AGENDA

Synod
Christian Reformed Church

To convene June 10, 1947
at Grand Rapids, Mich.

REPORTS and OVERTURES

CHRISTIAN REFORMED PUBLISHING HOUSE
Grand Rapids 2, Mich., U. S. A.
PREFACE

This Agenda for the Synod of 1947 contains Reports, Overtures, Communications, etc.

On Tuesday evening, June 10, 1947, at 8:00 o'clock, D.V., Prayer Meeting for Synod will be held in the Grandville Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, led by Rev. Herman Kuiper, Th.D., president of the Synod of 1946.

Wednesday, June 11, at 10:00 a.m., in the Calvin College Library building, the president of the previous Synod formally opens the synodical meeting with an appropriate address, prayer, and roll call of the delegates.

On the preceding Sunday, June 8, according to established custom, our congregations are requested to remember prayerfully the forthcoming meeting of Synod.

R. J. DANHOF,
Stated Clerk

944 Neland Ave., S.E.,
Grand Rapids 7, Michigan, U.S.A.
REPORTS

REPORT NO. 1

THE CHRISTIAN SEAMAN'S HOME AT HOBOKEN, N. J.

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church,

Convening June, 1947,
at Grand Rapids, Mich.

Esteemed Brethren:

A NOTHER page of activity has been added to the history of our Christian Seamen's Home in Hoboken, N. J. This Home, located at 334 River St., near the pier of the Holland America Line, has been maintained by the Christian Reformed Church for more than thirty years, for the benefit of seamen and immigrants. The year 1946, the first year of peace after World War II, was characterized by increased activity on the waterfront and in the Home, although the restlessness of post-war reconstruction also made itself felt in the Home as well as in the harbor. More seamen and visitors are now coming to the Home than in the lean years of the war.

The Board met monthly to discuss the needs of the Home. Some necessary improvements were made in the building, and more are to follow since the building is old and in need of constant attention. Reports are given every month by the spiritual advisor, Rev. D. Grasman, and the Manager, Mr. John J. Dahm. On more than one occasion the Board received these reports with thanks to God for the evidence of spiritual fruit.

At present the Board is composed of four members of Classis Hackensack: Rev. John J. Hiemenga, President; Rev. Dirk De Beer, Treasurer; Mr. Sip La Fleur and Mr. Cornelius P. Van Genderen; and four members of Classis Hudson: Rev. Jacob P. Smith, Vice-President; Rev. Emo Van Halsema, Secretary; Mr. John Hamersma, Sr., and Mr. A. Schravendeel.

The personnel, Rev. D. Grasman, Mr. J. Dahm and Mr. and Mrs. C. Fisher, janitor and matron, have put forth consecrated efforts to promote the welfare of the Home.

Mr. Dahm presented the following totals for 1946:

- Ships visited ........................................... 204
- Scripture portions and tracts distributed .................. 3,500
- Gospel meetings held ................................... 84
- Total Attendance at Gospel meetings ...................... 1,563
- Travel aids for our attention ............................ 78

Rev. Grasman uses not only the facilities of the Home, but also those of the parsonage to reach the seamen. Mrs. Grasman, a cordial and dili-
gent helpmeet, has shown her hospitality to hundreds. In the past year seamen and G. I.'s have been served 370 full course meals in the Hoboken manse. In addition, many have come in for a social hour, and more than 400 light lunches have been served. Says Rev. Grasman: "So we may make friends that remain friends of the work among the seamen. They are enthusiastic and speak frequently of the benefits that are theirs. This has also been fruitful spiritually. There have been six who have given their life to Christ. The six have given real evidence of sincerity and of lasting changes in their life. For this there is gratitude."

Classis Hackensack and Classis Hudson decided to increase the salary of Mr. Dahm from $1,800 to $2,000, retroactive as of Jan. 1, 1946, and to give the Manager a bonus of 10% of $2,000. The salary of Mr. Fisher was raised from $1,400 to $1,600, retroactive as of Jan. 1, 1946, with a bonus of 10% of $1,600. Rev. Grasman's salary for his spiritual labors, is $600. The Classes decided to present Rev. Grasman with a gift of $200 for the year 1946, and to give him a bonus of 10% of $600.

Some encouraging testimonies were written concerning our Home by people across the sea as well as our own people. We believe that the work of Board and personnel has not been in vain.

We trust that Synod will see its way clear to decide:

1. To approve of the report.
2. To recommend the Seamen's Home for an annual offering to our Churches.
3. To approve the financial report and to adopt the proposed budget submitted by the Treasurer, Rev. D. De Beer.

May God bless Synod in its labors.

Respectfully submitted,

Eastern Home Mission Board,

E. VAN HALSEMA, Sec'y


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various Classes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Principal payments on Mortgage and Contracts</td>
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<td>Interest on Mortgage and Contracts</td>
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<td>Interest on Government Bonds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividends (Little Miami R. R. Stock)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1946</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,833.45</strong></td>
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</table>

**$12,918.21**
DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries ........................................................................ $ 5,203.44
Maintenance and Repairs ............................................. 888.78
Gas, Electric and Water .................................................. 345.91
Coal ............................................................................ 352.24
Rent ............................................................................. 552.00
Advertising in Banner ................................................... 37.50
Interest on Loan — Monsey Cemetery Trust Fund .......... 45.00
Investment — Series G — U.S. Savings Bond ................. 4,000.00
Free Meals ................................................................... 360.00
Miscellaneous ................................................................ 156.81

Total Disbursements ..................................................... $11,741.68
Balance on hand 1/1/47 .................................................. 1,176.53

$12,918.21

The books of the Treasurer were examined and found correct by Mr. Minard DeJong and Mr. Garret Hoogerheide.

Proposed Budget of the Seamen’s Home for 1948

SALARIES:
- Of the Manager, including a 10% bonus and $480 for rent...$2,680.00
- Of the Janitor and his wife, including a bonus of 10% and a free apartment with heat.......................... 1,760.00
- For the spiritual work; $50 a month, plus 10% bonus and an additional gift of $200......................... 860.00

Garage Rent ................................................................. 72.00
New Heating Plant ....................................................... 1,500.00
Maintenance and Repairs .............................................. 500.00
Gas, Electric and Water ................................................. 400.00
Fuel ........................................................................... 400.00
Free meals and entertainment ........................................ 300.00
Miscellaneous and Incidentals ...................................... 500.00
Interest on money in trust, $1,800 ..................................... 45.00

Total ........................................................................... $9,017.00

ANTICIPATED INCOME:
- Interest on $16,500 U.S. Bonds, Series G ...................... $ 412.50
- On contract, Interest ................................................... 40.00
- Dividends, Miami R.R. Stock (80 shares) ................. 336.00
- Collections at the Home .............................................. 1,200.00
- Donations and Collections from Various Classes .... 7,028.50

Total ........................................................................... $9,017.00

Total Assets and Liabilities

First Mortgage ............................................................. $ 5,000.00
Contract .................................................................... 634.73
Little Miami R.R. Stock (80 shares) ................................. 8,320.00
U.S. Bonds, Series G ..................................................... 16,500.00
Prospect Park National Bank, Commercial Account .... 1,391.51

Total Cash Investment ................................................... $31,846.24
Three-Story Building, 334 River St., Hoboken, N. J. ....... 35,000.00
Three-Story Building, 310 Hudson St., Hoboken, N. J. .... 15,000.00

Grand Total Assets ...................................................... $81,846.24

Liabilities — Monsey Cemetery in Trust ....................... $ 1,800.00

Respectfully submitted,
D. DE BEER, Treasurer.
E. VAN HALSEMA, Secretary.
REPORT NO. 2

THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION

To the Synod of 1947,
Convening June, 1947,
at Grand Rapids, Mich.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

THE Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission herewith submits a report of its activities in the year 1946 for your information and consideration.

The Paterson Hebrew Mission is under the direct jurisdiction of Classes Hudson and Hackensack, and is conducted by a Board consisting of four members of each of the foregoing Classes.

The Board is constituted at present as follows: Rev. P. Van Dyk, Pres.; Rev. H. Bouma, Vice Pres.; Mr. S. E. Greydanus, Secretary; Mr. M. Bolier, Treasurer; Rev. C. Spoelhof, Rev. D. E. Houseman, Mr. J. De Leeuw and Mr. A. Atema.

The Mission workers are: Rev. John R. Rozendal, Superintendent; Miss Martha Rozendal, Nurse and full time worker; Miss Agnes Vellinga, full time worker, and Dr. Walter L. Dunning, Physician.

The Board meets on the first Monday of each month, except during the Summer months. During the past year nine meetings were held. The total absentees was 14: 3 members 3 times, 2 members 2 times and 1 member 1 time.

During the year Mr. H. Van Ostenbridge, who has served as Secretary for many years, was forced to resign because of illness. The brother was called home before the end of the year. The Board lost in him a faithful and very active member. Rev. H. Radius has left for another field of labor.

At the Board meetings the various matters pertaining to the Mission are discussed and acted upon. The Superintendent renders a monthly report, giving a detailed review of the work during the month. The Treasurer also renders a monthly report of receipts and disbursements, and submits bills for approval.

The Mission is located at 48 North Main St., Paterson, N. J. with a branch at 233 Hamilton Ave., Paterson, N. J. A canvass was also conducted in Fairlawn, a suburb, east of Paterson, in view of a possible expansion of the work with perhaps a Christian Jewish worker. However, the Board has no recommendation in regard to the same at this time.

The work in general is conducted by holding meetings of various types, visiting families at their homes, clinic and dispensary. For a general review of these activities, see the report of the Superintendent, Rev. John R. Rozendal, which is included in this report.
A gleaning from this report indicates that the work is most difficult, and that the veil is still much in evidence. Therefore only eternity may reveal the full extent of the results of the efforts set forth in this work of the Kingdom.

Included in this report is also the annual Treasurer's Report, and the Proposed Budget for the year 1948.

We trust that this brief report may give you a general oversight of the work of the Paterson Hebrew Mission for the year 1946.

May we ask for your continued support, both moral and financial, and above all for your continued prayers, so that this important work among the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” may continue.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION,
S. E. GREYDANUS, Sec'y.

Report of the Superintendent

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The Board hereby presents the report on the work done by the workers during 1946 at the Paterson Hebrew Mission.

Our field of labor is the city of Paterson, N. J. The Jews today are different from those of some twenty-five years ago in that they are Americanized. They speak and read and write the English language. Many have been educated in the public schools and have lost the extreme prejudice which the parents had against Christians. However, it is becoming clear that the rising generation among the Jews is also becoming more and more irreligious. They have very little knowledge of even the simplest truths of the Old Testament. Many of them have dropped all religion. They may attend the synagogue a few times a year, but that is only because they are Jews, not because they are religious. Many Jews are turning to Socialism and Communism. In our Hamilton Ave. Mission district there are many communists. The Jew is interested in material things and these systems appeal to him. Many of our Jewish friends have been brought to grief because practically all their relatives in Europe were murdered. This brings some to the point where they even question the existence of God. The upheavals in Palestine also bring a stir among the Jews. They look at England as a Christian nation, and they ask why she treats the Jews as she does. Why do the Christians not help the Jews, they ask. But the Jew forgets that the help which the Christian offers in Christ is not acceptable to the Jew. And so we see that Judaism today is very much in need of the Gospel. May there arise a renewed interest everywhere in the evangelization of the Jew. Every church which has Jews in its community should put forth an effort to reach them with the gospel. We have two Jewish missions among the vast numbers of Jews in this land, and with our limited capacities we are reaching only a small
percentage of the Jews in our land. It is encouraging to know that there are many other groups who also carry on work among the Jews, and yet the harvest is large, but the laborers are few. Let us be much in prayer for Israel.

We desire to express our appreciation to the people of our churches and to the leaders for their efforts in behalf of Jewish Missions, and we pray that in 1947 our zeal may be even greater.

Following, is a brief resume of our work during 1946. Statistics are rather cold, but they give you some idea of the efforts put forth. Our staff consists of Rev. J. R. Rozendal as Superintendent, Dr. W. L. Dunning as clinic doctor, Miss Martha Rozendal as nurse and Bible woman, Miss Agnes Vellenga as teacher and Bible woman. Our Main Mission is at 48 North Main St., Paterson, N. J.; our Branch Mission is located at 253 Hamilton Ave., Paterson, N. J. On Saturday evening at 8 o’clock, we have a gospel meeting at North Main St. During the past year we held 47 meetings, and had a total of 502 Jews in attendance. Also at North Main St. we held three special meetings. At those meetings, one of our local churches has charge of the service. The pastor preaches the sermon and the members of his church furnish the music. The total attendance for 3 meetings was 58 Jews and 75 visitors from the church. Once a week we hold clinic on Tuesday afternoon. At 47 clinic meetings we treated 255 Jewish patients. Before each clinic we hold a gospel meeting, and all the patients attend. Twice a week, on Monday evening and on Wednesday afternoon, Miss Rozendal conducts a ladies’ Bible Class. At 73 meetings there were a total of 323 Jewish ladies present.

At Hamilton Ave. we hold Gospel meetings on Sunday evening at 8 o’clock. At 46 meetings there were a total of 224 Jews present. The clinic is held on Thursday afternoon and at 43 clinics we treated a total of 211 patients. Before each clinic we have a Gospel meeting. During the absence of Dr. Dunning in July, Dr. W. L. Rooks took charge of the clinic. We also held three special services at Hamilton Ave., at which 47 Jews and 45 visitors from the churches were present. Miss Vellenga conducts English and Bible classes twice a week. At 73 meetings 450 Jews were present. Seventeen children’s classes were held, with a total attendance of 39. Visits are made at homes, shops and hospitals. During 1946, 1,778 calls were made at Jewish homes. In general we are received very kindly. We leave Bibles, Testaments and tracts where there is a real interest shown. Twelve Bibles, 52 New Testaments, 135 Gospels, 1,976 tracts, 996 circulars were distributed during the year.

Opportunity was given the workers to speak at various societies in our churches during the year. We also attended the meetings of a Jewish Mission Conference held in New York City during August. From time to time we receive letters from various societies, asking for information about Jewish Mission work, in order that it may be discussed at the meeting of
the Society. We gladly comply with these requests, and would suggest that every society in our Churches would give at least one discussion period for Jewish Mission work. We will be glad to furnish materials and information.

We had many visitors at our meetings throughout the year. Among them was Dr. Du Toit from South Africa. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

From time to time we as workers visit Jewish Missions in New York City. This is very helpful in studying the various phases of the work.

There are those among our Jewish people who come to the Mission who have given expression to their faith in Christ as the Messiah. But they are not ready as yet to accept baptism, for that will mean persecution from the side of their families and friends. Let us pray for the Jew and especially for those who hear the Gospel and who show signs of the Spirit's working in their hearts. Pray for those Jews who have publicly accepted Jesus Christ, because they face loneliness and persecution of the most brutal type.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PATERNSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD
Per J. Rozendal, Superintendent of the Mission.

Report of the Treasurer to the Synod of 1947

Balance, January 1, 1946 ........................................... $ 1,509.82

RECEIPTS

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<td>From General Fund</td>
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<td>Total Receipts</td>
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Total Receipts and Balance ........................................... $12,760.25

DISBURSEMENTS

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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Bonus</td>
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<td>Rents</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>96.33</td>
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<td>Water, Light, Telephone</td>
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<td>Repairs</td>
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<td>Property Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Disbursements</td>
<td>$ 8,271.92</td>
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Dec. 31, 1946, Balance ........................................... $ 4,488.33
Three-story Mission Building..................................................$10,000.00
Furniture and Equipment..........................................................800.00
Balance in Bank........................................................................4,488.33

Total Assets.............................................................................$15,288.33
Liabilities — None.

The books and records were examined and found to be correct, and the bank balances correspond to the same from January 1 to December 31, 1946. (Signed) John J. Dahm and John Last.

Respectfully submitted,
MARINUS BOER, Treas.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1948

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. John R. Rozendal, Salary</td>
<td>$2,400.00</td>
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<td>Auto Allowance, which includes Insurance,</td>
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<td>(Liability and Property Damage)</td>
<td>200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Rozendal, Salary</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agnes Vellenga, Salary</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. W. L. Dunning</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janitor Service*</td>
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Total Salaries..................................................................$6,100.00
Rent, Missionary's Home..............................................$480.00
Rent, Hamilton Ave. Branch...........................................360.00

Total Rent.........................................................................$40.00
Fuel.................................................................................250.00
Gas, Light, Water, Telephone.......................................250.00
Supplies...........................................................................400.00
Repairs.............................................................................300.00
Property Tax.......................................................................300.00
Insurance..........................................................................125.00
Miscellaneous...................................................................150.00
Equipment..........................................................................200.00

Reserve Fund.................................................................1,895.00

Total Budget......................................................................$10,810.00

ESTIMATED INCOME

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<td>From Rent......................................................</td>
<td>360.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offerings........................................................</td>
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<td>Gifts......................................................................</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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*$Janitor Service — Free Rent, light and heat, estimated at $360.00

The Paterson Hebrew Mission Board respectfully requests a quota of 35c per family, for the year 1948.

Respectfully submitted,
THE PATERNON HEBREW MISSION BOARD.
C. Spoelhof, S.C.
REPORT NO. 3

THE MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lesson Plan for the Year 1947

Jan. 5—Jesus Begins His Work (Mark 1:12-31)
Jan. 12—Jesus at Work (vss. 32-45)
Jan. 19—Jesus Forgiving Sin (2:1-22)
Jan. 26—Jesus and the Sabbath (2:23-3:6)
Feb. 2—Jesus Chooses the Twelve (Chap. 3)
Feb. 9—Jesus Teaches by Parables (4:1-20)
Feb. 16—Jesus Teaches the Growth of His Kingdom (4:21-34)
Feb. 23—Jesus Shows His Power (4:35-5:8)
Mar. 2—Jesus Gives Life and Health (5:21-43)
Mar. 9—Jesus Feeds Five Thousand (6:30-44) (Prayer Day Sunday)
Mar. 16—Jesus Transfigured (Mark 9:1-29)
Mar. 23—Jesus in Gethsemane (14:32-52)
Mar. 30—Jesus on the Cross (15:22-47) (Sunday before Good Friday)
April 6—(Easter) The Empty Tomb (Mark 16)
April 13—Jesus Showing Mercy to Jew and Gentile (Chap. 7)
April 20—Jesus Requires Confession and Loyalty (8:27-28)
April 27—Jesus Condemns Selfishness (Chap. 9:33-50)
May 4—Jesus Teaches Service (10:13-45)
May 18—Signs of Jesus' Return (Mark 13)
June 1—The Cure of the Crippled Beggard (Acts 3:1-16)
June 8—God Punishes Lying (Acts 5:1-11)
June 15—Peter Raises Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)
June 22—Peter and the Roman Soldier (Acts 10)
June 29—Peter in Prison and Released (Acts 12:1-19)
July 6—God Gives Victory to His People (Exod. 14)
July 13—God Gives His People Food and Drink (15:22-16:7)
July 20—God Answers Prayer with Victory (17:8-16)
July 27—The Tables of Stone and the Calf of Gold (Chap. 32)
Aug. 3—God Punishes Swearing (Lev 24:10-23)
Aug. 10—Two Kinds of Spies (Num 13)
Aug. 24—Crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3, 4)
Aug. 31—The Fall of Jericho (Chap. 6)
Sept. 7—Defeat and Victory at Ai (Chaps. 7, 8:1-29)
Sept. 14—Gideon and His Brave Band (Judges 6, 7)
Sept. 21—Samson's Birth and Strength (13, 14)
Sept. 28—Samson's Victories (Chap. 15)
Oct. 5—Samson's Fall and Final Triumph (Chap. 16)
Oct. 12—Naomi Wins Ruth (Ruth 1)

— 11 —
Oct. 19—Ruth's Faithfulness and Reward (Chaps. 2-4)
Oct. 26—Hannah, a Good Mother (I Samuel 1)
Nov. 2—Eli, the Poor Father (2:12-4:22)
Nov. 9—Saul's Good Beginning (Chaps. 9-11)
Nov. 16—Saul's Disobedience (Chaps. 13, 15)
Nov. 23—(Before Thanksgiving) Israel's Thanksgiving Feast (Deut. 16:13-17 Lev. 23:33-44)
Nov. 30—Saul's Tragic End (I Sam. 28, 31)
Dec. 7—The Birth of John Baptist (Lk. 1:5-25)
Dec. 14—The Message of John Jesus' Forerunner (Mt. 3:1-12)
Dec. 21—The Angels' Christmas Message (Lk. 2:8-20)
Dec. 28—The Wise Men Come to Jesus (Mt. 2)

Respectfully submitted,
HENRY VERDUIN
LAMBERTUS VAN LAAR
ROLF VEENSTRA
THOMAS AFMAN
ANDREW VANDER VEEER
REPORT NO. 4

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The report rendered by the American Bible Society to the representa­
tives of the churches was very encouraging. During 1946 the printing
and distribution of Scripture could be increased because new funds and
more paper were available. But the increase in supplies was far less than
the increase in demand. It seems so sad when urgent requests for God’s
Word are received from all parts of the world that we can supply them
only in part, and at times in a very small part. This sad situation is a
challenge to the church to supply this need.

The work of our Bible Society is still divided in two parts, the regular
and the emergency. The emergency work deals with the abnormal con­
ditions of the past World War, and a conservative estimate of its cost for
1947 is about a million dollars.

Let me present you with the figures of the staggering requests that
come to our Bible Society. I will limit myself to the two chief enemy
countries of the war. We supplied Germany in 1946 with 300,000 bibles,
500,000 New Testaments, and 900,000 parts of Scripture. For 1947
4,000,000 bibles and portions of it are needed according to urgent requests
received. They are needed for churches, schools, and homes devastated
by war, and for the hosts of refugees and prisoners of war. The two largest
Lutheran churches in the U.S. have pledged each $125,000 for this cause.

When we turn to Japan we meet an equally great need. But here the
demand for Scripture comes from people who were or are pagans. English­
Japanese Scriptures are greatly in demand. It costs almost as much to
print a Japanese New Testament as a complete English Bible. The need
at present is for two million copies.

From this emergency fund many other needs are supplied as for
Korea, China, prisoners of war, and displaced persons in Europe. By the
end of 1947 the A.B.S. hopes to be able to include the special work left
by that time, in its regular program and budget.

We are glad to report that the British Bible Society is increasing its
work, but it can obtain only 35 per cent of its quota of paper. Also the
Bible Societies of Sweeden, Holland, France, etc. are resuming this work
in a limited way. But we alone have the supplies and facilities to carry
on and increase this needy work if funds are supplied.

There has been established a union of national Bible Societies of the
world to plan together how to meet this great need. They try to avoid
duplication and overlapping of the work. The British will take care of
Central American countries, while we try to supply South America. The
British have always been strong in Africa, now we have taken over a
large part of this field. The Netherlands Society has largely supplied the
Dutch Indies, at the present time we are doing this, but hope to return
it to the Holland Society as soon as it is ready.

I will say little about the regular work of our American Bible Society.
This work has not only been enlarged but the increased cost of material
and labor has raised the expense of printing and distribution. Transla-
tions in new tongues have been made.

