According to the Acts of our Synod of 1902, Art. 157, p. 73, the Reformed Church answered, "that the Synod of the Reformed Church continues to maintain its position as before, namely, that major assemblies with respect to ecclesiastical discipline are only appellant bodies, and that therefore the responsibility of such a question can proceed from a consistory but not from synod."

From this answer it thus appears that our Church in the judgment of the Reformed Church was out of order to address this question to it, because of Reformed Church Polity it is not qualified to answer this question. Since this gives the appearance that with respect to this matter our Synod was not aware of Reformed Church Polity, it is therefore necessary to make plain that our Synod was not out of order, and that the Synod of the Reformed Church according to Church Polity was dutiful to answer us.

The claim that Classes and Synod with respect to ecclesiastical discipline are appellant bodies is formally correct. Yet at its Synod of 1880 it was specifically this question of secret oathbound societies was or was not a matter of discipline. As long as the Synod does not make a declaration, it is impossible for a Consistory to consider a concrete case, since it has no objective and for the Church a general binding rule which it can apply.

What then? We must simply keep in mind that Classes and Synod are more than appellant bodies with respect to discipline. The Constitution of the Reformed Church also acknowledges this. According to Art. 5, Sect. 2, Synod has the right to deal with matters that have reference to congregations or gatherings in general. In Art. 9, Sect. 4, it is stated: "To the General Synod belong the right...to have a general oversight with respect to the spiritual concerns and matters of the entire Church." This same right is expressed in Art. 7, Sect. 2, for Classes, and in Art. 8, Sect. 2, of Particular Synods. Moreover it is stated in Art. 5, Sect. 6: "The Classis has the same authority over a Consistory, which a Particular Synod has over a Classis, and a General Synod over a Particular Synod."

Moreover the Church possesses not only "potestas gubernandi" or power to rule, but also "potestas docendi" or the power to teach, that is, the right for its confessions, explain them, and to test all errors with respect thereto. And the local congregation cannot perform this task nor the Consistory, but all the congregations united in a denomination by means of its Synod fully represented.
old Reformed Churches of the 16th and 17th centuries. In their Confessions and Church Order they therefore have not expressed themselves either.

While these societies are for the Church a newly risen phenomenon, while they stand in relationship to the confessional, religious and ethical life of the Church, and, finally, while they not only exist outside of the Church, but many of its best and most orthodox ministers and members are Free Masons (Cf. the article of Dr. Paul D. Van Glee, delegate from the Synod to Netherlands, Acts 1882, Art. 82, p. 65), and that it thus is a general phenomenon in the Church and not an occasional congregation, so that it is the duty of the Synod to declare officially and clearly, if it considers this phenomenon to be or not to be in conflict with the Word of God and the Reformed Confessions.

The contention that only a Consistory could answer the question of our Synod from the standpoint of the Reformed Church itself cannot be seriously meant, since it is in conflict with its own Constitution. Matters that concern the Church in general, thus also the appearance of secret societies, may not be determined by an occasional Consistory. This is Independentism, but not in harmony with Reformed Church government, which maintains that a local Consistory shall not determine a matter that pertains to all the churches.

Besides the contention that the Synod is only an appellant body in matters of discipline upon the ground the Synod claims to have no right to make a declaration with respect to secret societies, is not maintained in the same matter, since the Synod factually has declared the membership in secret societies are not in conflict with the Confessions and the Word of God. This already appears in the statement (Acts and Proceedings of the General Synod 1880, pp. 535-536), "That this Synod also advises consistories and Classes of the Church to be very kind and forbearing and strictly constitutional in their dealings with individuals on this subject, and that they be and are hereby affectionately cautioned against setting up any new or unauthorized tests of communion in the Christian Church."

That the intent of the Synod with these words is to declare that secret societies are not in conflict with membership and confession of the Church is abundantly apparent in the official communication of Dr. Van Glee, delegate of the Reformed Church to the Synod in Netherlands in 1882. (Cf. Acts of that Synod, 1882). He says: "Our Synod cannot proceed to actions which would lead to ban brothers from our fellowship, who, in their office are useful and appear to be honored by God.
"What God hath cleansed make not thou common." When Free Masons adorn their confession with a godly life, even as others Christians, we as Synod cannot deny them admission to the Church.

Herewith it is pointed out clearly what a Consistory would answer us, should we come to it with our question. It would declare itself unqualified and incompetent, or would have to declare that because of a lack of a general rule to deal with such cases. And should a Consistory or member of the congregation in such a case appeal to Classis, Particular, or General Synod, then they know by the above mentioned decision beforehand that it is futile, yes, that the Synod considers that membership in secret oathbound societies is not in conflict with membership in the Church. The Synod declares that in the matter of secret societies, which according to it, comes under the matters of discipline, is only an appellant body; but at the same time makes a decision whereby every appeal in this matter is totally impossible and fruitless.