The war has brought about tremendous changes which offer new
and increased opportunities. Because of these upheavals, whole nations
have been shaken out of sleep. Literacy, the ability to read, has increased
tremendously in many countries of Asia and of Eastern Europe. These
people should have at least the opportunity to obtain a Bible in their
own tongue. But the present capacity of all the Bible Societies of the
world is not able by any means to supply this new field. Think of India,
China, Korea, Japan, Dutch East Indies, etc. You may be interested to
know that a shipment of Bibles was sent to Russia in 1946, it has crossed
the border and has disappeared behind the “Iron Curtain.” The agent
of the A.B.S. is prevented by the censorship to make any report on it.
Little can be done at present in this field.

There is a great need and in some parts of the world a famine for the
Word of God. We are glad that our church could assist in this great task
by contributing well for the regular and emergency funds. We recommend
both of these funds to our churches for increased support in view of the
emergency needs, and to our Synod to place this cause of Kingdom work
again on the list of accredited causes.

Respectfully submitted,

HESSEL BOUMA
REPORT NO. 5

CHICAGO JEWISH MISSIONS

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church,
In session at Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 1947.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

IN OUR report to Synod a year ago we called attention to the fact that there had been a considerable change in the personnel of the Board of the Nathanael Institute. This year we would begin our report by calling attention to some noteworthy changes in regard to our staff of workers at the Nathanael Institute.

During the past year we have attained an ideal which we have long held before us and toward the realization of which repeated efforts have been made. We have finally succeeded with God’s blessing in duly calling and installing an ordained minister to labor at our Nathanael Institute. The Reverend Jack Zandstra, who had labored for us for several years under one year appointments while a minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, finally consented to consider a call to the work. Permission having been given by the Synodical Examiners of three neighboring classes, and the Oak Park consistory having been appointed to extend the call, the call was extended and accepted. After being admitted to the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church at the fall meeting of Classis Chicago North, the Rev. Zandstra was installed as missionary pastor of the Nathanael Institute in the Oak Park church on Sunday morning, November 10.

The calling and installation of the Rev. Zandstra does not in any way affect or change the recommendation of the Board in regard to the ordination of Mr. Huisjen. The Board still feels that if Article VIII of the Church Order applies to missionaries as well as to ministers of the Word, then Mr. Huisjen in the opinion of the Board can qualify for ordination under the provisions of that article. The Board also wishes to state that there has been complete accord between Mr. Huisjen and Rev. Zandstra in regard to these matters, Rev. Zandstra favoring the admittance of Mr. Huisjen to the ministry by way of Article VIII, and Mr. Huisjen favoring the calling and installing of Rev. Zandstra as missionary pastor at the Nathanael Institute. Although Mr. Huisjen has been appointed superintendent for the present, these two men are working side by side for the salvation of the Jews, together with the other workers which God has given us for this great task. Well may we be grateful to Him for putting it into the heart of these consecrated men and women to give themselves to this difficult and often disheartening work and for giving them grace to carry on in spite of disappointments in connection with it.
During the past year another ideal has been realized in the appointment of Miss Bena Kok as a full-time missionary nurse. For several years we have been having a nurse who, like the doctor, served the Nathanael Institute upon a part-time basis. A year ago we reported that the Board had decided to put forth efforts to secure a full-time missionary nurse, and we can now report that we have been successful in obtaining one. The Board succeeded in securing the services of Miss Bena Kok for the summer months of 1946, and to our great joy at the end of that period she agreed to remain with us. She is a graduate of the Grand Rapids Christian High School, and had her nurse's training at Blodgett Hospital. For eight years she labored in Egypt for the United Presbyterian Church, after which she served as a nurse in connection with the war. She then attended the Reformed Bible Institute in Grand Rapids for one year. We are very happy to be able to add her to our already splendid staff of workers.

We would also like to mention our deep regret at the resignation of Miss Minnie Goosens who for several years kept the interior of the Nathanael Institute so neat and clean that we had reason to be proud of its appearance. She endeared herself to the members of the staff and it was with deep regret that they as well as we saw her go. But we have been fortunate in securing a new janitor in the person of Mr. Herman Laninga, a member of the Oak Park Christian Reformed Church. He was engaged at a higher salary than was paid before in view of the fact that he is able and willing, in addition to his regular cleaning duties, to do some of the annual cleaning and renovating of the building, for which otherwise outside help had to be employed. The Board feels that the difference in salary will easily be made up in this way.

During the summer of 1946 the Board delegated the Revs. Zandstra and Van Kooten to visit the churches of the Northwest and enlighten them in regard to the work of Jewish Missions in general and of the Nathanael Institute in particular. They were well received wherever they went and liberal offerings were received for the cause. A report of their trip was written by Rev. Zandstra and appeared in The Banner last fall. Miss Tuit and Miss Vander Meulen attended the annual meeting of the Jewish Christian Alliance which was held in September in North Carolina. The Board feels that these contacts and the inspiration received at these meetings are to the interest of our institution and its work.

Dr. Yonker continues to render valuable service by holding his clinic at the Institute every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning. He is being ably assisted by Miss Kok who, because of the fact that she is a full-time worker, is able to extend the scope of the work somewhat. The other workers, Mr. Huisjen, Rev. Zandstra, Miss Tuit and Miss Vander Meulen, are carrying on faithfully and zealously, admonishing the patients who come for medical aid as to the need of spiritual healing as
well, giving instruction in various classes and other meetings which are held, and contacting individuals and families in their places of business or in their homes. Calls are also made at several hospitals. A service is held every Sunday evening at which messages are brought both in English and in Yiddish. A number of those who attend reveal real interest in the gospel, and their very presence is an indication of the weakening of the ties that bound them to their old life. The fact that some of them even attended a special service on the evening of the Day of Atonement instead of the service in the synagogues was a testimony in itself.

A Christmas program was held on the evening of December 20. The chapel was filled to capacity with Jewish people, for the most part parents of children who attend the various classes. Several Jewish children took part in the program, and one of the Jewish ladies sang a hymn in Yiddish. Rev. Zandstra served as chairman of the meeting and Mr. Huisjen brought a short Christmas message. The attention was very good, and the entire meeting one of the most encouraging in the experience of the workers. In fact, the Board has noticed from the monthly report of the workers a general increase of interest in and response to the various activities of the Institute. This is no doubt due to the intensified work of the staff, and the result of much prayer on their part and on that of the church. In as far as God is giving us evidences of His blessing upon the work, we plead for your continued support through your prayers and through your gifts. We are thankful for the financial support received from the churches through the synodical quota, but additional gifts from individuals or societies would be welcome. May God make us all faithful in the things entrusted to us, including the great work of Jewish Missions, helping us all to do our part in bringing the gospel to the Jew, for whom it is the power of God unto salvation as well as for the Gentile.

Respectfully submitted,
BOARD OF THE NATHANAEL INSTITUTE
MARVIN J. VANDERWERP, Sec'y

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE
CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
From Jan. 1st 1946 to Dec. 31st 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating:</th>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance on Hand 1/1/46</td>
<td>$1,380.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synodical Treasurer</td>
<td>$10,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Collections</td>
<td>685.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Department</td>
<td>1,100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Operating Receipts | $12,335.34 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Receipts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Payments on Mortgages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of First Federal Savings &amp; Loan Ass'n, Stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escrow Funds:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Deposits on Properties on which Mortgages and Contracts are held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withholding Tax on Employees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$19,023.89
## DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$11,874.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huisjen Rent</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Zandstra, Rent</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Zandstra, Auto Expense</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission - Petty Cash</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>79.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas and Electric</td>
<td>96.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Supplies</td>
<td>340.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Supplies</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning and Repairs</td>
<td>996.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>331.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling Expense</td>
<td>634.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>51.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License</td>
<td>27.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and Advertising</td>
<td>111.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Supplies</td>
<td>15.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>133.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Operating Disbursements: $16,653.47
Total Receipts Forwarded: $19,023.89
Total Operating Disbursements: $16,653.47

## OTHER DISBURSEMENTS

### INVESTMENTS
- From Escrow Funds: $461.78
- Real Estate Taxes: $616.50

Cash Balance on Hand Dec. 31st, 1946: $1,292.14
Note: Used from Reserve for Operation: $4,318.13

## STATEMENT OF THE CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION OF THE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
as of January 1, 1947

### ASSETS
- Cash on Hand: $1,292.14
- Property and Equipment (Nathanael Institute): $17,287.20
- U.S. Government Bonds: $18,000.00
- Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n Stock: $4,500.00
- Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts: $5,974.42

Total Assets: $47,051.76

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1947-48

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor's Salary</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor's Rent</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor's Auto Expense</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Worker's Salary</td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Worker's Rent</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor's Salary, Part Time</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Worker's Salary</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Worker's Salary</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse's Salary</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor's Salary</td>
<td>1,560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas, Electric and Fuel</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance and License</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairing and Decoration</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Supplies, etc.</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling and Services</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and Equipment</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and Advertising</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Expense</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expense</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Budget: $18,460.00
We respectfully request Synod to set the quota at 55c per family and to be retroactive to January 1st, 1947 to more fully cover the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF THE NATHANAEL INSTITUTE
GEORGE OTTENHOFF, Treasurer
January 1, 1947

Board of Jewish Missions
Christian Reformed Church
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Brethren:

In accordance with your request I have examined the books of your Treasurer, Mr. George Ottenhoff, and found the records in excellent condition and well kept.

The scope of my work consisted of the following:

All receipts were accepted as recorded, since it is impractical to verify all receipts, the principal item is from the Synodical Treasurer, in the sum of $10,550.00.

All disbursements were examined and appear to be proper charges.

The cash balance was reconciled with the bank statement as of December 31, 1946.

Respectfully submitted,

LAMBERT BERE
REPORT NO. 6

REQUEST FOR MORAL AND FINANCIAL AID

Synod of the Christian Ref. Church,

Esteemed Brethren:

In view of the fact that the Synod of 1946 did not recommend our tract work to the churches, as during the previous 19 years, we offer the following report which, we trust, will supply the information which the Synod of 1946 felt was lacking.

A. Contents of Tracts. In order to acquaint every minister of our church with the line of tracts which we publish, a copy of each tract was sent them in the fall of 1946. Although specifically requested, no criticisms were received in re the contents. We may assume, therefore, that our tracts are Reformed. This is due to the fact that our Constitution requires unanimous approval of tracts by all members of the Board, which consists of ministers and laymen of the Christian Reformed Church.

B. Organization. The management of the League is in the hands of a board of directors, currently consisting of 3 ministers and 3 laymen of the Chr. Ref. Church. This board elects a manager who carries on the transaction of all business. His books, as treasurer, are annually audited by a reliable committee. The board is self-perpetuating, due to the fact that it is impossible to find men sufficiently interested and able to serve as board members in this type of Kingdom work. Our members are kept fully informed of all activities of the board of directors.

Because more paper stock was available, more tracts were printed than in any previous year, so that all orders could be promptly filled and all back orders taken care of. Through careful selection we have reduced the expenditure of advertising more than a thousand dollars from the previous year.

In order to keep down the price of our tracts so as to be able to compete with other firms, many of which offer tracts which are far from Reformed, we request that our tract work be again recommended to our churches for moral and financial support as in previous years. Our manager, Mr. J. S. Brondsema, 1016 11th St., N. W., phone 6-1337, is available for any additional information which may be desired.

J. S. Brondsema, Gen. Mgr.
Financial Statement
January 1, 1946 — December 31, 1946

Balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1946 ........................................ $3,536.29

RECEIPTS:
Sale of tracts ....................................................... $1,784.47
Donations .............................................................. 3,333.87
Fees ........................................................................... 29.00
Miscellaneous ........................................................... 27.60
...................................................................... 5,174.94

DISBURSEMENTS:
Printing ................................................................. $3,189.40
Advertising ............................................................. 973.81
Supplies ................................................................. 400.66
Postage .................................................................. 357.47
Salary ...................................................................... 579.16
Extra help ............................................................... 480.91
Miscellaneous .......................................................... 186.50
$6,167.91

Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1946 ............................... 2,543.32

$8,711.23

Audited and found correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.
(W.S.) T. WESTRA
(W.S.) JOHN QVIST

TRACTS SENT OUT
Sold ................................................................. 510,989
Gratis ................................................................. 116,800
Total .................................................................... 627,789

Tracts printed this year .............................................. 1,284,500
Total tracts printed .................................................. 8,771,575

J. S. BRONSEMA, Gen. Mgr.
REPORT NO. 7

THE MINISTERS’ PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The Board of Trustees of the Ministers' Pension and Relief Administration herewith submits its report to your honorable body.

We have endeavored to administer the Ministers' Pension and Relief Funds in accordance with the Rules and Decisions adopted by Synod. Our aim has been and is on the one hand to safeguard the interests of the Church and on the other hand to uphold the rights of the Emeriti, Widows and Orphans, who according to the Church Order, are beneficiaries. The administrative cost has been far less than one per cent of the moneys entrusted to us.

The Board is composed of: Mr. N. Hendrikse, President; the Rev. B. VanSomeren, Vice-President; the Rev. J. O. Bouwsma, Secretary; Mr. W. K. Bareman, Treasurer; and Mr. F. L. Winter, Vice-Secretary-Treasurer. The alternates are: Mr. G. Doornbos, Mr. G. B. Tinholt, the Rev. M. Ouwinga, Mr. B. De Jager, and the Rev. T. Yff.

We call attention of Synod to this: the term of appointment of the following expire at this time: Mr. N. Hendrikse and Mr. F. L. Winter as Members and Mr. G. Doornbos as Alternate.

Since the last Synod the following pensioners have passed to their reward: Mrs. G. Westenberg, the Rev. H. Ahuis, the Rev. J. J. De Jonge, the Rev. J. Timmermann, the Rev. M. Borduin and the Rev. J. C. De Bruyn.

Emeritation has been granted to: the Rev. D. De Beer by Classis Hackensack on the ground of advancing age and years of service; his emeritation became effective Oct. 27, 1946; the Rev. J. R. Brink by Classis Pacific on the ground of age and years of service, his emeritation became effective Nov. 1, 1946; and the Rev. J. Schaap by Classis Wisconsin on the ground of age and years of service, his emeritation became effective Dec. 31, 1946.

Mrs. J. A. Kett, who for some years had not desired a pension, was granted one at her request. That was given in accordance with our Rules.

Here is the list of 1946 pensioners and the amount of their pension:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pension Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. Ahuis</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. H. Balt.</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. K. Bergsma</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. Beute</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. A. Bliek</td>
<td>$637.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. C. Bode</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. Bolt</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. R. Bolt</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. M. Borduin</td>
<td>$675.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. W. Borgman</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. W. Brink</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. M. Byleveld</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. V. P. De Bruyn</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. Dekker</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. F. Doezema</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. J. Dyk.</td>
<td>$900.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mrs. N. Gelderloos ............. 680.00
Mrs. Sena Gruisssing ........... 680.00
Mrs. Hattie Haarsma ........... 680.00
Mrs. Cornelia Haveman .......... 680.00
Mrs. Cora Heynen ............... 680.00
Mrs. G. L. Hoefker ............. 548.00
Mrs. P. J. Hoekenga ............. 680.00
Mrs. G. Hoffmeyer .............. 680.00
Mrs. D. Hollebeek .............. 680.00
Mrs. G. W. Hylkema ............. 680.00
Mrs. J. B. Jonkman ............. 548.00
Mrs. H. H. Kamps ................ 548.00
Mrs. R. Karsen .................. 680.00
Mrs. A. Keizer ................... 548.00
Mrs. A. Kett ..................... 225.00
Mrs. A. H. Kort ................ 680.00
Mrs. W. Kuipers ................ 680.00
Mrs. H. J. Mulder ............... 548.00
Mrs. H. Oostendorp .............. 460.00
Mrs. Minetta Plesscher .......... 300.00
Mrs. J. Robbert ................. 680.00
Mrs. J. A. Rottier ............... 680.00
Mrs. Anna Schultz ............... 400.00
Mrs. Tracy Schultz ............... 680.00
Mrs. W. Steenland ............... 680.00
Mrs. F. Stuart .................. 680.00
Mrs. W. Stuart* ................ 680.00
Mrs. Jennie Temple .............. 680.00
Mrs. H. Tuls ..................... 680.00
Mrs. J. Tuuk ...................... 680.00
Mrs. T. Van Loo ................ 680.00
Mrs. J. B. Vander Hook ........... 680.00
Mrs. M. Vander Heide ........... 581.00
Mrs. S. Vander Heide ........... 548.00
Mrs. T. Vander Ark ............... 320.00
Mrs. H. Vander Ploeg ............ 680.00
Mrs. W. Van Wyk ................ 680.00
Mrs. Everdine Vissia ........... 548.00
Mrs. A. B. Vess ................ 680.00
Mrs. Effie Weldenars ............ 548.00
Mrs. I. Westra .................... 680.00
Mrs. B. Zwaagman ............... 680.00
Mrs. D. Zweir ................... 340.00
Mrs. G. Westenberg .............. 340.00

*Mrs. Wm. Stuart has returned the $680.00 received the past year and has notified the Board that she waives the pension for the present.

The Synod of 1946 increased the pension of a minister to 50% of the average salary of our ministers, that of a widow to 40% of the average salary and that of an orphan to $200.00 per year. We were instructed to make the necessary changes in the Rules.

We ask Synod to take cognizance of the following:

1. The Synod of 1946 increased the pension of an orphan from $100.00 to $200.00 per year. Article IX, 3, stipulates that the total pension and relief to an orphan shall not exceed $175.00 per year. We recommend that that Article shall be amended to read: "... nor shall the total pension and relief to orphans exceed $275.00 per year per person."

   Ground: That is in line with increases granted by Synod last year.
2. Article IX, 4, stipulates that orphans of ministers, who did not unite with the Pension Plan, may receive aid from the Relief Fund. However, that aid shall not exceed $100.00 per year per person.

We recommend that that Article be amended to read: ". . . and to orphans it shall not exceed $200.00 per year per person."

Ground: The allowance granted such an orphan should not exceed the pension for an orphan. As the pension for an orphan has been increased from $100.00 to $200.00, the maximum allowance for an orphan of a minister, who did not unite with the Pension Plan, should be increased to the pension of an orphan.

3. Article V, D, reads: "As all ministers do not receive a separate auto allowance, the ministers who do receive such, shall add it to their salary in order to compute the amount to be paid. Those who receive more than $200.00 allowance due to the special needs of their work, such as missionaries and others, shall not be called upon to add more than $200.00 of the allowance to the salary."

We recommend to amend that to read: "As all ministers do not receive a separate auto allowance, the ministers, who do receive such, shall add it to their salary in order to compute the amount to be paid, except missionaries who shall not be called upon to add more than $200.00 of the allowance to the salary."

Ground: That is the intent of the Article as adopted by the Synod of 1939.

We herewith submit the Rules with the changes authorized by the Synod of 1946 and with the three recommendations given above. Those three recommendations are subject to Synod's approval.

Rules for the Ministers' Pension and Relief Administration

ARTICLE I

For the execution of Article 13 of the Church Order, the Christian Reformed Church shall maintain a Pension Fund and a Relief Fund from which emerited ministers, widows and orphans shall receive aid as hereinafter stipulated.

ARTICLE II

The administration of these funds shall be in charge of a Board of Trustees of five persons appointed by the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church. This Board shall be composed of two ministers and three other office-bearers or former office-bearers. It shall be incorporated as the "Ministers Pension and Relief Administration of the Christian Reformed Church." Synod shall appoint trustees for a term of three years. Trustees who are functioning may be re-elected. An alternate shall be appointed for each trustee.

ARTICLE III

A. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and a Treasurer.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the board of Trustees and shall perform such other duties usual to the office of the president.

2. The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President or in event of his being incapacitated.

3. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall record them in a proper minute book, and shall have charge of all records of the Board of Trustees.

4. The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Board of Trustees subject to its instruction, shall keep an accurate set of records, and accounts of all receipts and disbursements. He shall sign all checks. The treasurer shall also be required to furnish a Surety Company Bond in the amount of $10,000.00 in favor of the Board and the premium of such Bond shall be paid by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall designate and determine the bank or banks to be used as depositories for all funds of the Board.

The books of the Treasurer shall be audited annually at the close of the calendar year. The auditor shall be named by the Board of Trustees each year and it shall bear the cost of such audit.

B. The duties of the Board of Trustees shall be as follows:

1. It shall elect its own officers.

2. It shall receive and administer all moneys contributed for the Pension Fund and Relief Fund, and shall disburse them in accordance with these rules and further decisions of Synod.
3. It shall give a full report of its activities to Synod.
4. It shall submit to Synod a budget for the ensuing year.

**ARTICLE IV**

The Board of Trustees is authorized:

A. To gather all the necessary data from the churches and from the ministers for the administration of these Funds.

B. To create and pay for reasonable administration expenses to properly conduct the business of both the Pension Fund and the Relief Fund. Such expenses shall be prorated between the two Funds as the Board shall deem proper.

C. Whenever necessary in its judgment to have a minister, emerited for other reasons than old age, examined by duly qualified physicians designated by the Board to determine whether such minister is entitled to continued emeritation. In event the physicians declare the minister physically able to resume his ministerial duties, the Board shall notify his consistory to that effect. Whereupon the consistory shall apply to the Classis for the termination of his emeritation and declare him eligible to a call.

**ARTICLE V**

The Pension Fund shall be maintained by contributions from the churches and from the ministers as follows:

A. Synod shall determine what each church shall contribute annually per family.

B. These contributions from the churches shall be sent through the classical treasurers to the treasurer of the Board of Trustees in quarterly payments.

C. All ministers desiring for themselves and for their widows and orphans the benefit of this Fund shall contribute $30% of their salary. The consistory, or whatever other body pays the salary, shall deduct this amount from the salary of the minister and send it quarterly to the treasurer of the Board.

D. As all ministers do not receive a separate auto allowance, the ministers who do receive such shall add it to their salary in order to compute the amount to be paid, except missionaries who shall not be called upon to add more than $200.00 of the allowance to the salary.

E. All ministers now in active service in the Christian Reformed Church who desire for themselves and their dependents the benefit of this Fund must within one year (on or before July 1, 1940) begin payments to this Fund as stipulated in sections C and D above. All those entering upon active service in the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church who desire for themselves and their dependents the benefit of this Fund must begin payments to this Fund within one year after ordination.

F. Ministers who, while in active service, did not contribute to the Pension Fund shall not be eligible for a pension. They shall, however, be entitled to receive aid from the Relief Fund (cf. Art. IX).

**ARTICLE VI**

The Pension Fund shall be disbursed as follows:

A. All ministers who have served the Christian Reformed Church shall upon emeritation receive as an annual pension 50% of the average annual salary of the ministers of the Christian Reformed Church. This amount to be determined annually by the Board of Trustees on or before March 1. To simplify bookkeeping, the amount of the pension shall be fixed at the nearest multiple of ten.

B. When an emerited minister is officially declared eligible to entertain a call from the churches, his pension shall cease not later than one year from that date.

C. All widows of ministers, who have served the Christian Reformed Church, and who themselves have served in the manse, shall receive as an annual pension for themselves and their minor children 40% of the average salary of ministers of the Christian Reformed Church (to be determined as in A above). Upon remarriage their pension shall cease.

D. Orphans of ministers who have served the Christian Reformed Church shall receive an annual pension of $200.00 per person until they shall have attained their nineteenth birthday, unless physically or mentally incapacitated and so certified by two competent physicians appointed by the Board of Trustees, in which case their pension shall be continued. However, orphans of one family shall never receive collectively more pension than that to which their mother would have been entitled.
E. Dependents or orphans of deceased ministers, not members of the Christian Reformed Church, shall not be entitled to pension.

ARTICLE VII
Payment of pension to a minister, a minister's dependents, a minister's widow or orphans of a minister shall cease for the following causes, viz.:

A. In event an emerited minister for any reason ceases to be a member of the Christian Reformed Church, his pension shall cease and the final check shall have incorporated in it a release and receipt in full.

B. In event a minister's widow, a minister's dependent or dependents, or a minister's orphan or orphans who receive pension from this fund, shall voluntarily cease to be a member of the Christian Reformed Church, or shall have been legally erased or excommunicated as member by his or her consistory, the pension of such person or persons shall cease.

ARTICLE VIII
A. In event a minister discontinues his ministerial office, or is deposed by the church, or ceases to be a member of the Christian Reformed Church, neither he nor his widow nor his dependents shall be entitled to pension. Such a minister shall be refunded a sum equal to 25% of the total amount he has contributed to the Pension Fund and he shall be required to sign and execute a proper form of release and receipt in full for and in consideration of such refund.

B. In event a minister desires to withdraw from the Pension Fund, he shall upon emeritation be entitled to a Pension in the proportion that the total number of years he has contributed shall bear to the difference between his attained age at time of withdrawal and age 65.

C. In event a contributing minister fails to pay through his consistory, or whatever body pays his salary, the contribution of 3½% of his salary due, he shall be notified by mail of such failure and if same shall remain unpaid for six months, then the benefits from this Fund to either him or his widow or dependents shall be reduced to the ratio mentioned in section B above. However, if such minister shall within a period of five years pay in full his past unpaid annual contributions plus 6% interest, the full benefits shall apply.

ARTICLE IX
A Relief Fund for those emerited ministers, widows, and orphans, who, because of special circumstances, need more than the allotted pensions, and also for those emerited ministers who during their period of active service have not united with the Pension Plan, their widows and orphans, shall be maintained and administered as follows:

1. This Fund shall be maintained by free-will offerings of the churches. The Board Trustees shall keep the churches informed as to the needs of this Fund.

2. Any recipient of the above pensions, if special circumstances warrant it, may apply for aid to this Fund. This application to be made on a blank, provided by the Board, shall state reason for and extent of need, and shall have the approval of the consistory of the applicant. Upon receipt of such application duly filled in and approved, the Board may grant aid as it deems necessary. Application for aid from this Fund must be renewed at the beginning of every fiscal year with the approval of the applicant's consistory.

3. The total Pension and Relief granted a minister in one year shall never exceed 66 and two-thirds per cent of the average annual salary of the ministers of the Christian Reformed Church: nor shall the total pension and relief to a widow exceed 50% of such aforementioned salary; nor shall the total pension and relief to orphans exceed $275.00 per year per person.

4. The amount of aid granted a minister, who, while in active service, has not united with the Pension Plan shall not exceed 25% of the average annual salary of the ministers of the Christian Reformed Church. This aid granted a widow shall not exceed 20% of such average salary, and to orphans it shall not exceed $200.00 per year per person. However, orphans of one family shall never receive collectively more aid than that to which their mother would have been entitled.

5. Lack of personal means shall be the basis upon which application of aid from this Fund shall be granted.
6. The payments from this Fund shall be reported to the advisory committee of Synod, and, if Synod desires, to the Synod itself in executive session. These payments shall receive no further publicity.

ARTICLE X

All income from legacies, unless otherwise specified, shall be divided as follows: one-third to be put in the Relief Fund and the remaining two-thirds in the Pension Fund; and shall be kept as Reserve Funds. Provided, however, that in event of special emergency the Board of Trustees may borrow from these Reserve Funds to meet such emergency; but shall repay the same as soon as funds are available.

ARTICLE XI

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church reserves the right to alter and amend these Rules and as may be required and justified by experience and the available resources for the general advantage of the Church.

THE MINISTERS’ PENSION FUND

The Rules adopted by Synod for the administration of this Fund stipulate that the average salary of our ministers shall be determined on or before March 1.

The salaries of 292 ministers were obtained. The average salary of those ministers is $2,427.43. A statement containing the names and the salaries of the ministers is available.

The 1947 pension of a minister — 50% of the average salary and computed at the nearest multiple of 10 — is $1210.00. The 1947 pension of a widow — 40% of the average salary and computed at the nearest multiple of 10 — is $970.00. The pension of an orphan is $200.00.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Jan. 1, 1946 to Dec. 31, 1946

Current Pension Fund

RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From Classical Treasurers</td>
<td>$52,357.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Ministers</td>
<td>22,378.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Individuals</td>
<td>622.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Interest on Savings Accounts</td>
<td>51.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$75,410.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance, Jan. 1, 1946: $17,836.96

Total: $93,247.34

Current Pension Fund

DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Pensioners</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministers</td>
<td>$38,005.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widows</td>
<td>37,413.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>756.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overpayments Refunded</td>
<td>58.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Reserve Pension Fund</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$76,333.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance, Dec. 31, 1946: $16,913.67
Reserve Pension Fund

RECEIPTS

United States of America Bond ........................................... $ 100.00
Transfer from Current Pension Fund .......................... 100.00
Additional Premium and Interest on Bonds Sold .......... 492.92
Increase in Redemption Value
  United States of America Bonds .......................... 1,731.00
  Interest Earned on United States of America Bonds 677.50

Total ......................................................... $ 3,101.42
Balance, Jan. 1, 1946 ............................................. 63,391.07

Total, Dec. 31, 1946 ........................................... $66,492.49

DISBURSEMENTS

Purchase of United States of America Bond ........ $100.00
Balance, Dec. 31, 1946 ............................................. $66,392.00

Of the $66,392.49, $64,678.50 has been invested in United States Government Bonds in accordance with the Synodical decision. $1,713.99 is in cash to be invested in United States Government Bonds.

A detailed statement of receipts, disbursements and present assets prepared by the firm, Maihofer, Moore, De Long & Kragt, Certified Public Accountants, is in the hands of the Stated Clerk of Synod.

We herewith submit an estimate of our 1947 receipts and disbursements.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

From the Quota, $2.75 per family ......................... $82,643.00
From the Ministers, 3½% of salary .......................... 25,500.00
From Interest ................................................. 1,000.00

Total ......................................................... $109,143.00

ESTIMATED DISBURSEMENTS

To Pensioners—
  Ministers ............................................. $51,320.00
  Widows .................................................. 51,790.00
  For Additional Pensions ................................. 3,500.00
  For Expenses ........................................... 850.00

Total ......................................................... $107,460.00

Estimated Balance ........................................... $ 1,683.00

The estimated receipts are on the basis of a quota of $2.75 per family. That quota should not be decreased. The estimated balance of $1,683.00 is, if anything, slim.

We are continuing the aid to Mrs. J. Van Lonkhuizen. In accordance with the decision of the Synod of 1946, Article 77, IV, 3, page 44 of the Acts, 1946, we have written to the Netherlands under date of Oct. 10, 1946 and again under date of February 26, 1947. No reply has as yet been received.

The Rules for the administration of this Fund authorize us to inform the Church as to the needs of this Fund. We are happy and grateful that the contributions to this Fund have been increasing and that the Fund is in a good condition.

Current Relief Fund

RECEIPTS

From Treasurers, Classical .................................. $9,245.88
Balance, Jan. 1, 1946 ........................................... 7,599.47

Total ......................................................... $16,845.35
### DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Beneficiaries</td>
<td>$2,395.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Reserve Relief Fund</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,395.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance, Dec. 31, 1946: $9,450.35

### Reserve Relief Fund

#### RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Current Relief Fund</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America Bonds (Contra.)</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in Redemption Value United States of America Bonds</td>
<td>437.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest earned on United States of America Bonds</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,687.70</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of United States of America Savings Bonds</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance, Jan. 1, 1946: 28,775.58

Total, Dec. 31, 1946: 34,463.28

Of that $34,463.28, $34,423.80 is invested in United States Government Bonds in accordance with the Synodical decision. The remainder, $39.48 is in cash.

A detailed statement of the receipts, disbursements and present assets of this Fund, certified by the Auditing firm, Maihofer, Moore, DeLong & Kragt, Certified Public Accountants, is in the hands of the Stated Clerk of Synod.

The report of the disbursements of this Fund will be submitted to the Advisory Committee and, if Synod so desires, to Synod itself in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. BOUWSMA
REPORT NO. 8

GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS

To the Synod of 1947.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

THE General Committee for Home Missions having the honor to present its annual report to Synod herewith requests:

That Missionary-at-Large J. M. Vande Kieft be granted the privilege of the floor when Home Mission matters are considered and acted upon.

That the Rev. D. D. Bonnema, Treasurer of our Committee, be granted the opportunity to elucidate the required budget before the Synodical Advisory Committee for Home Missions, and the Synodical Budget Committee.

For the convenience of Synod we submit our report to your honorable body under the following heads:

PART I

PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSES</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>ALTERNATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Rev. L. Bouma</td>
<td>Rev. F. De Jong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago North</td>
<td>Rev. Wm. Kok</td>
<td>Rev. H. Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago South</td>
<td>Dr. M. Van Dyke</td>
<td>Rev. B. Van Sommen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. R. East</td>
<td>Rev. E. Visser</td>
<td>Rev. M. Ouwinga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. R. South</td>
<td>Rev. J. Bult</td>
<td>Rev. R. Veenstra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. R. West</td>
<td>Rev. P. Vos</td>
<td>Rev. A. Persenaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackensack</td>
<td>Rev. D. De Beer</td>
<td>Rev. D. Hoitenga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Rev. H. Blystra</td>
<td>Rev. C. Witt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>Rev. E. Van Halsema</td>
<td>Rev. J. P. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>Rev. W. Alkema</td>
<td>Rev. E. Boer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Mulder</td>
<td>Rev. R. Roseboom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>Rev. J. Breuker</td>
<td>Rev. A. Brink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange City</td>
<td>Rev. G. Zylstra</td>
<td>Rev. R. O. De Groot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostfriesland</td>
<td>Rev. A. H. Bratt</td>
<td>Rev. J. H. Rubingh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>Rev. J. De Jong</td>
<td>Rev. P. Hoekstra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pella</td>
<td>Rev. J. Visser</td>
<td>Rev. John Mulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Center</td>
<td>Rev. W. Hekman</td>
<td>Rev. G. Vande Riet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Rev. C. M. Schoolland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland</td>
<td>Rev. M. Bolt</td>
<td>Rev. N. Veltman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS-AT-LARGE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. W. Hofstra</td>
<td>1944-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. D. D. Bonnema</td>
<td>Mr. R. Kooi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. B. H. Brouwer</td>
<td>Mr. J. Knoll</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Beginning January of this year Mr. J. Vander Wal was compelled to resign as member of the Executive Committee, due to press of other duties. His alternate, Mr. W. Hofstra, thereupon took his place. The term of Mr. W. Hofstra expires at this time. Hence a member-at-large and his alternate must be elected for the term 1947-1950.

C. The membership of the Executive Committee consists of the following delegates: The Reverends: J. Breuker, M. Bolt, H. Blystra, D. D.

Of this group the first four members mentioned served respectively as president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

The sub-committee for Church Extension comprised the brethren: J. Bult, H. Blystra, E. Visser, B. H. Brouwer, and D. D. Bonnema.

The sub-committee having charge of the Fund for Needy Churches comprised the brethren M. Bolt, J. Breuker, P. Vos, and W. Hofstra.

D. M-a-L J. M. Vande Kieft has orientated himself re his duties, and regularly meets with the Executive Committee, serving in an advisory capacity.

E. The General Committee convened for its annual meeting on February 19 and 20. At that time the following officers were elected:

President ........................................... Rev. J. Breuker
Vice-President .................................... Rev. M. Bolt
Secretary ........................................... Rev. H. Blystra
Treasurer ........................................... Rev. D. D. Bonnema

Since crowded conditions at our school made it impossible to meet in the Seminary Building, we are indebted to the Bates Street Christian Reformed Church for the use of its Consistory Room.

PART II
GENERAL INFORMATION

Again your Committee with the help of God has endeavored to promote the denominational program of Home Missions. Though the departure of our former esteemed M-a-L, the Rev. H. Baker, to another field of labor occasioned disappointment, we hasten to add that the Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft has manifested keen interest in his assignment as M-a-L and has revealed the possession of talents for the task that is now his.

The challenge to carry on missions at home is laid upon us by the mandate of the Master and the present hour of national need. Our nation is confronted by a state of collapse, socially, morally, religiously, and spiritually; the origin of which must be ascribed to a forsaking of "the law and the prophets". The ever-widening stream of irreligion within the land presents a grave threat to the entire church inclusive of our own.

A spirit of skepticism can readily be discerned. It has been characterized as the "New Skepticism". Why? During and after the First World War skepticism centered in God. Men would ask: "Why does God Who is love and the Father of all permit this devastating conflict?" Today the emphasis has shifted. The "New Skepticism" inquires: "How could man have made such a mess of things?" Man's forward strides in the field of science and technical achievements have yielded bitter disillusionment. The "New Skepticism" has lost faith in the idol man. That skepticism which centers in self, in man, and in man's goodness and capacity to create a better world may be a first step in the lives of some
or many on the way that leads to the cross of Christ. That “New Skepticism” must now while it is yet “today” be reached by the witness “back to God”.

Hence the present and predominant need in our land is the need of the Gospel, the pure Gospel, the full Gospel. The Gospel which offers and demands a change of heart thru the Spirit and the blood of Christ. The Gospel which requires “a cleansing of the inner life, the substitution of self-denial for self-interest, the subordination of the material to the spiritual”. The proclamation of that Gospel demands a church which has caught the compassionate and consecrated spirit of its Savior and its Lord.

“We have been moving in the direction of witnessing to the unchurched in America. However, we are moving too slowly.” Those statements contained in our report to Synod last year still apply. Therefore the hesitancy evident to grant the larger appropriations requested for the advancement of Home Missions has been regarded with regret. At the same time difficulties to procure missionaries remain.

We rejoice that our church perseveres in the prayer for laborers to be sent forth into the Lord’s harvest fields. And we rejoice that several of our youth are ready heroically and withal humbly to declare: “Here am I Lord, send me”. Shall our church say to these youth in the near and coming years, there are no fields and there are no funds? Not the church that worships and adores the Christ who had compassion on the multitudes. Not the church that earnestly prays for laborers and more laborers.

Our mandate then is clear. We must now plan. We must now purpose to expand our Home Missions Program both intensively and extensively. That very thing is being done by our brethren in the Netherlands who were harrassed and impoverished while we were prospered and enriched.

We rest assured that the commendable sympathy and zeal of Synod for Home Missions shall be sustained by the prayers and devotion of our church membership, and the imparted and empowering benediction of our God.

PART III
CHURCH EXTENSION

A. Personnel and Placement.

Our Home Mission Staff is at present composed of the following eleven ordained missionaries and missionary pastors:


Nine seminary students were engaged for the summer months pursuant the field-work plan adopted by Synod.
The mission churches served and fields occupied are the following; thirteen in number:

Bellwood, Chicago; Compton, California; Des Moines, Iowa; Iowa Falls, Iowa; Le Mars, Iowa; Michigan District; Millwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Phoenix, Arizona; San Diego, California; Sioux City, Iowa; South Side, Chicago; and Washington, D.C.

The Eastern district, comprising the territory of Classes Hudson and Hackensack, has no home missionary at present. There is good prospect however, of resuming the calling of another home missionary to succeed the Rev. Elbert Kooistra.

The hospital visitation at the Mayo Clinic and hospitals in Rochester, Minnesota, has been continued by the Rev. Albert H. Bratt, pastor of the Hollandale Christian Reformed Church.

Seminarian Frank Einfeld, by special synodical disposition, was engaged from the time of Synod's meeting until January, in San Diego and Iowa Falls. Other students during the summer months were assigned as follows:

E. Van Baak and I. Meuzelaar — Sioux City, Iowa
E. Van Baak and P. Schrotenboer — Pleasant Valley, S. D.
I. Meuzelaar and F. Klooster — Holland Center, S. D.
H. Bajema — Houston, B. C., Canada
P. Ipema — Burdett, Alberta, Canada
C. Kromminga — Iowa Falls, Iowa
A. Walcott — Milwaukee, Wis.
Clarence Van Ens — Bellwood and South Side, Chicago.

This summer's assignments could not yet be made at the time of the General Committee's meeting in February. Whereas Synod has decided that all our seminarians shall engage in spiritual field-work during their summer vacations, and the number of students is increasing, there may be difficulty in providing places for all of them. It would be well that our Classes and churches cooperate by requesting the Executive Committee for student aid in vacant churches and during the vacations of their pastors. Such requests can best be made through the Home Mission Committees of the respective Classes so that proper regulation of equitable obligations involved for such labors may be made beforehand.

In comparing our present home mission personnel with that of a decade ago, it is striking that only one of the twelve home missionaries then serving, the Rev. William Meyer, is still serving. This rapid turnover in this field is regrettable. While some of our ablest and most experienced missionaries leave us, we are still handicapped by lack of sufficient laborers in this needy and challenging field of Home Missions.

B. Progress of the Work.
Our missionaries, together with their helpers, and their own devoted helpmeets, have all labored faithfully in their respective fields. Sowing
and planting of the precious seed, watering and cultivating of the field with the Word, has continued. We have the assurance that such work, commanded by Christ Himself, directed and made fruitful by the Holy Spirit, is never in vain. Let us sustain our workers not only with financial support, but with fervent, steadfast intercessory prayer to the Lord of the harvest, who sends forth the laborers and gives the increase.

We report in alphabetical order on the state and activities of our present home mission fields and stations:

1. **Bellwood**: The Bellwood Gospel Chapel has been improved with better heating facilities and replacement of chairs with pews, purchased from the Archer Avenue Church. Attendance and interest is holding steady with a number of additions to the Sunday School enrollment. There is a nucleus of some half dozen Christian Reformed families, one of which is residing in rooms back of the meeting room in the Chapel and taking care of the janitor work. This nucleus is not yet established sufficiently to depend upon for regular attendance at the Mission. More of our families from the West Side are moving in.

   Rev. Henry Petersen has been laboring here, dividing his time between Bellwood and South Side, Chicago. Student Clarence Van Ens did fine work as his assistant last summer and the ministers of Classis Chicago North have rendered valuable services.

   The special challenge in this field lies in reaching the unchurched now moving by the hundreds into the new homes in process of construction in extensive housing projects within a radius of a mile or two. This calls for home visitation and intensified evangelization efforts.

2. **Compton**: Progress in this field has been handicapped by lack of a place of worship and for meetings during the week. This will soon be remedied and by the time Synod meets the little flock and its missionary-under-shepherd, the Rev. S. G. Brondsema, will again be spiritually housed in a re-fabricated church of their own. With the aid of a $5,000.00 loan from Church Help, a new site was purchased on Compton Avenue in Los Angeles County adjoining Long Beach. A former Japanese Hall was bought, moved twenty-five miles, and converted into a neat church building in a growing residential and business district.

   The congregation is cooperating harmoniously with their missionary pastor in an extension program which seeks to reach the large numbers of unchurched in Long Beach southward. These are mostly well-to-do, retired, elderly people from the midwestern and eastern states, a needy but lukewarm, indifferent class of respectable sinners, the “forgotten class” of mission subjects. But the Gospel is designed for all classes. The day of grace, the irresistible working of the Holy Spirit, is not yet past. Let us labor on till the Master comes.

3. **Des Moines**: This field in the capital city of Iowa, has definitely advanced from its preliminary stage to that of an established mission station with a full-time resident home missionary of its own. The Rev.
William Verwolf, transferred from Milwaukee in the fall of last year, is working with renewed zeal and blessing in this field. Classis Pella, through its Home Mission Committee and the neighboring church of Prairie City has promoted this work in every way. Substantial financial aid was given so that a parsonage was purchased with money realized from the sale of properties of the disbanded congregations of Hamshire and Vona.

Services are conducted twice each Sunday in a rented building with an increasing attendance and growing interest. A nucleus of some seven families are coming regularly. Communion services are held under supervision of the consistory of Prairie City. Three converts are now preparing to make confession of faith. Various organizations and church activities, including also a system of tithing and budget, have been established.

We are grateful to the Lord for this promising beginning and encouraging prospect for a Christian Reformed church and testimony in Iowa’s chief city and industrial center.

4. Iowa Falls. The same as above can be reported of Iowa Falls, within the domain of Classis Ostfriesland. The field has been occupied by the Rev. Sydney Werkema as full-time ordained missionary, with Wellsburg I as the calling church. He is planning to move and enter upon his new field the latter part of March provided the initial problem of securing a home is solved by that time. Classis Ostfriesland through its Home Mission Committee, the calling church of Wellsburg, ministerial supplies, and students Carl Kromminga and Frank Einfeld have all cooperated splendidly in opening up this new field. Attendance at services has been encouraging and there is a real challenge to enlarge the base of operations by evangelizing the unchurched in this thriving midwestern town.

We are thankful for the increase in our staff of home missionaries and hopeful that with the blessing of God also this field will develop into a flourishing church of Jesus Christ.

5. Le Mars. The work in this city of northwestern Iowa has not prospered as we had hoped and expected. Members of our neighboring churches residing in or in the vicinity of Le Mars have not become regular attendants at the services but continued in their own churches. This has reduced the nucleus for founding a church and hampered the progress of the work. The Rev. L. Trap has labored in Le Mars during the months of December and January. Seminarian Bartel N. Huizenga was appointed to carry on until he takes up post-graduate work in September.

The Classical Home Mission Committee of Orange City, Missionary William Meyers and Rev. J. M. Byleveld initiated the work. The Committee has continued to cooperate in its promotion. We bespeak the wholehearted cooperation also of the neighboring churches in our mission project in this predominantly Roman Catholic city.

—35—
6. Michigan District. Two daughter churches have developed rapidly into organized and calling churches; the Bethany Church of Holland and the Calvin Church of Grand Rapids. Both have enjoyed splendid cooperation and support from their mother churches. Financial aid approximately $10.00 per family was given by the churches of Classis Holland to Bethany. The Calvin Church was sponsored by a joint committee of the three consistories of Fuller Avenue, Neland Avenue and Sherman Street. These churches will also undoubtedly remember this daughter when building operations get under way.

With a charter membership of some fifty families and a number of additions since organization, these congregations have good prospects of growth into strong churches under the blessing of our God. The Calvin congregation is meeting temporarily in the auditorium of Calvin College and the Bethany congregation in the Christian High School gymnasium. The Rev. L. Trap has assisted these churches, serving the Bethany Church in its pre-organizational stage for many weeks.