II. Concerning the second point, namely, our question for more information why the Rejection of Errors of the Remonstrants are not included in the Standards of the Reformed Church of America, an elaborate answer is given. The main point is this: It was not necessary to take over the Rejection because the ecclesiastical state of affairs in America in 1792, when the Constitution was adopted, were entirely different than those in the Netherlands in the 17th century. At that time in the Netherlands they had to contend with the organized attempt of anti-reformed powers who sought a place in the Reformed Churches. Here, however, although at that time there were Remonstrants, they did not knock on the door of the Reformed Church of America in an organized capacity to receive recognition and to make propaganda. These entirely different circumstances made it unnecessary for the Reformed Church in America to repeat in negative form which was already pronounced with adequate fulness and emphasis in the positive article of faith. We should add that according to Articles 9 and 23 of the Minutes of the Synod of 1791 (May 4, ff.) the omission of this and other matters took place "that it may not only form an unnecessarily large volume, but also not to perplex the English reader."

In answer to the above your committee wishes first and above all to point out to point out that the Reformed Church has clearly failed to understand our objection. And what is that? The Reformed Confessions are to be considered as a heritage, which belong jointly to the churches sprung from the same root and to be jointly acknowledged. By virtue of this communion and unity in confession there exists
per se a bond between these Churches, and they should in actions of communal confessions, act communally. That speaks of itself. It is to our sorrow that we must state that such a natural and generally acknowledged fact is completely negated by the Reformed Church of America.

And concerning the reasons given for the omission, we believe they are far from convincing. That the book concerned would become too large by adding the Rejection of Errors is less than satisfying. What objection is there to a few pages more or less? That it would confuse the English reader is likewise inconsistent. It would be very necessary to enlighten them concerning the finer and yet more important points of doctrine in order that they might distinguish between the false and the true. The more because it is a well known fact, established by church history that in the last part of the 18th century we were surrounded on all sides by Arminianism. And if we would agree for argument's sake that at that time there were no Remonstrants in the Reformed Church as an organized group seeking admission, even then it would have a precarious side to omit the Rejection of Errors. A Confession is not made only with respect to errors in the church but also without the church. And according to this pretended rule we would with the same right omit certain sections from the Confession and the Catechism. This last alone is certainly sufficient enough to show the groundless and dangerous reason. Besides by the omission of the Rejection of Errors is not without confessional significance, because by means of the negative formulation, the errors are brought in sharper focus and more clearly presented in contrast to the unadulterated truth. Taking everything together the entire contention of the Answer is, according to the considered judgment of your committee, unsatisfactory and without principle.

III. The third point upon which we believe we should direct your attention is the decision of the General Synod of 1905 of the Reformed Church concerning our proposal with respect to Church Correspondence. According to the decision of our Synod of 1898 (Art. 68, I) we understand under Church Correspondence the following four matters:

1. Sending delegates to each others major assemblies with advisory vote;
2. That we attend to each other that we neither in doctrine nor in service or discipline depart from Reformed principles;
3. Mutual consideration how to deal with a third party;
4. To serve one another with enlightenment, especially when there is consideration of revision of the Confession, Church Polity, or Liturgy.

Our delegate to the General Synod of 1901 clearly presented to the assembly that it was such a kind of correspondence
that it desired, since the mere exchange of greetings did not fulfill the purpose, especially for Churches so closely united as ours. (Cf. Supplement IX, Minutes of the Synod of 1902, p. 105). The answer to our Synod in 1902 did not mention a word concerning this, for which reason in our letter of June, 1903, to the General Synod we once again reminded it of this emphatically. Last August a reply was received from the Stated Clerk, the same as can be read in the minutes of the General Synod of 1903, pp. 394 ff. Therein we are informed: "That the Reformed Church in America will be happy to correspond with the Christian Reformed Church upon the same condition of friendship and mutual trust and brotherly kindness which form the ground of our correspondence with many other religious bodies. It does not appear to be wise that one of us should take an official advisory position over against the other in ecclesiastical assemblies, or that one of us should take upon itself any responsibility for the doctrinal purity, liturgical correctness, or disciplinary strictness of the other body. Each one must for itself, as alone responsible to the great Head of the Church, decide what position it must take concerning other ecclesiastical bodies. Each must assume responsibility for itself with respect to revision of or maintaining unrevived its Confession, Church Order, or Liturgy."

From the above to our sorrow it is abundantly clear:
1. That the General Synod of the Reformed Church does not appear to have any conception of the solidarity that exists between the Churches of the Reformation. It considers them to be completely independent from one another, also with respect to the Biblical admonition to consider one another (Heb. 10:24), even with respect to the mutual doxologies inherited from the Fathers;
2. It places us, who are so closely related to it, apparently in the same category as, as it calls it "other ecclesiastical bodies; and
3. Refuses in no uncertain terms to enter into a closer and more meaningful correspondence than what is customary in our country by sending greetings, compliments, etc. Surely a refusal which we must acknowledge with sorrow and to the accountability of the General Synod.