At present, at the request of the consistory of the overcrowded church of Kelloggsville, he is exploring and canvassing the Home Acres district off Division Avenue south, with a view to the establishment of another of our churches in the south end of Grand Rapids. This prospect also looks encouraging.

7. Milwaukee. The situation of our little, dwindling flock in the large and growing metropolis of Wisconsin is precarious. The bright hopes, that after nearly a decade of home missionary endeavors they were at last firmly established as an organized congregation with church and parsonage and pastor of their own, have suffered eclipse. Families and individuals have been moving away with only a few coming in to replace them. Satan sowed his seeds of dissension. Discouragement followed and Rev. Verwolf reluctantly requested transfer to another field. Since then Classis Wisconsin has been providing preaching supplies, but the work in the congregation and in reaching the unchurched round about is virtually at a standstill. A call was extended to the Rev. Frank De Jong, former home missionary in the California field. He declined, and with the advice of the Classical Home Mission Committee, it was decided to liquidate the present renovated church building and to seek a more favorable location. The church is in a Roman Catholic section, distant from most of the remaining members. It was in a sorry state of delapidation and prodigious labors with much money expended upon it have still not given the little congregation a neat and suitable place of worship. If it can be sold, the money can be used again for building purposes in a more favorable location. The Executive Committee was charged to arrange a transfer to have another missionary pastor at Milwaukee as soon as possible. This field needs our special prayers at this critical juncture.

8. Minneapolis. Our work and congregation in the Twin City has been richly blessed with the providential procurement of a fine, brick
fully equipped church edifice at a sum far below its value. The Welch Presbyterian Church, with most of its membership moving to other sections of the city, decided to discontinue and to dispose of its property. At considerable less than other offers received, they let us have it for the sum of $26,000.00. Synod had allocated $25,000.00 for Minneapolis and a like sum to Washington, D.C., to be raised by special offerings.

We would call attention to these authorizations of Synod since the response has fallen far short of their goal.

Under the zealous leadership of our Home Missionary, the Rev. Henry Rikkers, the congregation of Minneapolis is going forward with an eager, evangelistic spirit, hopeful that the years of struggle to get a foothold are over, and that from the infancy stage they may increase and expand numerically and spiritually under the good hand and by the Spirit of the Lord.

9. Phoenix. The annual trek to the balmy, healthful climate of Phoenix has increased attendance to over the hundred mark. Our indefatigable missionary, the Rev. Harry A. Dykstra, is ministering unto this isolated flock in the far southwest and doing much pastoral work among them to bind them together in closer unity of the Spirit and in the communion of saints.

The school building, in which services are held in a class room, is wholly inadequate and available only for Sunday services. This necessitates staggering and crowding in meetings on Sunday. Attempts are being made to procure an army chapel, or other suitable building which can be rebuilt into a church, from the Government Surplus Property at nearby airbases. Building materials for a new church are still hard to get. The site of ten acres, half of which was to be sold and half used for church purposes, has been improved and rendered marketable by obtaining city water mains and supply. The cost for this, as well as for the whole property, is expected to be realized from the sale of five acres. Much prayerful and consecrated planning and work remains to be done to establish our Phoenix congregation and pastor in their own church and parsonage.

Here also, emphasis is being laid upon our home missionary program of reaching and evangelizing the unchurched, as well as in gathering and holding our own in the dispersion, and building them all up together into the body of Jesus Christ.

10. San Diego. This farthest outpost of our far flung home missionary field is prospering under the energetic ministry of the Rev. G. Boerefyn. We appreciate his decision to stay on in this distant part of the vineyard when the call from other sections came to him. Now that the Service Center has been closed, full time attention can be devoted to the congregation and to reaching others outside the fold.

The church, purchased from the Seventh Day Adventists, has been reconditioned and the grounds improved. An amplifying system has
been installed to broadcast hymns from the church tower, reminding the
people in the neighborhood that, Sunday morning and not Saturday,
the New Testament Church calls them to worship and prayer.

The parsonage was several miles away from the church. It was
resold and another one purchased within a block or two of the church.

Harmony and peace prevail and the congregation is enjoying a slow
but steady growth both from within and from without.

11. Sioux City. This little church is still holding its own but has
not revealed the dynamic of a growing, flourishing church in this chief
city of northwest Iowa. For the past two or three years our veteran
home missionary, the Rev. William Meyer, has labored faithfully in the
work of the Lord. During the summer months Students E. Van Baak and
I. Meuzelaar assisted the Rev. Meyer in evangelization work and also
aided in the Le Mars field. A continued, intensive program of evangeliza­
tion is needed and an all-out-effort to gather back into the fold of their
mother church the many sons and daughters of our own churches now
residing and working in Sioux City, some of whom have united with
modernistic churches and others have become entirely unchurched. This
is a difficult task, but one to which we are committed by our Lord's high
command and the increasing urgency of the challenge in this post war
world of apostacy and worldliness.

12. South Side, Chicago. This field has developed but little during
the past year. Questions of policy in admitting converts into the member­
ship of our Christian Reformed Church have arisen between our home
missionary, the Rev. Henry Petersen, and his calling church of Engle­
wood I. The little chapel still being used is unsightly and inadequate,
hindering instead of aiding the special evangelization effort which was
planned and expected to be made in the residential area of well-to-do
people adjoining the mission. The churches formerly sponsoring the
mission had already collected the funds and purchased a fine corner
site for the erection of a new chapel church of brick construction cor­
responding to the type of dwelling in that neighborhood. This will have
to be built without delay if this plan is to become more than a dream
and a vision.

Classis Chicago North is cooperating by assigning classical supplies
every other week, since the Rev. Petersen also has the Bellwood Mission
under his charge. Mr. Gelmer Bosma has been engaged for part time
services in meetings of organizations at the mission and especially in
house to house visitation.

Miss Ruth Scholten, graduate of our R.B.I., was employed full time
and rendered faithful and efficient service at the mission when ill health
compelled her to resign in the beginning of February. At her doctor's
orders she must take complete rest. May the Lord give back health and
strength, enabling her to resume her blessed and much appreciated labor
of love. Under leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Huizenga the Young

— 38 —
People's Society and the Children's Bible Classes are doing well. Mimeo­
graphed messages, prepared by the Rev. Petersen, are being sent out to
the families connected with the mission. Also visits are made at the
Vaughan and Hines Veterans' Hospitals and a regular morning hour radio
broadcast is carried on by the Rev. Petersen.

13. Washington, D.C. The services held in the down town Club
Room are well attended, although there has been a noticeable decrease
in the number of military service personnel of war days. The congrega-
tion is becoming more unified and spiritually integrated by the ex-
periences of the communion of saints. The pastor and his family, the
Rev. and Mrs. James M. Ghysels, are passing through a prolonged visitation
that has cast its dark shadow upon the whole congregation. Synod,
and our Church in general, is aware of the precarious condition of their
daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Ettewold, who with her husband, on terminal
leave from the Army, was stricken with the dreaded polio. Returning
from Minnesota, the Captain's home, both were taken to the Walter
Reed Army Hospital, while their child remained in the care of its grand-
parents. The father has fully recovered but the mother lingers on in the
grip of paralysis affecting also the lungs, her life suspended on the mech-
anism of an iron lung. Her subdued but brave, quiet spirit of trust and
hope in the love and tender mercy of God in Christ, Redeemer and
Great Physician, sustains her spirit, while the body languishes. Her
testimony, as of one on eternity's edge, is being spiritually blessed unto
her nurses. Her husband and parents are experiencing in a very deep
and real sense that God's grace is sufficient. "When my spirit is over-
whelmed within me, I cling to the Rock that is higher than I". "My
flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart and my
portion forever."

The need of a church edifice of its own for our Washington congre-
gation is as urgent as ever. The general district has been determined
and a number of sites have been seriously considered. High prices on
real estate and excessive cost of building operations have deterred going
ahead. There is hope also that some suitable building which can be
converted into a church may be placed on sale. The consistory is alert
and constantly working on this problem. May the Lord in His own good
providence open an opportunity such as we had in Minneapolis.

In the meantime our churches should respond to the Synodically
approved appeal for funds even more generously than the $25,000.00
which can hardly be accounted as a bare minimum in procuring a site
plus a church building in the great Capital City of our nation.

Our Christian Reformed Church must deem it a matter of high
privilege and honor, as well as of duty and challenge, to have at least
one representative witness of our faith and endeavors in Jesus Christ
at the seat of our nation’s government and the heart of our Republic.
Even democracy must fail except its foundations rest upon the eternal
principles of the Word and the kingdom of our God. It is these principles which we are committed to hold fast for ourselves, to transmit to our children, and to propagate in the world. Washington is one of the key-cities in this mighty endeavor in and for the Lord our God.

14. Eastern District. A daughter church of Midland Park, together with a number of families and individual members of other churches, has been organized at Wyckoff, N.J. Splendid cooperation was given by the mother church, including a grant of $100.00 for every family of its membership uniting with the new church.

Since we had no home missionary in the East, members of the Executive Committee assisted Wyckoff in its birth and infancy stage. The initial work was done last August by our former missionary-at-large, followed in September by our Chairman, the Rev. John Breuker, and later by the Rev. L. Trap and our present missionary-at-large. We appreciate the cooperation shown by the consistory of the Immanuel Church of Muskegon in loaning their pastor for this work.

Wyckoff has enjoyed a prosperous beginning, prior to, and since its organization last fall. Its membership is nearing the fifty family mark. It has obtained a suitable and choice site of nearly four acres not far from the Christian San and is making plans for building. It will soon be calling and is requesting aid from our Fund for Needy Churches. A spirit of harmony and eagerness to go forward in the Spirit and strength of the Lord prevails.

Whitinsville is cooperating in exploring and developing a daughter church and a new field in the neighboring city of Worcester. The placement of another home missionary for the Eastern district has this in view for his first assignment.

Prospective Fields.

In all three of the main areas of our Canadian churches an influx of Holland immigrants is expected. A special Immigration Committee for Canada has been entrusted with properly welcoming and guiding them when they come as strangers into a strange land.

The ministry to the spiritual needs of these brethren and sisters from across the sea will call for the services of home missionaries in Canada.

Classis Pacific has requested another home missionary to labor in its vast territory. Some of our own people are scattered in the larger cities such as Portland, Oregon; Tacoma, Washington; and Salem, Oregon, and there are challenging possibilities for evangelization work in these growing centers of population.

We are alerted to Florida where some of our people are establishing residence while many more join the annual trek to the sunny south. Investigation and exploration will indicate whether or not a missionary should be placed in this field.
Other fields, such as Oskaloosa and New Sharon, Iowa, and Edgerton, Minnesota, are in process or prospect of development.

Hospital Visitation at the Mayo Clinic.

The blessed ministry of bringing spiritual cheer to our own afflicted at the Mayo Hospital, as well as to many others, is much appreciated. Our veteran former service pastor, the Rev. Albert H. Bratt, is especially qualified for this task and engages in it with devotion and sympathetic understanding for a day every week. Since patients come from all sections of our Church, he requests that he be notified by them or their relatives as soon as they arrive in Rochester. A notice with this request regularly appears in our Church papers and still some of our people fail to respond.

Missionary-at-Large.

By special appointment of Synod the Rev. John M. Van de Kieft has succeeded the Rev. Henry Baker, our first Missionary-at-large. Midland Park, his calling church has loaned him for this work while his membership papers were transferred to the Calvin Church of Grand Rapids.

He began his labors in September when the Rev. Baker bade us farewell to take up his ministry in the newly organized church of Auburn Park, Chicago. The six months covered by this report have been busy and sometimes strenuous months of intensive and extensive orientation, exploration, visitation, preaching, speaking, conference meetings and office duties. The work, though very different from his former assignment as a Service Pastor during the war, was similar to it in this respect that it requires much traveling about and being away from home. This has its compensation in the joy and fellowship of christian service as co-workers with God in the field of missions.

The initial problem of securing a home was difficult to solve in the face of the post war housing shortage. After fruitless attempts to rent or lease, he was compelled to invest heavily in buying a home on contract. This was done with the aid of our Executive Committee which loaned the initial payment as an advance on salary to be repaid on a monthly basis.

An extended tour was made of all our more distant home mission fields including Phoenix and San Diego; conferences were held with the Home Mission Committees of Classes Pella, California, Pacific and Wisconsin and also the metings of these Classes were attended in the Fall. There seems to have been a slump in the work, due mainly to the war. There are encouraging signs of a revived spirit of eagerness to be on the move with renewed zeal and activity in Home Missions and in City evangelization as well. Classis Pacific is ill at ease without a single Home Missionary in its extensive territory. It has its eyes on Portland and Tacoma, Wash. on Salem, Oregon and on Canadian districts especially with a view to expected immigration from the Netherlands.

—41—
Meetings were attended in Woodstock, Ont., Winnipeg, Man., Edmonton, Alta, Chatham and Hamilton, Ont. in the interest of the Dutch immigrants of our common faith. This work is reported by the synodical Committee on Immigration for Canada of which the Missionary-at-large is a member.

The Eastern field at Wycoff and Washington, D.C., the Milwaukee and Minneapolis churches, the Chicago South Side and Bellwood Missions, and nearly all of our Home Missionaries and their churches or stations, were visited and given advice, encouragement and strengthening in their respective fields and special problems. The month of April our Missionary-at-large will present the cause of Home Missions as one of the speakers on a tour of meetings sponsored by the Women’s Missionary Unions of the mid-west. He has also presented the cause by means of the Mission page in The Banner.

The relationship between the Executive Committee and the M-a-L has been mutually cordial, harmonious and helpful in planning and working together to administer and to promote the sacred affairs of the Kingdom by means of Home Missions.

PART IV
UNITED HOME MISSIONARY SERVICE

Expansion Home Missionary Program of the Christian Reformed Church Historical Survey.

We are persuaded that the “United Home Missionary Service,” which can be summarized in the motto “Every Member a Missionary” and which is set forth in the following pages, is in accord with the mind of our church membership and decisions of former Synods. As proof we need but quote the decision taken by the Synod of 1932: “Synod resolves that the rampant neo-paganism of our day and land requires that every one of our churches, whether alone or in collaboration with a neighboring church or churches, enter upon evangelistic activities. It also requires that, if possible, in addition to the regular pastor, the church or churches engage an ordained minister especially for this evangelistic work.” (Acts 1932, p. 20 A.) That courageous resolve was born of faith, a deep sense of danger and responsibility, and a consecrated desire to render spiritual service to our benighted nation.

Since then various steps were taken to execute this resolve. Appointed committees considered methods and a new Home Mission Order. The Synod of 1936 appointed and Executive Committee to direct and effectuate the Home Mission Program, which had as its objective the bringing of the Gospel to our American constituency inclusive of professional and cultural groups. This Committee was later augmented by a delegate from each Classis, “The General Committee for Home Missions.” The Synod of 1938 definitely committed itself to a program for beginning the work of evangelization in large centers of population. (Acts 1938, p. 69 C. and p. 199-204.)
Initial progress was made. A Missionary-at-Large was called by the Synod of 1937. Other workers were added to the staff. Fields were investigated and opened in some metropolitan centers. Our denominational radio program was expanded. A Tract Committee was appointed to prepare for distribution of religious literature of a distinctly Reformed content and evangelistic in its approach.

The work has not been in vain. At the same time the love for Home Missions that found expression in 1932 and subsequent years must be quickened. And the vision of faith is still far from realization; we have "moved slowly." This must in a measure be attributed to the newness of the work and the immense field before us. Moreover during the war years efforts had to be diverted to make provision for the spiritual care of our own young men and women in the armed forces. And the engagement of chaplains and service-pastors occasioned a consequent shortage of man-power.

The war has been terminated. During the war years especially our younger membership had opportunity to discover to some extent the religious ignorance and spiritual famine that threatens our nation and imperils our church. That providential discovery may in part account for the fact that a goodly number of our returned veterans are volunteering for Kingdom service. Hence the General Committee for Home Missions again centered attention upon the church extension objective as envisioned by our pre-war Synods. It presented to the Synod of 1946 an aggressive expansion program. Synod hesitated to adopt this program since it entailed an increased quota of $6.00 per family, and was largely confined to the Chicago area. However lest our church be charged with having left its "first love" and its "candlestick be moved out of its place"; and convinced that our church has a mandate and a message from the Master for our own neo-paganistic nationals and neighbors, the General Committee for Home Missions lays before Synod the "Expansion Home Missionary Program of the Christian Reformed Church."

The Service Call.

This call was issued by our Lord at His last farewell, as He was about to enter upon His throne in glory. His task on earth was finished; the Church as His instrument was to carry on. The call is now more urgent as the season of grace is fast speeding by. The urgency is felt by Satan in sowing his tares. The sects are rampant, evil is increasing, the spirit of the anti-Christ is energetic, drafting high and low in his universal service. Political, economic, national and international forces, all are used to advance the kingdom of this world, as rivals, and in many ways, as opponents of the kingdom of God.

Our Church, as part of the Church universal, is committed to universal all-out service in the kingdom as fellow workers with God. The missionary task is central and major. If we neglect it we are endangering our very existence. Christ, who walks between the golden candlesticks, will
remove our candlestick if we fail in missionary service. The law of sacrifice and service applies also to the Church; "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." Only a missionary church can survive.

The call must come to the individual heart as personal as is the call to repent and to believe unto salvation. Every living member of the Church must face the live question: "What am I doing with the universal missionary service call?" Many of our young people will have to answer that call as enlistees; others will have to increase their prayers, deepen their interest and enlarge their gifts and offerings for this mighty work of God. The whole Church must feel the surge of a spiritual missionary awakening under the quickening and impelling power of the Holy Spirit. Rededication of lives to the ideals and the actual work of the kingdom of our God must find expression in every field of Christian service and not the least in Christian missions.

The workers in every field as they sow and plant, water and strive, must have the encouragement that the home base is sound, alert and active. The home front is backing them with might and main, ever looking to the Lord to give the increase.

The Service Fields.

Christ has designated the field of missions as the world, not certain parts, but the whole wide world. Hence expansion, progress, advance, must always be the watchword of the Church in its missionary endeavors. The whole field must be occupied, the Gospel of the kingdom must be preached to all nations before the Lord comes again.

Missionary strategy has in the past divided the united missionary task into the two main departments of Home or Domestic Missions and of Foreign Missions. Our own Church has included its Indian mission work, though conducted within our national borders, in Foreign Mission with that of the China and African fields.

The Challenge of the Home Mission Field should be appraised and met anew in the light of post war conditions.

1. Our own immediate expansion needs.

a. Overcrowded churches: a healthy sign of internal growth. Several daughter churches have recently been organized. Some mother churches would rather keep them instead of rejoicing in new manifestations of the body of Christ. The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the respective Classical Home Mission Committees, is prepared to contact consistories and seek their cooperation in the establishment of new churches.

b. To follow and to gather together our dispersed in localities where there are sufficient numbers to form the nucleus for new churches as home missionary stations and to nurture them into congregations.
These should be activated as missionary projects welcoming and gathering in as many as will give heed to the Gospel and are willing to become affiliated with our Christian Reformed Church.

2. Our outreach to the unchurched and the migrants throughout the land:

The end of the war and reconversion has brought another shift, but not an end, to the alarmingly large and ever increasing number of migrants and unchurched of America in both urban, suburban and rural districts. Migrancy has increased rapidly and become a major problem in our American life. Shifting of population has always been characteristic of our nation throughout its course of progressive development. In our home mission areas there are thousands of migrants as well as residents in housing projects in cities and suburbs. Together with the other churches already laboring among them, we as a Church must accept our full share of the responsibility of meeting this challenge. We are now readying to welcome the Dutch immigrants of our own household of faith in Canada. Well and good. But we shall not be free from the blood of those teeming millions — share croppers, Okies, migrants, under-privileged, submerged classes in our society, who are driven to sub-standards of living and at the same time sinking toward the blackness of eternal night. We have the light of the world and the life of men to bring unto them. And we are directly charged to preach the Gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15.

Our responsibility increases in the measure that we are not dispensing merely the temporal, secular, social gospel, which has become the main objective of the large, liberal churches in their missionary work as well as in their home churches. We shall try to bring the message of the crucified and risen Lord as the only Saviour and as the hope of glory for lost sinners. And we shall strive to build them up in Him and to do them good in ministering unto their material needs as Christ has appointed and exemplified in His own Messianic ministry.

This is a stupendous challenge, which our churches may not evade or neglect, lest their blood be upon our hands.

The sophisticated upper classes, moving out of the cities to dwell in suburban homes, at one time were mostly members of churches. Many have become back-sliders, complacent, hardened, steeped in secularism. Professional and business men are extremely difficult to reach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pride-destroying element of the cross is disliked. The modernistic churches are seeking to enlist their interest, with but little success. It will cost much, and it will require more than little chapels or Gospel halls to win their interest. Specially trained and gifted missionaries must challenge the modern mind with the age-old truth. Some are addicted to cults, and nearly all are socially engulfed by lodges and worldly organizations and radio voices. How to reach them, when even the judgments of God do not bring repentance, is a problem that only the Holy Spirit can solve. It is the Spirit that convicts the world of
sin, of righteousness and of judgment. But the Spirit does this through the instrumentality of the Word and those who proclaim it.

Organization of the Work.

Proper organization of the united task-forces of the Church promotes effective cooperation. This is good missionary, as well as military, strategy.

1. Each local congregation must serve as a distinct missionary unit and operational base.
   a. Consistories and congregations should take official action to adopt and undergird this united denominational missionary program and to pledge it their wholehearted cooperation and support.
   b. As charity begins at home, so also the missionary out-reach should begin at home in the surrounding areas of each congregation. Through missionary bands and societies, personal visitation and invitation, all the members as individual witnesses and lightbearers for Christ should continuously conduct this missionary work among the unchurched.

   In this work home mission and city evangelization are contingent and should work together hand in hand toward a common aim, to win the unsaved and the unchurched for Christ and His kingdom, and to nurture and train them into the communion of saints and active membership of the Church of Jesus Christ.

   c. The congregational missionary operations and activities should be flexible and adapted to the specific environmental conditions and challenge of each local church. Isolated and scattered churches face a totally different situation from churches in proximity of sister churches and other evangelizing churches which are likewise engaged in missionary endeavors.

   d. The congregation should assume its proportionate share to provide the necessary funds required to finance the united home missionary service of the Church. Special gifts for this purpose, and the gracious willingness of our financially stronger churches to help the weaker, and a true spirit of missionary giving, attended by much persevering missionary prayer and work, should enable our Church to carry out this program without deficits or debts.

   e. Reports from each of our congregations participating in this united home missionary service, channeled through their respective Classes, should be presented not later than February of each year to the General Committee for Home Missions by the delegates of each of the Classes.

2. The denominational advance. Spearheading and consolidating the missionary service of each and all of our local churches and membership, the Church at large must also go forward to meet the challenge of aggressive and progressive encroachment of the jungles of the forces of darkness, the world and the flesh. Our Church must enlarge the
field that it has under cultivation of the law and the Gospel. This is to be done:

a. By exploring and developing new fields directly, and in connection with the home mission committees of the Classes, and with the local congregations.

b. By arousing or stimulating sustained and unceasing prayers throughout the Church for the cause of missions in general, and our denominational and congregational work in particular, by means of proper missionary instruction and publicity.

c. By coordinating all the agencies and efforts of our churches into a united advance of home missionary service.

d. By procuring and maintaining the necessary personnel, both ordained and lay workers, to carry out the missionary expansion program of the Church.

Manning of the Field.

It is essential for effective missionary work that sufficient trained and qualified missionaries be assigned to the work. Lack of workers to sow the good seed and to cultivate the soil and the tender plants as they grow has hampered many mission fields. God alone gives the increase, but we as His fellow workers are charged with the planting and watering.

a. The supply: The prayers to the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth many laborers into the fields are being answered. The prospect of an adequate supply of consecrated ordained and lay workers, equipped and ready to go, is bright. As many of our returned veterans are taking seminary courses, and the graduates of our R.B.I. are increasing year by year, we may, in the special providence of God, well look for a normal annual average of some twenty candidates for the ministry and mission work in a few years.

This is a direct challenge to the Church to place these sons and daughters who have responded to the call. To fail in this would be an indictment against the Church that nurtured and trained them and it would stymie our whole program of united home missionary service through a serious tactical error. No army can advance or succeed without officers and leaders. No missionary work can be accomplished without missionaries and their assistants and helpers laboring in the fields, preaching and teaching the Word of God.

b. Itinerant home missionaries should be called to activate and to implement the united home missionary service throughout the churches under supervision of the Executive Committee for Home Missions and as assistants to the missionary-at-large.

Our churches and fields are so widely scattered in different sections and states that we need a small but competent staff of mobile leaders to assist in organizing and in carrying out the missionary program.

c. Ordained and lay workers should be called and appointed as, and where, needed. No expansion in a field already occupied, and no new
field, should be permitted to suffer from lack of missionaries and workers adequate to staff them.

Cost and Financing.

The united home missionary service will mean enlarged expenditures. The cost will be very modest in comparison to the vast sums expended on war and even by our peacetime government. The measure of our giving for missions is ever the proof of the measure of our love.

a. The cost of local evangelization work by the congregation should be met locally.

b. The cost of the denominational program should be proportionately met by all the churches on the basis of an estimated budget of expenditures authorized by Synod.

c. The Church Extension Fund should be greatly increased to meet the urgent need of building operations. Enlivened interest and enlarged activity must also express itself in increased giving as the work progresses.

The Harvest Call.

We are not ready to promise large ingatherings and abundant harvest. We cannot say in how far the fields we have entered and hope to enter are already white unto the harvest.

There is evidence all about us of the continuous blight of sin and worldliness and of judicial hardening of hearts following the emptying of new vessels of wrath and woe upon our modern world in the ominous destruction of global war. How near we are to the final great apostacy and the manifestation of the climactic man of sin and the god of this world, the anti-Christ, we cannot say. But we do know that, whereas the days are evil, we must redeem the time. It is still the sowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting season. The God of grace, the Lord of the harvest is still extending His day of grace to lost sinners. We may find the labors increasingly difficult in these perilous latter days, but they are never vain in the Lord.

The universal war service called for tremendous sacrifices in blood and sweat and tears. Shall we match these sacrifices with a full measure of our strength and devotion in united home missionary service? “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Pursuant the foregoing program the General Committee for Home Missions recommends to Synod:

a. That it endorse the “United Home Missionary Service” and that Synod recommend it to our churches as the Expansion Home Missionary Program of the Christian Reformed Church.

b. That Synod authorize the calling of three itinerant missionaries.
PART V
FULL-TIME SECRETARY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Considering that both the Missionary-at-large and the Secretary of the General Committee for Home Missions have an excessive work-schedule, and considering that their many duties do not allow for the needed promotion and propagation of our essential Home Mission Program as a consequence of which development of our missionary endeavors in the Home Field are hampered and retarded, the General Committee for Home Missions recommends to Synod the appointment of a full-time Secretary for Home Missions.

A. Grounds:

1. Due to the continued expansion of the Home Mission program, the amount of secretarial work attached to this office has become so extensive as to preclude the possibility of a minister's doing justice to this work, while at the same time carrying on his congregational duties.

2. The Home-Missionary-at-Large has a large amount of secretarial work which interferes with his regularly assigned duties. Among others the expansion of the "Back to God" radio program calls for a large amount of follow-up work by way of correspondence, much of which is referred to the Missionary-at-Large.

3. The scope of work of the Home-Missionary-at-Large as outlined in the Home Mission Order does not include secretarial work with which he now is overburdened. See Article 18 of the Home Mission Order, which reads as follows:
   "The task of the Missionary-at-Large shall be —
   (a) To open and prepare new fields.
   (b) To acquaint himself and the General Committee through personal investigation with the entire Home Mission territory of the Church, and to keep statistics of all the work in the several Classes.
   (c) To confer with the several Home Missionaries and Classes relative to the needs of their respective fields.
   (d) To serve as contact man between the General Committee and other Home Missionaries.
   (e) To plead the cause of Home Missions before the Church at Large.
   (f) To establish and maintain contact with the churches and Emigration Bureaus in the Netherlands in regard to those who emigrate from the Netherlands to the United States and Canada.
   (g) To serve the General Committee and its Executive Committee in an advisory capacity."

4. There is a large amount of work that ought to be done and is not now being done either by the Missionary-at-Large or the Secretary because of lack of time, especially in regularly presenting the cause of Home Missions to our Churches through the channels of our church papers.
B. Duties of the Secretary for Home Missions:
1. The Secretary for Home Missions shall labor under the supervision of the General Committee for Home Missions and its Executive Committee, of which he shall be a member ex-officio.
2. He shall act as secretary of the General Committee and its Executive Committee in keeping full and complete record of their transactions, conducting and having charge of their correspondence, and keeping files of all the letters and papers concerning the work (for which purpose he shall be provided with the necessary equipment); to arrange and bring up all such business as requires the attention of the General and Executive Committees, to keep the members of the General Committee and of the Classical Home Mission Committees informed of the actions of the Executive Committee, to prepare and submit to the General Committee and reports to Synod, and to attend the meetings of Synod for advisory services concerning mission matters.
3. He shall carry on preaching and speaking engagements in the churches in the interest of the Home Mission cause as time may permit.
4. He shall cooperate with the Missionary-at-Large in the performance of his duties as directed by the General and Executive Committees for Home Missions.

PART VI
THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES
A. GENERAL INFORMATION
1. Upon the recommendation of the Classical Home Mission Committees concerned, Grangeville was allowed continued assistance for the calling of a Pastor; Momence was granted $900 in order to call on a $2000.00 salary because of decrease in families and an increase in salary; Chatham was granted $1000.00 in order that they might call on $2000.00; Ontario, Calif. was granted $400.00 for the last half of 1946 but since conditions demanded it, this was raised to $500.00 and an additional $200.00 was allowed for 1947; Pipestone was allowed an additional $100.00 for medical expense in the Pastor's home; Bemis was allowed an additional $100.00 so that it could pay its Pastor that much more; and Crookston was allowed an additional $150.00 for the same purpose; Newton, N. J. was allowed $1000.00 in order to pay a salary of $2000.00.
2. Word was received from Glendale, California and from Mount Vernon, Washington that they would not need the Aid granted them for 1947, having reached the stage where they desire to try to be selfsupporting. We thank God with them and pass on to Synod their word of gratitude for aid received in the past.
3. All Bonuses were paid for 1946 upon the instructions of Synod.
4. Moving Expenses were granted the following churches: Bejou, Minn., $250.00; Everson, Washington, $300.00; Newton, N. J., $300.00; Chatham, Ont., $300.00; Mt. Lake, Minn., $300.00; Holland Marsh, $50.81.
5. We are happy to state that for 1948 the following churches will be self-supporting also: Hamilton, Ont., Holland Marsh, Ont., Morrison, Ill., Goshen, N. Y., Sibley, Ia., and Holland, Minn. They express their gratitude to the Church for Aid received. Thanks to God for this development too.

6. Bigelow, Minn. has lost a number of families and had to apply for Aid for 1947 and 1948. They had not been receiving help. May God soon grant them their normal strength again.

B. Recommendations for Aid in 1948

Should Synod adopt the recommendation of the special committee on a new arrangement for the F.N.C. Fund, these recommendations will fall by the way. Should Synod however, not accept those recommendations, then we recommend the following Aid for 1948:
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- Note on Questionnaire: $700.00 on $800.00.
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<td>950.00</td>
<td>950.00</td>
<td>950.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Middleburg</td>
<td>O. City</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>147.25</td>
<td>2250.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Pipestone</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1564.00</td>
<td>671.00</td>
<td>108.73</td>
<td>1600.00</td>
<td>90.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Plainfield</td>
<td>G. R. W.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>98.90</td>
<td>2100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Bozeman</td>
<td>Pacif.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>170.47</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
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<td>1000.00</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
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<td>30. Crookston</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2150.00</td>
<td>550.00</td>
<td>133.16</td>
<td>1600.00</td>
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<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>31. Granum</td>
<td>Pacif.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>124.00</td>
<td>1450.00</td>
<td>205.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>2200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Mt. Lake</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>91.80</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td>700.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Noordeloos</td>
<td>Holl.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>123.73</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Vesper</td>
<td>Wisc.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>119.97</td>
<td>1820.00</td>
<td>180.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. Ontario</td>
<td>Calif.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>233.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classis paid add. $300.00 for Salary

Large fam. in parsonage. Heavy school burden.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Classis</th>
<th>No. of Fam.</th>
<th>No. of Contr.</th>
<th>Bonus per Family</th>
<th>Other Aid</th>
<th>Aid Now</th>
<th>Aid Asked</th>
<th>Classis Rec.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>124.75</td>
<td>1800.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>37. Bigelow</td>
<td>O. City</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>111.08</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>000.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy</td>
<td>Pella</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3325.00</td>
<td>175.00</td>
<td>105.00</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Springs</td>
<td>Chi. N.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>925.00</td>
<td>650.00</td>
<td>186.00</td>
<td>1704.00</td>
<td>310.00</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>125.96</td>
<td>1600.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ackley</td>
<td>Ostfr.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
<td>1200.00</td>
<td>150.21</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgewood</td>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9100.00</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Rock Rapids</td>
<td>S. Cent.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Dorr</td>
<td>G. R. S.</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1512.00</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>147.54</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Everson</td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12000.00</td>
<td>230.00</td>
<td>183.57</td>
<td>2200.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Ogilvie</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5000.00</td>
<td>237.78</td>
<td>113.63</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Sioux Falls</td>
<td>S. Cent.</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1658.47</td>
<td>240.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>2025.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Goshen</td>
<td>Kazoo.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1050.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>151.08</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>625.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Hollandale</td>
<td>Ostfr.</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2932.50</td>
<td>1185.00</td>
<td>131.33</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Bemis</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>139.00</td>
<td>1600.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Calvin</td>
<td>Musk.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>139.05</td>
<td>1800.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Parchment</td>
<td>Kazoo.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2001.66</td>
<td>650.00</td>
<td>137.96</td>
<td>2200.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. Pine Creek</td>
<td>Holl.</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1825.00</td>
<td>640.00</td>
<td>120.25</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. Randolph II</td>
<td>Wisc.</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1902.38</td>
<td>1577.69</td>
<td>159.39</td>
<td>1850.00</td>
<td>550.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>55. Rudyard</td>
<td>Musk.</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>198.91</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lost 8 families. Granted also for 1947.

Pays $100.00 a month rent for church.

Special Drive $821.50.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Classis</th>
<th>No. of Families</th>
<th>Contr. per Family</th>
<th>Bonus by Church</th>
<th>Other Aid</th>
<th>Aid Now</th>
<th>Aid Asked</th>
<th>Classis Rec.</th>
<th>Our Rec.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56. Arcadia</td>
<td>Calif.</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9646.70</td>
<td>1425.00</td>
<td>183.00</td>
<td>2300.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57. Des Plaines</td>
<td>Chi. N.</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5834.19</td>
<td>1100.00</td>
<td>194.54</td>
<td>2400.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. Newton</td>
<td>Pella</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>6085.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>178.85</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59. Hawarden</td>
<td>O. City</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>143.02</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>350.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. Brooten</td>
<td>Minn.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0000.00</td>
<td>675.00</td>
<td>175.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61. Sultan</td>
<td>Pacif.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Since this list is computed as of February not all our needy churches were ready with the required data. Six or seven more will be presented to Synod.

C. QUOTAS FOR THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES FOR 1948

Total allowances Recommended .................................................... $41,370.00
For adjustments between Synods (Art. 5, L.H.M.O.) ........................ 2,500.00
Allowances for Moving Expenses ................................................. 2,500.00
Administrative Expenses ......................................................... 1,500.00

Total ................................................................. $47,870.00

The Quota should be set at $1.75 per family.
Pursuant the Fund for Needy Churches we request:

a. That Synod take note of the fact that since the recommendations for 1948 are all on the basis of salaries of $2000.00 or more, as a general rule no bonuses will be needed.

b. That Synod approve the grants for aid as stipulated.

c. That Synod set the per family quota for this Fund at $1.75 per family.

PART VII

THE SOLDIERS’ FUND

The interest of our people and their generosity toward the Soldiers’ Fund has been commendable. Whereas the present needs that must be met are nominal and can be met by the existing balance, we take pleasure to inform Synod that no further contributions will be required at this time. Notification to that effect has already been given to the churches through our denominational weeklies.

PART VIII

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1946

RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand Jan. 1, 1946</td>
<td>$44,874.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received for Church Extension</td>
<td>72,491.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received for the Soldiers’ Fund</td>
<td>15,460.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received for Needy Church Fund</td>
<td>65,168.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
<td><strong>$197,904.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Church Extension</td>
<td>$97,656.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Soldiers’ Work</td>
<td>18,380.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Needy Churches</td>
<td>38,994.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Paid Out</strong></td>
<td><strong>155,031.68</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1946              $42,963.07

ACCOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL FUNDS

THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

- Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1946            $ 7,536.41
- Receipts for 1946                    72,491.06

**Total**                                $80,027.47

Total Disbursements                       97,656.68

SHORTAGE                                  $17,629.21

THE SOLDIERS’ FUND

- Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1946            $ 9,055.66
- Receipts for 1946                    15,460.63

**Total**                                $24,516.29

Total Disbursements                       18,380.01

Balance on hand                           $  6,136.28

FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES

- Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1946            $28,282.76
- Receipts for 1946                    65,168.23

**Total**                                **$93,450.99**
Disbursements ........................................... 38,994.99
Balance on hand ........................................... $54,456.00
Total in Soldiers’ and Needy Church Funds .......... 60,592.28
Less Shortage on Extension Fund ....................... 17,629.21
Total cash on hand ......................................... $42,963.07

STATEMENT OF INCOME IN THE THREE FUNDS

THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND—
From Classical Treasurers .................................... $64,559.47
From all other sources ...................................... 7,931.59
Total ........................................................ $72,491.06

THE SOLDIERS’ FUND—
From Classical Treasurers .................................... $12,786.92
From all other sources ...................................... 2,673.71
Total ........................................................ 15,460.63

THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES—
From Classical Treasurers .................................... $62,272.44
From all other sources ...................................... 2,895.79
Total ........................................................ 65,168.23

Total received in 1946 .................................... $153,119.92
On hand Jan. 1, 1946 ........................................ 44,874.83
Grand Total .................................................... $197,994.75

STATEMENT OF MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>EXTENSION FUND</th>
<th>SOLDIERS’ FUND</th>
<th>NEEDY CHURCH FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$4,420.37</td>
<td>$2,558.66</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>616.30</td>
<td>616.30</td>
<td>499.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian R.R. Bond</td>
<td>499.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Bonds</td>
<td>875.00</td>
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<td>1,125.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Int. on Savings</td>
<td>245.07</td>
<td></td>
<td>545.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Treas.</td>
<td>1,075.42</td>
<td>115.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refunds</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>$7,931.59</td>
<td>$2,673.71</td>
<td>$2,895.79</td>
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</table>

TOTAL INCOME FROM ALL SOURCES ........................................ $153,119.92

SECURITIES HELD AND AMOUNTS EARNED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECURITIES</th>
<th>PAR VALUE</th>
<th>MARKET VALUE (JUNE)</th>
<th>EARNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kent Country Club</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pantlind Hotel</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Northern R.R.</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
<td></td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Electric Co.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Stock (455)</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>21,385.00</td>
<td>910.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preferred Stock (20)</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>2,230.00</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Miami R.R.</td>
<td>1,600.00</td>
<td>3,776.00</td>
<td>137.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Defence Bonds</td>
<td>80,000.00</td>
<td>80,000.00</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Savings Acct.</td>
<td>65,000.00</td>
<td>65,000.00</td>
<td>790.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Amount earned by Securities ................................ $4,022.74

— 57 —
The Canadian Northern R.R. Bond became due and was sold for $998.85.

| Total income securities | $ 5,021.59 |

**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

- Traveling and Meetings expenses: $1,353.50
- Miscellaneous Expenses: $1,109.80

**Total** $2,463.30

The extension Fund and the Fund for Needy Churches each paid $1,231.65.
(These expenses are slightly more than 1 1/2% of the total cost of our work.)

**STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS**

**THE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missionaries' Salaries</td>
<td>$39,352.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td>$ 9,122.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missionary Expenses</td>
<td>$ 6,691.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>$ 1,231.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Hour Radio, Chicago</td>
<td>$ 4,104.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis Church and House</td>
<td>$ 36,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Hospital</td>
<td>$  655.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $97,656.68

**THE SOLDIERS' FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$ 6,006.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td>$ 1,450.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$  6,472.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Calvinist</td>
<td>$  2,305.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda Service Home</td>
<td>$  2,144.98</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $18,380.01

**THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies Paid Out</td>
<td>$35,566.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>$ 1,231.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moving Expenses for Pastors</td>
<td>$ 1,066.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Churches Exchanges</td>
<td>$ 1,190.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $38,994.99

Disbursed in all three Funds $155,031.68

**STATEMENT OF AMOUNT PAID OUT TO THE MISSIONARIES**

(This includes Salary, Rent, Expenses and Bonuses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missionary Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. Baker (To Oct. 1)</td>
<td>$3,600.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. G. B. Boereftin</td>
<td>$ 3,723.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. S. G. Brondsema (Moving to Calif.)</td>
<td>$ 3,751.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. A. Dykstra (4 Months)</td>
<td>$ 1,959.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. M. Ghysels</td>
<td>$ 3,924.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Wm. Meyer (No Rent)</td>
<td>$ 2,925.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Ida Vander Weide (Jan. to June 1)</td>
<td>$ 750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Ruth E. Scholten (Aug. to Dec. 31)</td>
<td>$  644.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gelmer Bosma (Oct. 20 to Dec. 31)</td>
<td>$  90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. Petersen (Includes Expenses of the two missions he works)</td>
<td>$ 4,971.40 (No Rent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. H. Rikkers</td>
<td>$ 4,194.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. L. Trap</td>
<td>$  3,962.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft (July to Dec. 31)</td>
<td>$ 7,515.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Includes an advance given to buy a home)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Wm. Verwolf (Moving to Iowa)</td>
<td>$ 4,031.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** $46,043.99
### STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED FROM THE CLASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Extension</th>
<th>Soldiers</th>
<th>Subsidy</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$3,254.71</td>
<td>$1,167.49</td>
<td>$3,029.92</td>
<td>$7,452.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago North</td>
<td>4,863.17</td>
<td>809.78</td>
<td>3,596.31</td>
<td>9,269.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago South</td>
<td>4,689.78</td>
<td>535.27</td>
<td>3,787.53</td>
<td>9,012.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. R. East</td>
<td>4,303.85</td>
<td>437.61</td>
<td>4,960.34</td>
<td>9,701.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. R. South</td>
<td>5,947.48</td>
<td>955.94</td>
<td>6,217.55</td>
<td>13,120.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. R. West</td>
<td>2,921.83</td>
<td>219.23</td>
<td>3,314.94</td>
<td>6,456.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackensack</td>
<td>1,881.61</td>
<td>24.59</td>
<td>1,939.32</td>
<td>3,845.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>4,691.35</td>
<td>1,190.03</td>
<td>4,530.82</td>
<td>10,412.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>3,956.18</td>
<td>1,838.63</td>
<td>3,148.00</td>
<td>8,942.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>2,781.79</td>
<td>650.83</td>
<td>2,673.30</td>
<td>6,105.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>2,848.64</td>
<td>230.85</td>
<td>2,587.55</td>
<td>5,667.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>4,534.75</td>
<td>789.61</td>
<td>4,979.13</td>
<td>10,303.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange City</td>
<td>2,227.67</td>
<td>471.78</td>
<td>2,008.77</td>
<td>4,708.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostfriesland</td>
<td>1,508.39</td>
<td>222.71</td>
<td>1,636.00</td>
<td>3,367.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>2,200.97</td>
<td>409.91</td>
<td>2,178.46</td>
<td>4,789.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pella</td>
<td>3,158.56</td>
<td>388.28</td>
<td>3,337.05</td>
<td>6,883.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Center</td>
<td>3,419.15</td>
<td>655.74</td>
<td>2,929.77</td>
<td>7,004.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>2,141.78</td>
<td>171.07</td>
<td>1,707.00</td>
<td>4,019.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland</td>
<td>3,427.81</td>
<td>1,117.57</td>
<td>3,710.68</td>
<td>8,256.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS** $64,559.49 $12,786.92 $62,272.44 $139,618.83

This has been another year of blessings. The Lord has prospered His people, and they have manifested their gratitude by their gifts. May our God use it all to His glory, and for the extension of His glorious Kingdom.

Humbly submitted,

D. D. Bonnema, Treas.

### AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

**Holland, Michigan, Feb. 4, 1947.**

To General Home Missions Committee:

Esteemed Brethren:

This is to certify that I have this day audited the books of the Rev. D. D. Bonnema, Treasurer of the Executive Committee for Home Missions, for the period from January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1946, and have found them to be correct and in good order to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Humbly submitted,

(sign) H. Vander Zwaag

The General Committee requests Synodical approval of this financial report.

### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR CHURCH EXTENSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Salaries for Missionaries (includes Bonuses)</td>
<td>$45,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Allowances for Rent</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Expenses (cf. Acts 1946)</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ad. Expenses</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Opening of Fields</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Secr. of Home Missions</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Itinerant Missionaries (3)</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Funds for Buildings</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$121,500.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The General Committee requests that Synod approve this budget and that it set the quota for the Church Extension Fund for 1948 at $4.00 per family.

**PART IX**

**SYNODICAL INSTRUCTION**

The Synod of 1946 instructed the Home Missions Committee to employ Theologian F. Einfeld for a period of about six months. (Acts 1946, p. 81, Art. 107.)

This mandate has been complied with, two assignments having been given the brother at San Diego, California and Iowa Falls, Iowa respectively. Favorable reports received were transmitted to the ten Examining Classes.

**PART X**

**MATTERS FOR SYNODICAL RULING**

A. *Synodically Prescribed Collections for Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

Whereas the Synod of 1946 directed that collections be taken in our churches for the procurement of building equipment by our congregations at Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis, Minn., a difference of opinion has arisen between the respective Consistories of these congregations and the Executive Committee for Home Missions.