When your Comm. now, finally, takes the liberty to summarize one thing and another, and by way of advice to conclude, then we believe that we can and must do the following:

Since our Church does not accept as members those who belong to secret oathbound societies, of which there is such an abundance in our country, nor tolerate such, because it is convinced that the Word of God forbids such;

...
Since the Reformed Church does admit them and bear with them, and apparently will continue to hold this point of view in the future:

Since Church Correspondence, which we desire to do according to the Reformed conception, which includes acknowledgment of mutual discipline, which under these circumstances is impossible:

Since the given reasons for omitting the Rejection of Errors of the Remonstrants from the Standards are far from satisfactory, and still continues to be a precautionary sign:

Since, finally, the General Synod rejects our proposal of Correspondence according to the Reformed conception, according to our considered judgment, cannot conclude otherwise than that as long as the Reformed Church of America persists in going this way, that it is unjustifiable, and by the declaration of this Church in its broadest assembly, makes it impossible to enter into a closer relationship as commanded in God's Word.

May the Lord, the God of our Fathers, himself soon cause a change for the good.

Respectfully submitted to your assembly,

Thanking you for your confidence in us,

Your Committee,

F. M. Ten Hoor, President
J. W. Brink
Henry Beets, Secretary

P. S. Since the matter of Comity will come to your Synod anyway by means of the Classical way, we believed that we could inform your assembly that the General Synod did not believe that there was any need to alert the churches as our Synod had requested. (Cf. Minutes of our Synod of 1902, Art. 137, p. 75, and Minutes of the General Synod, pp. 395-396, of the year 1903.)

SUPPLEMENT X.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

With sorrow and grief we remember six brethren who were taken away by death from us and their families.
since the last Synod, and we hope and trust have been translated by the Lord from the militant to the triumphant Church.

Rev. J. Schepers was the first of these six to be taken away, since he died in August 1902, at the age of 65 years, 54 years of which he might labor in God's kingdom in the following churches respectively: Chicago, Lafayette, Ackley, and Vogel Center, serving in this last place for 20 years.

Rev. G. Hoeksema died in September of that year at the age of 60 years, 25 years of which he might serve in God's kingdom in the churches of Zeeland, Holland, Muskegon, and Oakland. In the last church he was permitted to serve 15 years.

Rev. Theodore Smits died in March 1903 at the age of 53 years. He might labor according to his heart's desire in the Gospel for only 4 years in the churches of Luctor and Grand View, now Ebenezer, S.D.

Rev. H. H. D. Langereis was called from his labor in June 1903, having reached the age of 73 years, 23 years of which he might serve as minister of the Word, partly in the Netherlands, and partly in our country in the congregations of Paterson, Beaverdam, and Kalamazoo.

Rev. J. M. Remsin died in July 1903, at the age of 69 years, 22 years of which he served as minister of the Word in Netherlands and America; since 1891 in the congregation of Rochester, N. Y.

And finally to this list must be added the unforgettable Professor, Rev. G. E. Boer, who died unexpectedly in March 1904, at the age of 72 years. In 1865 he was ordained as minister of the Word at Sappemeer, Netherlands, and in 1868 he went to Nieuw, and through God's guiding hand he became minister in Grand Rapids in 1873. In 1876 he was appointed professor, and served until 1902, when he received his honorable emeritation.

So the names of these six brethren had to be added to the already rather long necrological list of our denomination. They are no longer among us, but we trust they went where they received the reward of the faithful. Their going calls to us who still labor and fight: "Watch, be sober, have your loins girt, and candles burning, and thus await the Master!"

The God of all comfort strengthen and sustain the bereaved, and grant them his grace.

The Committee,

J. B. Hoekstra, Reporter
SUPPLEMENT XI.

TO THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.

Highly Esteemed Brethren of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa, in session at Middelburg, Cape Colony, on April 11, ff., 1904, has given mature consideration whether or not it would be desirable and profitable to send a delegate to the next Synod of the Christian Reformed Church.

However much all the members of the Assembly continued to be convinced of the great importance of this matter, this heart's desire could not be executed for the reason of financial dearth.

For this reason the idea was uttered in our Synod whether your churches would be found to be prepared to send a delegate from your midst to our forthcoming Synod to be held in April 1907, whereby the desire was also expressed that such a delegate might leave America early enough to attend the General Assemblies of Cape Colony, Orange, and Transvaal, which will meet one after the other, which are to meet shortly before Synod, which would provide an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the conditions in the Church.

This idea found unanimous approval by our entire assembly. Hence it is our pleasant task to acquaint you of this decision and with fraternal urgency present this request to you.

This delegate would find the best opportunity to attend the above mentioned meetings if he could arrive in Capetown prior to New Year 1907.

We send this invitation to you the more readily taking into consideration the many tokens of concern and the genuine fraternal faithfulness of the Christian Reformed Church shown to us, especially during the difficult struggle our Nation and our Church experienced.

It is understandable that mutual need is felt for the strengthening of the bond of love which unites your and our Church, and we believe that closer mutual acquaintance to be the best means to bring this bond closer.

We add this information that an identical invitation was extended to the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands, and we have the honor to be,

With highly esteemed and hearty fraternal greetings,

P. Postma, President of Synod
J. D. DuToit, Clerk of Synod