The Consistories view these collections received as a "gift" not to be refunded at some future date. The Executive Committee regards these collections as a "loan" to be refunded by the recipients to the Church Extension Fund, if and when able, at the appraised value of their church property.

The General Committee for Home Missions begs to inform Synod that it sustains the Executive Committee in its interpretation and it requests Synod to rule on the matter.

Correspondence in re this matter will be presented to Synod.

B. *Church Help Committee.*

Whereas the Committee for Church Help has denied the request of the Minneapolis congregation for financial aid, (Cf. Letter to Minneapolis, Oct. 21, 1946) and the Executive Committee considers this decision to be in conflict with our financial set-up as determined by Synod, (Acts of Synod, 1944, p. 45-B), the General Committee for Home Missions upon motion endorses the position taken by the Executive Committee and reference of same to Synod for disposition. (Cf. Minutes of the Executive Committee July 23, 1946, p. 133, art. 16. September 4, 1946, p. 134, art. 9. January 6, 1947, p. 147, art. 14).

May the guidance of the Spirit be granted Synod in all its deliberations and decisions unto the glory of the Lord and the advancement of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

The General Committee for Home Missions,

H. Blysttra, Secretary
REPORT NO. 9

THE RECONSIDERATION OF RULES WHICH GOVERN
THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee appointed by the Synod of 1946 (cf. Acts 1946, page 85) to consider the whole system of the payment of aid from the F.N.C. as well as the sliding scale method, with a view to simplifying the system, submits the following report:

A. Historical review of the matter.

For some years past there has been more or less dissatisfaction in various quarters of our denomination regarding the rules which governed the payment of assistance from this fund. Repeatedly objections were raised against the system which has been in vogue for a number of years regarding the payment to churches which were in need of financial assistance. Especially the sliding scale method became increasingly a matter of dispute and a bone of contention. There were those who maintained that in the homes of many of our Ministers who served these needy churches, there was need which was not sufficiently met for a well regulated and a well ordered family. In some instances the financial and material need became so acute that hardship was suffered in some of these homes.

Since the beginning of World War II and the consequent higher cost of living the objections against our present system and method of payment from the Fund For Needy Churches began to multiply. At the Synod of 1946 no less than five overtures were at hand from various Classes requesting Synod to reconsider the whole system of regulating this fund and to provide for some simple policy and method of determining the assistance to be given according to need. (Cf. Acts 1946, page 85).

Among these overtures there was one from Classis Grand Rapids East, numbered overture 22, to which the Synod requested your committee to give special consideration. That overture reads as follows:

"A. Do away with the bonus fill-in since this arrangement is an unnecessary, indirect, and complicating device which has not solved the problem of underpayment; because it circumvents the issue; and it does not increase the amount of salary paid the Ministers by the local congregations.

B. Do away with the sliding scale, since this arrangement has hindered certain churches from receiving the aid according to need, for providing support for their Ministers. What has the size of the church (which at present is the determining factor according to the sliding scale) to do with the need, and with proper support? Whether large
or small, congregations must fulfill the requirements of Article II of the Church Order, which does not set limitations, nor does it discriminate between small or large congregations in this matter. Moreover the present set-up of funds creates too many exceptions, and the rule is too rigid to allow these exceptional cases the amount of subsidy that is actually needed to pay an ample salary. Either or both the Ministers and the congregations suffer the consequences where these special allowances are not made.

C. Adopt a simple policy and method of determining and giving subsidy according to need. Let the need of the congregations be the ceiling of the financial aid that can be given; and at the same time, urge the consistories to do all they can before applying for subsidy. This change of policy will make it easier for Synod to suggest a minimum salary for the welfare of the Ministry of the churches; and Synod will thereby encourage churches to do their utmost. It will make the rule of the Church Order more specific re Article 11; and it will remind the congregations of their responsibility locally and denominationally, to make proper provisions for paying the Ministry ample salaries."

B. Synod’s declaration and mandate in regard to this matter.

The Synod of 1946 having considered the various overtures which were before it relative to this matter, declared it to be evident that there is general dissatisfaction with the present method of appropriating subsidies to churches. Consequently Synod made the following declaration and gave a subsequent mandate:

1. Synod declared that the overtures had been answered by setting the minimum income of ministers in subsidized congregations at $2000.00 for 1947.
2. "That however, since this minimum of $2000.00 income for ministers in subsidized congregations is a temporary arrangement, Synod appoint a committee of five for the study of the entire subject of subsidy in the light of these overtures, and serve the Synod of 1947 with advice in harmony especially with overture 22, by reconsidering the whole system of payment of subsidy as well as the sliding scale method with a view to simplifying the system.” (Acts of Synod 1946, page 85).

C. Your Committee’s Advice re this matter.

Your committee, having carefully studied the entire subject of the Fund For Needy Churches in the light of these overtures, advises your honorable body to revise the rules which govern the administration of this Fund, to read as follows:

I. The administration of this fund shall be the task of the General Home Missions Committee, or when necessary, of its Executive Committee.

II. At each Synod the General Home Missions Committee shall recommend a minimum salary to be paid the ministers by the respec-
tive churches receiving aid from this Fund for Needy Churches, for the year following. The final decision shall be left to Synod.

III. At each Synod the General Home Missions Committee shall recommend a minimum contribution that each family, belonging to a subsidized church shall make towards the Pastor’s salary for the following year. The final decision shall be left to Synod.

IV. Each year, after consultation between the individual churches and the Classical Home Missions Committees, the Classes shall declare a church to be in need of assistance and shall notify the General Home Missions Committee as to how much said church shall be able to pay toward the Pastor’s salary. (This amount, of course, normally must not be less than the minimum set by Synod). The Classes shall be required to furnish the needed information to establish the stipulated need. This information shall be sent to the Executive Committee for Home Missions not later than the first day of November of the year preceding the one for which the request is made.

V. After need has been established and the church receiving aid has done its utmost toward meeting the minimum salary set by Synod, the balance shall be paid from the Fund For Needy Churches.

VI. Exceptional cases (e. g. heavy debt on church property, poverty of the congregation, special conditions in the pastor’s home etc.) shall be judged on their own merits and be determined by Synod, its General Committee for Home Missions, or, when necessary, by the Executive Committee.

VII. When a pastor leaves a church which is receiving aid from the F.N.C., that church, through the Classical Home Missions Committee, shall take up the matter of continued assistance with the Executive Committee before calling another pastor.

VIII. All applications for assistance from the Fund For Needy Churches, submitted between the meetings of Synod, or any adjustments which may be called for during such periods, shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Cf. Article 4 above.

IX. Churches receiving assistance from the F.N.C. shall be expected to assist in carrying out the Denomination’s Home Mission task by giving their pastors time and assistance in evangelizing their immediate communities. The Classes, in recommending assistance for said churches, shall strongly urge the fulfillment of this task.

Humbly submitted,

Signed:

John Breuker, Chairman
Martin Bolt, Secretary
Henry Holtvluwer
Vincent Licatesi
Nicholas Frankena

— 63 —
REPORT NO. 10

REPORT OF TREASURER — GENERAL FUND
JEWISH MISSIONS

To the Synod of the
Christian Reformed Church
convening in June, 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

It is a pleasure to report to your honorable body that the General Fund Christian Reformed Jewish Missions is in good condition. From the accompanying chart of figures covering the year 1946, it will be observed that our balance at the close of the previous year, January 16, 1946, was $6,629.60. At the close of this year, January 15, 1947, we have a balance of $7,582.68. This indicates an advance of $953.08. However, we have also purchased during the past year United States Government Bonds amounting to $7,220.00 — five $1,000.00 Series G. bonds for $5,000.00 and three $1,000.00 Series F. bonds for $2,220.00. This gives us a net advance during the past year in our funds of $8,173.08. Indeed we have reasons for gratitude to our God for His blessings in supplying us with funds needed for this work. We also herewith express our thanksgiving to our people for their loyal support in our efforts to bring the Gospel to the Jews in Chicago and in Paterson.

As the funds were received they were recorded; in each case acknowledgments were sent the classical treasurers; messages of appreciation with requests for continued prayerful interest were sent to societies, Mission Unions, and individual donors. Monthly disbursements were made to the Chicago Jewish Mission and to the Paterson Hebrew Mission.

All the classes gave above their quotas. This is the first time that this has happened in the memory and observation of the present treasurer; perhaps it is the first time in our history of Jewish Mission work. Those classes which have churches in Canada gave more than the chart indicates, because we received $1,314.91 from the Rev. P. De Koekkoek, treasurer for the Canadian Churches during the past year. Including this sum from the Canadian Churches the overall average which the classes gave above the stipulated quota of $0.70 per family was $7,521.34. This makes an average quota of Ninety-six cents per family or twenty-six cents per family above the quota. This manifests a love for this work of the Church. May our Covenant God continue to prosper us in this love.

In addition to the amount referred to in the above paragraph we received $1,755.14 from mission unions, societies, and individuals. A small portion of this amount was interest on bonds. We express cordial appreciation for these gifts, and we trust these children of the Lord will continue their sanctified interest.

We humbly urge you to continue this worthy stewardship for the Lord to whom we owe all we are and have. Kindly remember that the quota...
For Jewish Missions for 1947 is SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS PER FAMILY.

On the accompanying sheet are the chart and figures of our report.

REPORT OF TREASURER — GENERAL FUND JEWISH MISSIONS

FEBRUARY 20, 1947

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classis</th>
<th>No. of Families</th>
<th>Full Amount</th>
<th>Quota</th>
<th>Rec'd</th>
<th>More or Less Rec'd per Than Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>$790.30</td>
<td>$1,289.77</td>
<td>$499.47 more</td>
<td>$1,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago North</td>
<td>1,763</td>
<td>1,234.10</td>
<td>1,564.37</td>
<td>330.27 more</td>
<td>.887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago South</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td>1,377.60</td>
<td>2,148.62</td>
<td>771.02 more</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids East</td>
<td>2,558</td>
<td>1,790.60</td>
<td>1,901.09</td>
<td>110.49 more</td>
<td>.743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids South</td>
<td>2,723</td>
<td>1,906.10</td>
<td>2,008.09</td>
<td>101.99 more</td>
<td>.736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids West</td>
<td>1,624</td>
<td>1,136.80</td>
<td>1,223.99</td>
<td>87.19 more</td>
<td>.753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackensack</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>630.70</td>
<td>784.12</td>
<td>153.42 more</td>
<td>.870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>1,556.80</td>
<td>2,052.59</td>
<td>495.79 more</td>
<td>.922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>1,569</td>
<td>1,098.30</td>
<td>1,203.32</td>
<td>105.02 more</td>
<td>.767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>1,321</td>
<td>938.70</td>
<td>1,273.24</td>
<td>334.54 more</td>
<td>.949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>1,291</td>
<td>903.70</td>
<td>1,174.80</td>
<td>271.10 more</td>
<td>.909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>2,292</td>
<td>1,604.40</td>
<td>1,977.52</td>
<td>373.12 more</td>
<td>.862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange City</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>686.70</td>
<td>1,122.62</td>
<td>435.92 more</td>
<td>1.144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostfriesland</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>472.50</td>
<td>485.05</td>
<td>12.55 more</td>
<td>.718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>1,467</td>
<td>1,026.90</td>
<td>1,410.55</td>
<td>383.65 more</td>
<td>.961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pella</td>
<td>1,483</td>
<td>1,038.10</td>
<td>1,279.15</td>
<td>241.05 more</td>
<td>.862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Center</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>985.60</td>
<td>1,427.55</td>
<td>441.95 more</td>
<td>1.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>578.20</td>
<td>593.20</td>
<td>15.00 more</td>
<td>.718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland</td>
<td>1,829</td>
<td>1,280.30</td>
<td>1,553.19</td>
<td>272.89 more</td>
<td>.849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28,052 $20,266.40 $26,472.83 $7,521.34 Avg. = .96

The quota for 1946 was $0.70 per family.

RECEIPTS —
Total receipts from classes .................................. $26,472.83
Total receipts from Canadian Churches .............................. 1,314.91
Total receipts from Societies, Miss. Unions, individuals, etc. 1,755.14
Balance on hand January 17, 1946 ................................ 6,629.60

Total of all receipts plus balance ................................ $36,172.48

DISBURSEMENTS —
To Chicago Jewish Mission .................................. $10,750.00
To Paterson Hebrew Missions ................................ 10,500.00
For U.S. Bonds ............................................... 7,220.00
($5,000.00 for Series G; $2,220.00 for Series F.)
Gratuity ..................................................... 100.00
Bond, box, stamps, etc ...................................... 19.80
Balance in bank January 16, 1947 .............................. 7,582.68

Total disbursements plus balance ................................ $36,172.48

IN RESERVE —
Johanna Woltman legacy .................................. $ 500.00
U.S. Government Bonds .................................. 24,080.00

Total reserve ............................................... $24,580.00

THE QUOTA FOR 1947 IS $0.75 PER FAMILY

"February 25, 1947.
Audited and found correct as of close of business January 15, 1947 showing a balance of $7,582.68. Period from January 16, 1946 to January 15, 1947.

Was signed: — LOUIS M. BOLT"

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Reformed Jewish Mission
OREN HOLTROP, Treasurer.

—65—
REPORT NO. 11

DELEGATE TO THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE
OF THE UNITED STATES

To the Synod of 1947,

Esteemed Brethren:

For over 58 years, the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States has been committed to a great ideal—"the preservation and extension of the first day of the week as a time set apart for rest, worship, religious education and the service of God." It has sought "to unite the citizenship of the various states of the nation and its possessions in abolishment of all unnecessary Sunday work and the securing of a weekly rest day for all." And to these goals the society is striving to be faithful under the leadership of genial Dr. Walter L. Whallon, president, with the full time services of an energetic General Secretary, Dr. Harry L. Bowlby.

The office maintained at 156 Fifth Avenue in New York City continues to be the hub of the society's many and widespread activities in local churches, ecclesiastical assemblies, state organizations, legislative halls and wherever the honor and sanctity of the Christian Sabbath may be advanced.

Every quarter the Lord's Day Leader is published with an up to the minute account of the progress of the work in opposing those who with unflagging zeal and determination are seeking to break down the divine institution given to man in the day of rest and gladness. A copy of this publication is regularly sent to all the ministers of our denomination. The Alliance has a splendid assortment of useful literature for distribution to pastors, teachers, mission workers, and for use in public places. Stickers for automobile windows are available with the inscription "Attend your church", and also smaller stickers in silver and red for envelopes, carrying the message "Save our Sabbath". We strongly urge our leaders to make use of this available material. The results of a weakened respect for the Lord's Day is all too evident in the churches of America. When the Sabbath goes, the church also goes.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Managers held on December 5, 1946, encouraging reports were rendered by the General Secretary and by the committees on literature and legislation. The financial picture has improved markedly. The Alliance, appreciating the devoted labors and special qualifications of the Reverend John J. Hiemenga, synodical delegate in previous years, re-elected him to the Board and re-entrusted him with the position as chairman of finance, for which he is so eminently fitted. As a mark of the high esteem the Lord's Day Alliance has for the
splendid support given by our denomination, both Reverend Hiemenga and your present appointee have been given a place in the executive committee which is entrusted with the supervision of the work of the Alliance during the year.

Again this year, our churches contributed generously to this worthy venture of faith. A total of $4,276.76 was received during the year 1946. A complete financial report will be sent to Synod by the office of the Lord's Day Alliance.

We are confident Synod and the church at large will want to continue sharing in this great work. We ask, honored brethren for your intercessory prayers, continued financial support and an active use of the Society's services.

It has been a distinct pleasure to serve our denomination in the Board of this society which stands as a strong bulwark against the alarming and harming spiritual indifference in our fair land.

Humbly submitted,
JOHN THOMAS HOLWERDA

RECEIPTS FROM CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES BY LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 1, 1946 — DECEMBER 31, 1946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>686.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>90.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>282.56</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>602.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>399.18</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>105.01</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>327.62</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>262.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>282.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>473.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>511.82</td>
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</table>

$4,276.76

February 25, 1947

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES
FISCAL YEAR 1945 - 1946

BALANCE IN BANK, December 1, 1945, Brought Forward ............................................. $ 4,247.63

RECEIPTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ending November 30, 1946 —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>4,753.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies</td>
<td>299.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Associations</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>364.09</td>
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</table>

$18,110.91

$22,358.54

DISBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ending November 30 —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Honorariums</td>
<td>$ 8,149.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>1,051.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>422.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Printing and Multigraphing (inc. Lord's Day Leader) ........................................ 1,594.10
Telephone and Telegraph ........................................................................... 146.59
Postage ........................................................................................................ 654.69
Office and Miscellaneous ........................................................................... 1,208.93

Balance in Bank, December 1, 1946 ........................................................... $9,129.55
Total LIVE ASSETS, November 30, 1946 .................................................. $17,373.67
Total LIABILITIES, November 30, 1946 ..................................................... * 2,990.06

*This liability has since been paid in full.

Esteemed Brethren:

We are grateful to be able to render this report concerning our attendance at the General Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands in the city of Zwolle, last year, as fraternal delegates of the Christian Reformed Church.

It is perhaps difficult for many of us to realize the exact situation in the Netherlands in these post-war years. Of course, we are acquainted with the devastations brought about by the war and especially by the cruel forces of occupation from descriptions and pictures published in our papers and periodicals. We have also read about the schism which has disrupted the Gereformeerde Kerken under the leadership of Dr. K. Schilder. However, there are also impalpable effects of the war and of the schism which personal contact alone can impart. Generally speaking it may be said that a spirit of frustration has taken hold of the people and that they are now, after the liberation of the country, groping about seeking to rehabilitate themselves in life and in the world, from which they have been isolated five years. We feel that the schism, which occurred in the Netherlands Churches during the last part of the German occupation, can be understood only when cast against the background of the mentality to which we have referred. It was, therefore, very reassuring for us to note the composure of the spirit at the Synod of Zwolle, so that this Synod was in position to give leadership and direction with a steady hand. We trust that the Synod of Zwolle has done much to allay the minds of this sorely tried people and these severely disrupted churches.

We were most cordially and fraternally received by the Synod. There were five delegates from foreign churches present — the Rev. William Fraser from the Free Church of Scotland; the Rev. John Dickson from the Original Secession Church of Scotland; the Rev. J. Oswy Davies from the Welsh Presbyterian Church; and your two delegates. The brethren having been isolated and thus prevented from making contacts with the outside for five years, rejoiced in the interest which the "buitenlandsche kerken" manifested by sending delegates to their General Synod. Without boasting or pride it may be said that your delegates experienced this appreciation of the brethren especially, since our denomination is, of course, more closely akin to the Netherlands Churches through Confessional Standards and ties of blood, and since we were able to speak their language. On August the 28th both of your delegates
addressed Synod. We have sought to convey as complete an impression of our Church and its work as was possible within the scope of these addresses. We had decided upon a division of the material to be presented before hand, so that Dr. Meeter, after having conveyed your fraternal greetings to the Synod, enlarged upon the Netherlands Relief Work carried on by our people and by our churches in these post-war years, as well as upon the work done by our people and by our Church in the line of Christian Education. Needless to say that our Christian Schools and Calvin College and Seminary were discussed in this address and also the cultural development of our people. Rev. Monsma supplied information in regard to the work done by our churches, such as Army and Navy chaplaincies and service pastors during the war, missions, both at home and abroad, and the like. The attention of Synod was also called to the importance of directing or controlling immigration to America and Canada as much as possible, to the new Compendium produced by us, to the fact that a new translation of the Conclusions of Utrecht has been made, and such other items. Prof. Dr. V. Hepp responded in name of the Synod to these addresses in a most fraternal and fitting way, and expressed the desire of still closer affiliation and cooperation between the Gereformeerde Kerken and the Christian Reformed Church.

During the days spent in the Netherlands we have attended the sessions of the Synod regularly. On several occasions our advice was solicited and at times we were asked to meet with the advisory committees of Synod to prepare resolutions for action by Synod. However, besides this official work, we have engaged in much which may perhaps best be described as “deputation” work. Opportunity was afforded us to visit various sections of the country, to confer with our people in those sections, and to occupy their pulpits. Zwolle lies very near to Kampen, where the Theologische Hoogeschool of the Gereformeerde Kerken is located. Time and again we have been entertained in the home of one of the professors there, where we met the various members of the faculty and discussed affairs pertaining to our Christian Reformed Church and the relation between the Gereformeerde Kerken and us. This same opportunity was afforded us with several of the members of the Theological Faculty of the Free University, since we were being entertained in the same hotel as they were in Zwolle. One of your delegates has upon the request of the editor of DE BAZUIN written two articles on the Christian Reformed Church in this weekly circulated in the Gereformeerde Kerken. Everywhere we discovered a keen interest in our denomination with the brethren in the Netherlands. We have not spared time nor effort to respond to this interest and to assure the brethren that this interest is mutual. We sincerely hope and pray that these contacts may produce a more permanent and vital correspondence between our churches. We must also add that we have conferred with a
committee of the Diaconate of the Gereformeerde Kerk in Rotterdam, which is the distributor in the Netherlands of the clothing sent by our Church. We have already imparted information obtained at that conference to the Deacons’ Association of Classes Hackensack and Hudson.

At the time of this writing the Acts of the Synod of Zwolle have not yet been received. Otherwise we would be able to supply you with a complete list of all the important decisions of the Synod. It is possible that by the time Synod meets the Acts of the Synod of Zwolle will be at hand. However, two important decisions of the Synod should be mentioned now. The first is Synod’s decision in regard to the work of Evangelization — city mission work and the like. The Netherlands churches have by no means neglected this field in the past. In fact organizations for this work have been in existence several years. However, Synod never interested itself in this work, as it does in the work of foreign missions, for instance. The Synod of Zwolle has appointed a committee which is to direct this work, study the principles and methods which are to control this work, and establish a so-called “centrum” (headquarters), from which this work is to be directed. The real significance of this resolution of Synod can be appreciated only when cast against the background of circumstances. Life in the Netherlands is not only terribly disturbed by the effect of the cruel occupation of the country, but many of the people are seeking refuge with such philosophies and movements as deny God and lead away from Him and His covenant. It is encouraging to see the Gereformeerde Kerken intensifying their efforts to call the people back to God and His service. This is all the more encouraging since, as is known, the Gereformeerde Kerken have suffered from inward disruption, issuing into the schism of recent years. The spirit of the Synod was calm, but also determined to proceed in fulfilling its mission in the world, discouraging circumstances notwithstanding.

In addition much time was spent by Synod to decide on issues relating to cooperation with other churches. While the Synod of Zwolle has seen fit to join the so-called “Zendingsraad,” since by means of this organization mission work can be carried on more effectively and since it does not interfere with the Reformed principles and character of mission work, Synod has declined to join what is called the “Oecumenische Raad,” since this organization is not only interdenominational, but would involve the jeopardizing of Reformed principles. However Synod evinced great interest in the Ecumenical Synod held in Grand Rapids last year, and also in closer and more vital correspondence with our Christian Reformed Church. Needless to say that your delegates were grateful to sense this attitude not only, but to hear explicit expressions from a great number of the members of Synod and others applauding such efforts. By this time Synod may have received correspondence from the Netherlands Churches in regard to this matter. We should like to urge Synod, if at all possible, to act favorably upon
proposals made. In this terribly disturbed world in which all kinds of philosophies and isms clamor for a hearing and for expansion, churches subscribing and adhering sincerely to the same Confessional Standards would be remiss in their duty, if they neglect cooperation with each other. We are our brother’s keeper, also in this respect. Facilities of communications and transportation make such cooperation possible nowadays. Moreover, we wish to assure Synod that the Netherlands Churches yearn for it. In private conversations, when discussing these matters, several leaders gave us to understand that they needed us as much as we claimed that we needed them.

Mention might also be made of the fact that the Synod of Zwolle appointed a committee to study matters pertaining to Catechetical Instruction and to recommend resolutions to the next General Synod; and this Synod also decided to establish a “Central Bureau,” which is to compile statistics and attend to other interest of the denomination.

During the weeks we spent at the Synod of Zwolle no formal action was taken in regard to the schism, which has so sadly disrupted the Gereformeerde Kerken recently. However, much preliminary work was done by advisory committees and much “cloak room” discussions carried on in regard to this matter. We are, therefore, able to state that the spirit of the Synod was far from haughty and self-complacent in regard to this serious issue. The brethren were really affected by it and showed a very commendable spirit of humility and of eagerness to heal that which was broken. That was very reassuring to your delegates and because of that too we have taken courage and trust that Christ, the King of the Church, will continue to bless the Gereformeerde Kerken.

Since our contact with the Netherlands Churches and brethren has made us keenly aware of the necessity and duty of closer cooperation as sister churches, we should like to recommend that Synod foster, within its proper scope of activity, of course, all efforts put forth towards an intensified correspondence and cooperation, and that Synod decide to send a delegation to the General Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands regularly. Though the delegation to the Synod of Zwolle has required a considerable expenditure of time, in which we could not carry on our regular work, and of money, yet after reviewing all the work done by us and the contacts renewed or established, we cannot but feel that all of this was imminently worth while.

Finally, we feel prompted to express our cordial appreciation to Synod for electing us to this important work. We pray that the Lord’s blessing may crown our efforts and that we have done something for the church universal, and in particular for the churches subscribing to the Reformed Confessional Standards.

May God graciously bless your synodical gathering abundantly!

Humbly submitted,

H. H. Meeter
N. J. Monisma
REPORT NO. 13

BACK TO GOD HOUR COMMITTEE

To Synod convening in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 10, 1947.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

WITH profound gratitude to God we herewith present the following report on our denominational broadcasting activities. Considerable progress has been made during the past year. The Lord has signally blessed our efforts to extend the kingdom of God through our radio ministry. We hope and pray that we may have entered upon a new period — after years of experimentation — and may become increasingly a blessing in the religious-world of our day.

I. Our Mandate and the Work Carried Out.

A. Our mandate, contained in Article 109 (Acts of Synod, 1946) does not differ materially from that of previous Synods. Our recommendation, “to approve the plan to appoint one man for a period of one year” was adopted by Synod. The committee was instructed by Synod (1945) to make arrangements for covering Washington, D.C. and Milwaukee, Wisconsin so that our missionaries may benefit from the Back to God Hour broadcast. Your committee was also instructed to remain within the synodically determined budget. (The Acts do not contain the usual word “Adopted”.)

B. To carry out Synod’s mandate your committee met as often as necessary.

1. OFFICERS. D. H. Walters, President; E. B. Pekelder, Secretary; H. Baker, Vice-President; Wm. Kok, Treasurer. The secretary kept our people informed by writing interesting articles for The Banner (containing items and excerpts from fan mail) and took care of all correspondence for the committee.

2. ADMINISTRATION. Your committee made considerable progress in centralizing the office work and business of our broadcast. The radio contracts were transferred to Evans Associates Inc. of Chicago, a large advertising firm with many contacts. This change has proved to be advantageous to us. Mr. Ralph Rozema, an elder in the First Englewood church, is the production manager of the firm. Since the Evans Associates Inc. placed the business matters of the Back to God Hour in his hands, your committee appointed him Business Manager. He attends to making radio contracts, obtaining more favorable time for our broadcast, advertising, and the printing of messages. This is done with no cost to us, inasmuch as Mr. Ralph Rozema is allowed time for this work in return for the placement of our contracts with the company. Thus we have one of our own men, an experienced and reliable executive,
who has profound love for our cause, in charge of the business matters of the Back to God Hour.

We engaged a competent secretary and other assistants for efficient handling of the many responses to our program.

3. SPEAKERS. During 1946 the following have served as speakers: The Revs. Henry Schultze, George Slob, Leonard Trap, Leonard Greenway, Henry Baker, Gerrit Hoeksema, John Schuring, John Schaal, and William Kok. Your committee is grateful for their willingness to serve our denomination in the radio ministry.

Since Synod acted favorably upon the recommendation that a speaker be appointed to give all his time to radio broadcasting for one year, your committee chose the Rev. Peter Eldersveld from a nomination of three. He was requested to take up this work for one year and, since the many duties would demand all his time, it was considered advisable, should he accept the appointment, that he obtain a leave of absence from his church. The appointment was accepted. No commitment beyond a year was made by the committee to the Rev. Peter Eldersveld, nor by him to the committee.

The duties of the radio minister are: preparation and deliverance of the messages, building up of the program, supervision of the responses, replying to those who seek spiritual advice, making propaganda in and outside of our circles, addressing classical gatherings and other groups in the churches, establishing contacts with “outside” groups through speaking engagements, setting up a centralized administration office, etc.

The Rev. Peter Eldersveld's request that he be relieved of serving as a member of the committee was granted. He consented to serve the committee as advisory member.

4. RESPONSES. The response to our programs is most gratifying. Thousands of letters and cards have been received from listeners in radio-land. Several requests for publication of certain messages were received and complied with. The Presbyterian Guardian asked for a full-page article on the Back to God Hour, with pictures and details. Many requests from outside groups came for information about our Church, its doctrines, and its practices. There were several invitations for our radio minister to address outside groups. The Daily Manna calendar was offered to those who requested it. 1500 copies were soon exhausted. This venture more than paid for itself and it placed a Reformed message in those homes for every day of the year.

We wish that we could give you an adequate resume of the mail received. Virtually all letters breathed a spirit of commendation and gratitude for blessings received. Together they constitute a eulogy of the efforts of our Church to bring a sound gospel to the nation.

We are presenting you a summary of mail received during the months October (when our radio minister began his labors) November, Decem
ber, and January. (In a supplementary report we shall give the number for the months of February through May).

Total pieces of mail ...................... 5763*
From our people ......................... 934
From outsiders .......................... 4629
Average per week ......................... 339**
Total contributions in the mail received from individuals ................. $11,652.72***

(For 17 weeks this is $685.45 per week)

* This number includes 1543 requests for the Daily Manna Calendar.
** The weekly average reported to Synod in 1946 for 49 weeks was 86.
*** The average weekly contribution reported to Synod of 1946 was $77.00.

The average weekly responses for 17 weeks was 14 pieces of mail per station.

5. PRINTED MESSAGES. From January 1, 1946 to October 1, 1946 we sent out 435,681 copies. From October 1, 1946 through January, 1947 — 30,524 messages were requested by individuals. 646 names were added to our weekly mailing list. Each week we are now sending out about 20,000 copies of the messages to our churches and those who request them.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS. We can report that gifts from outside listeners and our own people have increased tremendously since the first of October, despite the fact that there has been no change in our policy not to solicit funds over the air. We believe this indicates that the radio audience is pleased with the arrangement by which one speaker delivers the messages each week. The increased number of individuals who contribute witnesses to the appreciation and approval of the services of the Rev. Peter Eldersveld. We suggest that Synod take notice of the treasurer's report to observe how great this increase in gifts from individuals is.

It should be added that our policy of not soliciting gifts enjoys the admiration of radio station operators. They have great respect for our Church in refusing to indulge in "religious commercialism" and in preferring to support the broadcast itself. We call attention to the authorization Synod gave us to use additional moneys to add stations to our radio-log.

7. The congregations of Classes Hudson and Hackensack have again contributed extra sums to advertise the Back to God Hour in the church pages of daily newspapers in the East. We know that many have been led through those advertisements to tune in to our broadcast for the first time. We appreciate what all other churches are doing to support, advertise, purchase "spot announcements", and above all, their prayers. In this connection we mention that our men in Kalamazoo have organized a Laymen's Radio League to underwrite the cost of our broadcast in that city. Randolph-Waupun-Alto Men's League is considering putting

— 75 —
our program at its expense on the radio in either Fond du Lac or
Poynette, Wisconsin.

8. Re Synod's instruction to broadcast from stations in Washington,
D.C. and Milwaukee we can report that stations have been engaged in
Milwaukee and Alexandria, Va.

II. *Treasurer's Report.*

A complete report of our Treasurer, properly audited by the Wynn M.
Wagner and Co. — Certified Public Accountants — of Chicago, Illinois
will be given to Synod.

Our fiscal year runs from January 1 to January 1 of the next year.

Cash Receipts for Jan. 1, 1946 to Jan. 1, 1947 are as follows:

From classical treasurers ........................................... $68,451.23
Individuals through radio stations .............................. 11,761.26
Donations from organizations not affiliated with local
churches .................................................................. 2,421.00
Proceeds from lectures and sermons of our radio
minister ................................................................... 597.00
Borrowed on notes to purchase parsonage ....................... 12,000.00
Miscellaneous ................................................................ 7.07

$95,237.56

Cash Disbursements for:

Broadcasting stations, recordings, speakers, radio
minister, printing, advertising ......................................... $94,299.48

Cash balance Jan. 1, 1947 ................................................ $ 9,973.85

III. *Matters Which Require Synodical Action.*

A. Your committee seeks approval of adding the several stations not
listed in the radio-log last year.

We shall be happy to supply congregations with spot announcements
linking up the Back to God Hour with the local churches, time of services,
etc. This is to be strongly recommended as it gives a local coloring to
our denominational broadcasting activities.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS. 1. That Synod express a word of appreci­
cation to those ministers who have given messages during the past year
and to all those who have contributed to the musical part of the program,
the announcer, Gerald Postma, and the secretarial staff, including our
efficient Business Manager, Ralph Rozema.

2. That Synod continue the Back to God Hour on a fifty-two week
basis.

3. That Synod at this time appoint one man as our radio minister.
(If Synod desires, the committee will suggest a nomination.)

GROUNDs. a. On more than one occasion Synod has instructed us
to work in that direction. From the inception of our radio ministry this
has been the ideal set forth by your committee.
b. Synod of last year approved the plan of your committee to appoint one man for the period of one year.

c. Our experience with President Henry Schultze and with our present radio minister proved the wisdom of the plan.

4. That Synod decide to set the quota at three dollars ($3.00) per family for the year 1948.

REASONS. a. Our proposed budget for 1948 calls for an outlay of some $100,000.00.

b. In order to satisfy the demands of our people. We believe they are entitled to hear our weekly broadcast, if stations in their localities can be obtained.

c. We have just begun our radio ministry. In order to reach out into our larger cities and call the unchurched in America back to God we must broaden out and obtain more stations.

d. The excellent response to our broadcast fully justifies a higher quota. Our denomination is becoming known not only in America, (we have heard from 37 States) but also in Canada, Hawaii, India, North Africa, and Alaska.

e. The setting up of a centralized office will require more money.

f. The printing and distributing of some 20,000 messages each week require a large quota.

5. That Synod appoint a committee to carry out its mandates.

We commend Synod to our God and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as it discusses this great field of missionary labor. May all the members become increasingly radio-conscious. We are facing a great challenge.

Humbly submitted,

DICK H. WALTERS, President
EDWARD B. PEKELDER, Secretary
WILLIAM KOK, Treasurer
HENRY BAKER

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1948

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recording</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio minister (salary, home, travel)</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee meetings</td>
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<td>Printing and supplies</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<td>Clerical work</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Setting up of office, clerks</td>
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Estimated income:

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>From radio stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Churches (if quota is $3.00)</td>
<td>90,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$100,000.00</strong></td>
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REPORT NO. 14

THE UNITED YOUTH COMMITTEE

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The standing committee of the Christian Reformed Synod, called the United Youth Committee, has continued its meetings to discuss the problems that face the youth of the Christian Reformed Church. The committee is still engaged in the study of these problems and in discussion of the need for implementing the ideas with specific programs of action. As long as the two Federations are continuing to function with increasing effectiveness, the committee feels free to spend its time in further investigation of the programs in operation in other denominations and by other youth organizations. The committee is convinced that it will be able to make improvements in our program but that it should also be on its guard against mere imitation of popular programs that are making temporary appeals that may be but short-lived.

The committee is recommending to the "Young Calvinist" Publication Committee that it give space for guidance of the boys and girls clubs that are being organized in some of the larger centers of our denomination.

The committee is also concerned about the possibility of needless duplication in purposes now that a number of periodicals are ministering to the needs of our young people, particularly the young people's page in "The Banner" and "The Christian Home and School" magazine. In the interest of economy and efficiency, the "Young Calvinist" should become the young people's paper in every home in our denomination.

The federation of young men's societies has made a significant forward step this year by engaging Mr. Richard Postma as full-time federation director. He has already had many pleasant contacts with ministers and congregations throughout the mid-west and the far west. He solicits the cooperation of every minister in making his visits throughout the denomination of greatest value to the youth of our church. Wherever he can be of service, he will gladly try to arrange for meetings with leaders of our church and with the young men of society age.

"The Young Calvinist" continues to serve the interest of many societies with its variety of Bible outlines and articles. We are thankful that our religious leaders are willing to give their time and talent for this important work in directing the study of groups in every church in
our denomination. "The Young Calvinist" needs the support of every minister and every consistory in the denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

THE UNITED YOUTH COMMITTEE

REV. C. WITT, Chairman
MRS. E. J. HOLTROP
MISS JOHANNA TIMMER
MISS DENA KUIPER
MR. RICHARD POSTMA
MR. CLARENCE DE GRAAF, Secretary
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

ESTIMATED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:

The Immigration Committee for Canada herewith respectfully submits its first report to your honorable body.

MEMBERSHIP AND MANDATE

The constituent membership of the Committee as appointed by Synod was originally as follows: Rev. Peter Hoekstra, Mr. L. Kool, Mr. Jacob Uitvlugt, Rev. A. Disselkoen, Mr. J. J. Wyenberg, Mr. Ben De Jong and Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft.

When, however, the Committee was first called together to meet in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the two representatives from the Ontario district, the brethren Ben De Jong and Jacob Uitvlugt, were not prepared to respond. This situation was remedied by action of the Synodical Committee which appointed the two key men for immigration work in Ontario, J. Vellinga and J. Vander Vliet, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Ontario Council for Immigration.

Your Committee would respectfully call the attention of Synod to the advisability in the future of making appointees to its membership from the three representative districts of our Canadian churches in consultation with the local district immigration organizations of our Canadian churches, rather than from the Classes to which these churches belong. These local organizations are working in conjunction with our Synodical Immigration Committee and are in immediate touch with the prospects and needs of immigrants in their districts and also with those best fitted to serve on the Synodical Immigration Committee.

The Alberta district has at present only one representative on our Committee, while Winnipeg, our lone congregation in Manitoba, has two. We would recommend that another member be added to our Committee from the Alberta district.

The mandate of your Committee is given under Article 62, page 23, of the Acts of Synod, 1946:

"The Home Missions Advisory Committee continues its report quoting from the report on the matter of Immigration. (Supplement 27, VII, I, J, K.) (Cf. Art 57.)

A. The rumors are persistent that the doors of immigration in Canada will be opened soon to emigrants from the Netherlands. The Canadian churches are alert to the need of guiding prospective emigrants in settling in that spacious country. Tentative plans have been made by
those churches to organize a Bureau of Immigration which shall serve to
give information and guidance to Netherlands' emigrants. Although we
are appreciative of this interest shown by our Canadian churches, it is
the opinion of your Committee that a Synodically appointed committee
on immigration, whose responsibility will be to Synod, should be ap­
pointed to function as a bureau of information and guidance to all those
who contemplate emigrating to Canada.

Your Committee, therefore, proposes that Synod appoint informed
members of our churches in Canada who, with the Missionary-at-large,
shall constitute the Committee on Immigration. The function of this
committee shall be to give information and guidance to emigrants from
the Netherlands.

B. In connection with the above your committee recommends:

1. That a committee of six be appointed in addition to the Mission­
ary-at-large which shall work under the supervision of the General Com­
mittee for Home Missions.

Adopted.

2. That the six members shall be appointed from members of the
Canadian churches, two from each of the following Classes: Grand
Rapids, East, Minnesota and Pacific.

Adopted.

3. That the appointments be referred to the Committee on appoint­
ments. (Cf. Art. 157, No. 35.)

Adopted.

4. That the General Committee for Home Missions be empowered to
make such provisions as need may require.

Adopted.

5. That Synod address a communication to the Reformed Churches
in the Netherlands urging them:

a. to warn their members against emigrating to an unknown country
without gaining such information as will prevent their settling in
places remote from established Christian Reformed Churches, and

b. to advise their members to communicate with the Synodically ap­
pointed committee on immigration, and

c. to give such publicity in the several church periodicals as this matter,
which is of vital concern to our Reformed constituency in the Nether­
lands, warrants.

Grounds:

1. There is expectation that a considerable number of our Reformed
people will migrate to Canada when the doors of immigration are
opened, and

2. There is danger that the emigrants will be uninformed with respect
to the existence and location of our churches and thus be scattered,
3. Civil and railroad officials can hardly be expected to be interested in the spiritual welfare of those who are akin to us in the Faith. Adopted.

6. That Synod request the Reformed churches in the Netherlands to advise prospective emigrants to communicate with the Missionary-at-large with respect to the location of our churches in the U.S.A. and with Dr. M. J. Wyngaarden, secretary of the South American Committee, relative to the location of our Reformed Churches in South America. Adopted."

In the interpretation of its mandate your Committee at first considered itself under the immediate supervision of the Executive Committee for Home Missions. Since, however, our Committee was directly appointed and mandated by Synod as a distinct Synodical Committee charged to welcome, guide and assist prospective immigrants, the Executive Committee has taken the position that we are directly responsible to Synod. In so far as the incoming immigrants of our common faith will need the aid of home missionaries, the Executive Committee will collaborate with our Committee to the fullest extent.

We are, therefore, keeping the Executive Committee informed and have submitted an abridged report to the General Committee for Home Missions on the prospects and progress of our immigration work and shall continue to do so in the future. We shall also continue in close cooperation with the local organizations which were already engaged in preliminary work and are now readying for assisting the immigrants when and as they arrive in their midst.

**ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS**

Two meetings were held by the Committee, the first in September in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the second in December in Edmonton, Alberta. In Winnipeg organization took place as follows: Rev. Peter Hoekstra, Chairman; Mr. John Vander Vliet, Secretary; Mr. J. J. Wyenberg, Treasurer. Mr. Abraham Waarnaar, the chairman of the Christelijke Emigratie Centrale of the Netherlands was also present at this organization and orientation meeting and gave valuable information and advice. He offered the full facilities of their organization which has been guiding and assisting prospective emigrants in Holland for more than twenty years. Mr. T. Cnossen, author of "Dwars door Canada" is their secretary, and membership consists only of Protestant Christians, predominantly those of the Reformed faith.

Our Committee has decided to work in close cooperation with the Christelijke Emigratie Centrale as our connecting agency in the Netherlands. They are issuing a Bulletin ("Mededeelings Blad") from time to time which gives us an excellent medium for informing and guiding their membership, all of whom are expecting to emigrate. They should have this information before leaving the homeland as much as possible.
Thousands of individuals and families have become members of the Centrale and are eagerly looking forward to the lifting of restrictions and the setting in of another tide of emigration from overcrowded and devastated Europe into Canada and the United States, and into other countries as well.

It was further decided at the meeting in Winnipeg to prepare a Booklet of welcome and information to be distributed among the prospective Emigrants by the C.E.C. at nominal cost. This booklet to contain two parts, the one extending the welcoming hand of the Christian Reformed Church across the sea and presenting the spiritual motivation and objectives of Christian immigration, and the other describing and picturing our various churches in Canada and the possibilities and opportunities which they offer to our brethren and sisters desiring to make Canada their new home.

It was also decided to seek and maintain contacts with the government immigration officials and with the railroad officials. Passes were already obtained by some of our committee members. Local publicity was given to the Committee and its work by the Press.

We faced the need of funds to carry out our purpose. We appealed to the Executive Committee for Home Missions and were referred to the Synodical Treasurer, Mr. Tony Noordewier, who in turn referred us to the Stated Clerk of Synod. With his approval our meeting expenses have been paid, with the understanding, however, that the Synodical treasury is to be reimbursed when Synod makes provision for the financial needs of its Immigration Committee for Canada.

At the second meeting held in Edmonton misunderstandings and misgivings on the part of the local organizations were ironed out and cleared away. Harmony and a basis of cooperation was established. Data on fields and prospects was considered and the latest rulings of the government respecting immigration.

Foreseeing the need of a field worker in each of the main sections in which our people and churches are established, facing the cost of our welcoming and informative booklet and expenditures incidental to meetings of the Committee, it was decided to present the request to Synod that an Immigration Fund be established, similar to that of the Emergency Fund and of the Soldiers’ Fund which so admirably served their purposes, and that this Fund be recommended for an annual offering by all our churches. Our Canadian churches and people are alerted to respond and will do the actual work of welcoming their brethren and sisters coming into a strange land. But these small sized churches cannot finance this extensive and enlarging work alone. We sincerely hope that Synod will act favorably upon this request. The General Committee for Home Missions at its meeting of February 20 gave your Committee a loan for the publication of the Booklet and for other necessary expenses in connection with field work and for contacting officials. This loan is
to be repaid from the proper fund as authorized by Synod and provided by our churches in due time.

STATUS AND PROSPECT OF IMMIGRATION IN CANADA

The two primary factors in the whole immigration situation today are, on the one hand, the swelling tide of masses of nationals in every European country, pressing and clamoring for permission and opportunity to emigrate into more favorable countries; and on the other hand, the restraints and restrictions which governments have imposed in order to regulate and to control both emigration from, and immigration to, their own countries, to their own nation's advantage as a whole as well as to the welfare of those desiring to emigrate.

While the majority of emigrants, if free to choose, would prefer the United States, Canada is for many second choice. Our Dutch people are considered thrifty and dependable, willing to work and to become a stable and productive element in the future citizenry of Canada. We are convinced that those who bow before the Word of God and have His Spirit in their hearts will make the best citizens of any nation on earth. In aiding those of our common faith and ancestry, we are at the same time benefiting the country in which they settle.

The policy of the Canadian government in opening its doors to European immigrants is that of selective immigration. In practice this tends to become discriminatory. Certain classes — notably war-brides, those heavily sponsored by near relatives — have priority and can already come in. The United States is admitting these priority classes also. In Canada preferred status has been given to farm laborers, stock raisers and miners, while skilled labor and professional classes are excluded for fear of competition in fields where oversupply and unemployment is foreseen.

Another factor entering in to hinder immigration is the present policy of the Dutch government of impounding all the financial assets of the emigrants and permitting them only a minimum amount for passage and travel expenses upon their arrival. This makes them practically penniless, although in the Netherlands they may have been well-to-do. Negotiations are in process between the governmental departments to arrange for credits to be established with a Holland-Canadian Mortgage and Loan Bank, with headquarters in The Hague and in Winnipeg, from which Dutch immigrants may draw from their funds withheld in the Netherlands.

Our Committee is maintaining contacts with the officials, both of the Canadian government and of the railroads, and have been assured that our Holland immigrants are welcomed as among the desirable type of future Canadian citizens.

The Canadian officials recognize our Committee as the responsible agency for aiding Dutch immigrants in Canada. We have accepted this responsibility upon condition that the expenses involved in aiding those
of other faiths shall be met by the government or cooperating Canadian organizations interested in immigration.

About the middle of February a new development called for speedy action by your Committee. Farm Bureaus and Fruit Grower Associations foresaw an acute shortage of field and orchard laborers this season since thousands of Prisoners of War employed in various Provinces have been returned to their own countries. They pressed the government for immediate removal of restrictions upon immigration in the above categories. The necessary governmental action was taken and now steps are under way to expedite the coming of this first contingent of immigrants in time for the spring work. Our local organizations are alerted to this challenge which advances their task, and the work of your Committee as well, from the initial planning stage to that of action. By the time Synod meets we expect that the first group, or groups, of our Dutch immigrants will already have arrived in their new fatherland.

We have written to the proper Committee in the Netherlands of the Synode der Gereformeerde Kerken requesting them to advise their members to have their destination decided beforehand and to have their membership papers sent directly to our nearest church in Canada when they become emigrants. The Christelijke Emigratie Centrale is stressing this matter also to prevent scattering and eventual drifting away and loss to our churches and to their own souls.

In studying and appraising the possibilities of directing prospective immigrants of the common faith to localities where we have established churches or mission stations, we find that some of our Canadian churches are so situated that in spite of their eagerness to receive increase and couraging fact that there is no room for immigrants in their community strengthening through an influx of immigrants, they are facing the disat present.

To offset this situation, there are a number of virgin locations which offer opportunities for group settlements. These require development, probably with government aid, or as corporation projects.

This would be a challenge to our home mission work. There are groups of families who would prefer to come as a unit and remain united in one locality in the manner that a century ago under leadership of Van Raalte and Scholte colonies of Dutch immigrants settled Holland along the shores of Black River, and Pella, in the prairies of Iowa. These groups will need our assistance to become self-sustaining churches. In most cases the immigrants will have to separate and scatter into smaller settlements, if they cannot be absorbed by our present congregations. We shall try to direct them as much as is possible and feasible to our own churches already established in Canada. These are in need of strengthening and can extend the fraternal and helping hand to those of the household of faith coming as strangers into a strange land. In another year or two, we may need one itinerant missionary.
and two or three home missionaries in Canada, when once the tide of immigration has set in and reaches its full strength.

The churches of Canada are fully alive and alerted to the prospects of immigration. They have formed organizations to plan and to prepare for welcoming and assisting arrivals in their midst when and as needed. Our Committee is working in closest conjunction with these local organizations and we are seeking harmoniously to promote the spiritual interests and total wellbeing of our fellow believers who will deeply need and highly appreciate the warm heart and the helping hand of our Christian Reformed Churches.

Respectfully submitted,
The Immigration Committee for Canada.

John M. Vande Kieft, M-a-L
Peter Hoekstra, Pres.
J. Van der Vliet, Sec'y
J. J. Wyenberg, Treas.
A. Disselkoen
L. Kool
J. Vellinga
REPORT NO. 16

COMMITTEE ON ECUMENICITY AND INTERCHURCH CORRESPONDENCE

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church,
Required to convene June 11, 1947,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Esteemed Brethren and Fathers:

Our committee functions under a two-fold mandate: (1) matters pertaining to an ecumenical synod, and (2) matters pertaining to inter-church correspondence.

I. MATTERS PERTAINING TO A REFORMED ECUMENICAL SYNOD

We are grateful to God to report to this Synod that a Reformed Ecumenical Synod is an accomplished fact. By God's grace the new ecclesiastical instrument has come into being. Ours was the mandate to make the necessary preparations for an ecumenical synod. From now on ecumenical synods must proceed on their own momentum and must prove their effectiveness in this chaotic world.

The delegates to the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod will submit a report of the things accomplished and recommendations our Synod must act upon. All that we ask of Synod at this time is that Synod declare that we have fulfilled our mandate and are now consequently discharged from further responsibilities relevant to an ecumenical synod.

Your committee wishes to inform Synod that it has taken the liberty to print 2,000 instead of 1,500 copies of the Acts of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod. The difference in cost, the request of the delegates, and the possibility that not a few would like to have a copy of what may turn out to be an historical document prompted us to make this change. If the surplus 500 are sold at 50 cents a copy then there will be no additional expense to the church.

II. MATTERS PERTAINING TO INTERCHURCH CORRESPONDENCE

A. Representative to the O. P. A. Church

Acts of Synod, 1946, Art. 40, p. 14, informs us that Synod declares itself "in favor of sending" a representative to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. This article then adds: "and refers the matter to the Committee on Ecumenicity and Correspondence with other Churches". The same Acts informs us (Art. 157, No. 32, p. 111) that the Rev. E. B. Pekelder was appointed to represent our church.

There was very little that our committee could do about the entire matter since it would not be proper for it to suggest a declination of said appointment especially since it had received such wide publicity.
We beg leave to inform Synod that our committee considers the appointment of a representative to any church no matter how close we are theologically very unfortunate at this time and ill-advised. We regret this act of Synod for two reasons: (1) The Synod of 1946 failed to give heed to a decision of a former synod. It decided something contrary to a former synod without rescinding what the former synod had adopted. (2) The decision we have in mind is that Synod would not appoint any representative or resume church correspondence until it had disposed of the broader question of the basis and mode of procedure for interchurch correspondence. This act of the Synod of 1946 was premature and prejudicial to the study now being made by your committee (cf. Acts of 1944, Art. 123, C. 3, p. 85).

B. Mode of Procedure in Seeking Correspondence with other Churches.

Your committee has always been confronted with the great difficulty of assuring ourselves of the Reformed character of the churches to be invited. There is of course no difficulty from a purely official point of view. We can read their creeds and their decisions. The problem becomes delicate and complicated the moment we ask the question whether their ecclesiastical life in general actually corresponds with their theory. It should be borne in mind that the objective of church correspondence should be mutual improvement. It is to be feared that most of the suggestions for improvement would have to concern themselves primarily with matters on which there is no official action. How to receive the proper information? We cannot make a search. We cannot be guided by rumors nor what may prove to be only a local situation.

At the same time we feel it incumbent upon us to be a living witness of the truth and to help one another as a church of Jesus Christ.

Your committee recommends Synod to adopt the following procedure. Synod address a letter embodying the principles set forth in the Acts of Synod of 1944 (pp. 330-367) to the churches to be invited to begin or to resume interchurch correspondence. The acceptance of such an invitation will imply church correspondence according to definite principles.

The letter your committee will propose to Synod will be inserted under the last sub-heading of this report: “Recommendations to Synod”.

C. Churches to be Invited

Your committee has followed the suggestions of the advisory committee of the Synod of 1940 (cf. Art. 65, Acts of Synod of 1940, pp. 64-ff).

The following churches are recommended: Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church N.A; Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod; Associate Presbyterian Church; Free Magyar Reformed Church in America; The Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands; the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa (Die Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk).
It will be noted that no mention is made of either the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands or of the Reformed Church of South Africa. The reason is obvious. Interchurch correspondence has never ceased with these churches. Correspondence is simply taken for granted.

In connection with the Reformed Church of South Africa your committee endorses heartily the suggestion of the advisory committee of the Synod of 1940 to send a delegate to the Synod of said church scheduled to convene if we are correctly informed in January, 1949. This will also gladden the hearts of our Reformed brethren there. Your committee recommends Synod to adopt this advice and to appoint a representative to this Synod. 1949 may seem a long way off, but the difficulties of obtaining passage makes it imperative that our delegate make arrangements at once.

Of necessity we must make special observations regarding some of the other churches on the proposed list of 1940. Regarding the Reformed Church of America and the United Presbyterian Churches we must recommend according to the information as of March 15, 1947. What this summer will bring forth no one can predict.

Regarding the Reformed Church of America your committee took cognizance of the fact that in the past attempts at true church correspondence proved fruitless (cf. Acts of 1902, Art. 2). This does not prevent us from sending this church another invitation to correspond with us on a sound basis. This invitation may have a wholesome appeal to those who desire to be true to the Reformed Faith. We therefore also recommend our Synod to invite the R.C.A.

We recommend our Synod to send an invitation to the United Presbyterian Church attaching to the letter a note reminding the United Presbyterian Church of past correspondence with this church in order that our invitation may be intelligible to them.

The Synod of 1940 mandated our committee to take under advisement two overtures relevant to our relationship to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The following is the proper setting for these overtures. The occasion is the "Rochester Case" which raised the problem of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church's conception of discipline. Besides this, two other matters enter into the picture: 1. Membership within that church of members of secret oathbound organizations; and 2. the Presbyterian tradition of requiring only the statement of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ for membership. Over against this background the following question becomes very pertinent: May we consider the Orthodox Presbyterian Church a sister church? The rank of a sister church is closer than that of a corresponding church. In fact it must always be understood that correspondence with a church does not elevate that church to the rank of a sister church. The implication of a sister church is that we freely exchange pulpits and accept each other's transfers of membership without interviews.

— 89 —
Your committee does not feel free to recommend the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as a sister church as yet but gladly recommends: (1) Synod invite the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to correspond with us as set forth in the letter addressed to that church; (2) and that Synod attach to this letter the request that the Orthodox Presbyterian Church remove if at all possible the obstacle between us known as the Rochester case by giving us the assurance that such practices as involved in said case will be avoided in the future. This will be conducive to closer fellowship.

Another delicate matter is the inviting of the Protestant Reformed Church. We do feel a close affinity with this church. To our regret we do not come with a recommendation to invite this church at this time. This negative recommendation can best be understood in the light of what has been transacted between our churches in the immediate past. Art. 161 of the Acts of 1943 sets forth on the part of the Protestant Reformed Church this condition of fellowship: (1) We recant our errors of 1924, and (2) we “repent from this evil way. . . .” Moreover it is stated that we in not heeding this request have decided “to continue in their heresies adopted in the infamous ‘Three Points of 1924’.” Since we failed to “repent” this church states “that any efforts on our part to heal the breach at this time should be vain and futile” (p. 97, Acts of Synod, 1943).

Your committee feels that such an official declaration, condition, and attitude creates an insurmountable barrier which makes church correspondence futile and unpropitious at this time.

Finally your committee wishes to inform Synod that there may be other churches with whom we can enter into correspondence. Perhaps the names of these churches can later on be included in a brief supplementary report.

III. Recommendations to Synod

A. Synod declare that its committee on Ecumenicity has fulfilled its mandate pertinent to the calling of an ecumenical synod and now discharges it in matters pertaining to an ecumenical synod.

B. Synod approve of the publishing of 2,000 copies of the Acts of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod instead of 1,500.

C. Regarding the matter your committee reluctantly calls Synod’s attention to, 1. the appointment of a delegate to the Orthodox Presbyterian Assembly by the Synod of 1946, your committee memorializes Synod that (1) a previous Synod has decided otherwise and that the Synod of 1946 ignored that decision nor did it rescind it, and (2) that this appointment was prejudicial to our inquiries. Your committee recommends this Synod to receive this as information.

D. Your committee recommends Synod to adopt the proposed method of procedure in resuming the practice of church correspondence. Synod
send an invitation to the churches to be invited incorporating the prin-
ciples of church correspondence adopted in 1944.

E. Synod adopt the following letter as its official invitation to the
churches to be proposed:

Grand Rapids, Michigan,
Date ....................

Meeting at ............

Dear Fathers and Brethren:

Mindful of the blessed privilege and bounden duty of brethren in
Christ to fellowship with one another in the Lord, and of the correspond-
ing obligation to be one another's keeper on the way to the better, that
is, the heavenly country, the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church
of America hereby addresses itself to your honorable body with the
purpose of proposing to you, that we enter upon (or, resume) fraternal
ecclesiastical relations and in pursuance thereof exercise the sacred func-
tions of spiritual fellowship with, and pastoral care over, one another
in the Lord according to His Word.

In God's kind providence both you and we belong to the Reformed,
or Presbyterian family of churches. A spiritual tie binds us, indeed to
all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. But doctrinally and ecclesiastically
you and we are close relatives. Our relations, then, should be correspond-
ingly close in practical effect.

These considerations constrain us to seek ecclesiastical correspondence
with you in the Lord. Permit us to say that in our opinion our
ecclesiastical fellowship, as being grounded in Christian love, should
be exercised particularly in the direction of helping each other in re-
main ing true, alike in profession and practice, to the glorious Reformed
faith which we hold in common; and in giving heed to each other "that
we may live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world,
denying ungodliness and worldly lusts" by the grace of God.

The correspondence with you in the Lord which we desiderate for
the reasons specified above and now would propose, we would construe
in the following specific terms:

1. The appointment of delegates to each other's supreme judicatories
as a token of mutual friendship and interest in the Lord.

2. Keeping each other duly informed of our gesta ecclesiastica,
notably through the exchange of the Acts of our General Synods
(or Assemblies).

3. Bringing to each other's attention our spiritual and ecclesiastical
problems together with our attempts at their scriptural solution;
and offering each help upon request therefor.

4. Warning each other in respect of spiritual dangers that arise and
spread and imperil the Church of Christ.

— 91 —
5. Correcting each other in love in the event of unfaithfulness whether by commission or remission on the score of profession and/or practice of the faith once delivered to the saints.

6. Consulting each other regarding the eventual revision of our respective ecclesiastical standards.

Trusting you will give the proposed ecclesiastical correspondence your earnest and prayerful consideration from the selfsame desire for fellowship and cooperation which motivates us, and hoping indeed you will be constrained by the love of Christ to enter upon correspondence hereinbefore delineated, we are

Yours in our common Redeemer and King,
The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church meeting at Grand Rapids

F. Synod invite the following churches: Reformed Church of America; The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, N.A.; Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod; Associate Presbyterian Church; The Free Magyar Reformed Church in America; The Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands; the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa (Die Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk).

G. Synod invite the United Presbyterian Church attaching to the letter a reminder of correspondence with said church in the past.

H. Synod invite the Orthodox Presbyterian church to seek ecclesiastical correspondence with our church and also to request said church as far as possible to remove the barrier known as the Rochester case by assuring us that such practices as involved in this case will not recur.

I. Synod appoint a delegate to the Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa during its present sessions to attend the Synod of that church to be held in January, 1949.

Wishing you the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all your deliberations,
The Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Correspondence,

L. BERKHOF
R. J. DANHOF
J. T. HOOGSTRA
D. H. KROMMINGA
I. VAN DELLEN
S. VOLBEDA
REPORT NO. 17

THE SYNODICAL TRACT COMMITTEE

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The Synodical Tract Committee (Acts 1945, p. 59, C. 1) in developing the initial stage of its endeavor and proceeding according to its conceived mandate as stated in its report to Synod (Supplement 13, p. 209, Acts 1946) has the following to report for your consideration and approval:

I Your committee, sensing the immediate need of small tracts for the “DOWN-AND-OUT” type of mission subject, has centered its efforts on the publication of this type of tract for the present, leaving those for the MORE INTELLECTUAL TYPE OF MISSION SUBJECT and for the HOME CHURCH for later consideration.

II In seeking to expedite the publication of these small 4 page, 3” x 6” tracts, the committee has:

A Invited several of our ministers to submit sample tract manuscripts of not more than 400 words, on topics taken from the “DOWN-AND-OUT” rubric. (See list of topics in Acts of 1946, p. 211) Several manuscripts have been received, some have been approved and are now in the process of publication, while others still remain for the perusal of the committee.

B Solicited talent through our church papers that might produce artistic tract covers in color. The response was encouraging and already the committee has accepted a few tract covers and is continuing the work in this direction.

III The following tracts have been approved by your committee and are now in the process of being published:

A For the MORE INTELLECTUAL TYPE OF MISSION SUBJECT:

1) The Inspiration of the Bible — Dr. L. Greenway.
2) Building Sound Homes — Dr. L. Greenway
3) The Hammer Breaks — The Anvil Stands — Dr. L. Greenway
4) John Calvin — Rev. J. Kromminga

B For the “DOWN-AND-OUT” TYPE OF MISSION SUBJECT.

1) Can You Tell Time? — Rev. N. De Vries
2) “This Is My Father’s World” — Rev. F. M. Huisenga
3) Why I Go to Church — Rev. L. Veltkamp
4) “Hypocrites in the Church” — Rev. L. Veltkamp
5) “How to Pray” — Rev. R. Veenstra
IV The following information pertaining mainly to the mechanics of tract publication will undoubtedly be of interest to the Synod.

A Your committee has adopted the following title which will be used in its correspondence: SYNODICAL TRACT COMMITTEE, Christian Reformed Church.

B The name of the tract committee shall appear at the bottom of all tracts published, together with the address of the Christian Reformed Publishing House, 47 Jefferson Ave., S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.

C The Publication Committee, upon our request, has informed your committee that they will take care of the printing of our tracts.

D Your committee has also been informed that the Christian Reformed Publishing House can conveniently take care of the distribution of our tracts.

E In case our own publishing house is unable, due to the press of work, to print the tracts when needed, our committee may place its work with outside printing establishments to further expedite the publication of tracts.

F Your committee has decided to print a minimum of 5000 copies of all tracts.

V Mr. P. B. Petersen, 946 Virginia, S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich., has been appointed the treasurer of the Synodical Tract Committee.

A His report as of February 20, 1947 is as follows:

RECEIPTS —

From the Executive Committee for Home Missions (Acts 1946, p. 86 VII, C) .................. $5,000.00
Offerings from the churches .................. 349.68

$5,349.68

DISBURSEMENTS

2.85

Balance ......... $5,346.83

NOTE: The Synodical Tract Committee is continuing its work up to the meeting of Synod and will present a supplementary report which will include additional details on the advance of the work and recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. Hoogstra, Pres. 
N. L. Veltman, Sec'y
H. Baker
T. Afman

P. B. Petersen
H. J. Kuiper
J. C. De Korne
L. Berkhof

N. L. Veltman, Sec'y

— 94 —
REPORT NO. 18

NETHERLANDS REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church:

Dear Brethren:

In accordance with Synod's decision of 1946, we discontinued the work of sending food and clothing to the Netherlands and we are now receiving money for the rebuilding of churches, schools, etc. The financial report below will still show some payments for clothing, etc., but these were for goods ordered before the Synod of 1946 met. No more goods were ordered after Synod's decision that the work must be done by the deacons. Inasmuch as we received considerable money directly after the last Synod which was no doubt intended by the donors to be used for food and clothing, we sent this money to the Deacons' Committee of Classes Hackensack and Hudson, which committee offered to take over the work of sending food and clothing to the Reformed people of the Netherlands now. More than $18,000 was sent to this committee.

Since the last Synod we have received a request from the Vrije Universiteit to help them replace laboratory equipment which had been taken away by the Germans. Much valuable science and laboratory equipment was lost or stolen during the War. The Synodical Committee approved of the plan that we help in this work also. Up to this time we have purchased about $1,500.00 worth of goods for the Vrije Universiteit. We have given them a drawing account of up to $10,000 and are watching further developments in their needs.

In regard to rebuilding damaged churches in the Netherlands, we have received requests from several individual churches for aid. While we have seriously considered these requests, we have not as yet decided to help any one of them. It is very difficult for us to decide which congregation is in most need and to what extent we should help them. The Reformed Churches in the Netherlands have a Committee for helping congregations which have damaged or destroyed buildings and it has always been our idea that it would be best to send the money to this Committee and let this committee distribute the money there as they think best. This Committee was appointed by their General Synod and is composed of one person from all the provinces of the Netherlands. Then there is also the question of building materials. Some churches request us to send building material instead of money. It seems that money will do them very little good now. They need building material and this is very difficult to obtain in the Netherlands, even if they have money. It is practically impossible for us to purchase building material here and send it to the Netherlands. We have been waiting until we have a clearer idea of how we can best help. Dr. H. Beets and Mr. John
Hekman both intend to visit the Netherlands soon and they will try to obtain information as to how we can best restore damaged buildings. Both of these men will go at their own expense.

The financial report is as follows:

Balance on hand as per last year's report ........................................... $98,173.49
Gifts received from individuals, churches and societies .................. 37,136.06
Interest on Bonds ........................................................................ 225.00

Total ....................................................................................... $135,534.55

PAID OUT

Paul Steketee & Sons, underwear .................................................. 180.34
Universal Carloading Co., freight .................................................. 124.70
American Relief for Holland, freight ........................................... 429.25
W. J. Dykstra Co., clothing, etc ................................................... 8,193.44
Old Kent Bank, Ins. and postage .................................................. 6.40
American Relief for Holland, freight ........................................... 94.28
Uni-Commercial Co., pans, knives, caps, kitchen utensils ........... 6,168.25
Uni-Commercial, knitted caps ..................................................... 190.75
Mac Sim Paper Co., blankets ....................................................... 234.45
Sale, used clothing ..................................................................... 3.30
W. J. Dykstra Co., underwear ....................................................... 251.74
Int. Missionary Council, gift for East Indies Missions ................. 125.00
P. Borduin, Treas., Deacons' Committee ....................................... 105.23
P. Borduin, Treas., as per statement ............................................. 18,008.65
Old Kent Bank, disc. on check .................................................... 45 34,121.23

Balance, March 1, 1947 .................................................................. $101,413.32

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN HEKMAN, President
J. J. BUTEN, Sec'y-Treas.
H. BRETS
Y. P. DE JONG
M. HOUSKAMP
L. BERKHOFF
REPORT NO. 19

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

To the Synod of 1947.

REVEREND BRETHREN:

YOUR Committee is happy to report upon its activities for the period from June 1946 to March 6 of this year.

We were able to meet regularly. One of our members the Reverend Henry Evenhouse was absent on deputation work to Africa for the Mission Board. At this writing he has just returned.

The staff of co-editors for The Banner has been retained. The Reverends John Luchies, P. A. Hoekstra, J. T. Holwerda, E. F. Van Halsema and Edgar Smith were appointed as writers of special articles for a period of two years. A slightly altered policy was introduced in this matter of special articles in order to give opportunity to more of our ministers who desire to express themselves on some subject in which they are particularly interested or of which they have made a special study. The policy requires that those who desire to write shall make arrangements with the Editor-in-Chief by asking for a date or dates in which their article (s) may appear. Such contributors are remunerated at the same rate as those who write by special appointment provided their articles measure up to the standards set for special articles. The co-editors of De Wachter have likewise been retained for the most part. The Reverend Jacob Bolt was appointed to write meditations as successor of the Reverend Henry Triezenburg who asked to be relieved.

Two new departments were introduced without enlarging the paper. Publication has been made possible through rotation of departments. The Reverend Martin Monsma was appointed to edit the department "De Kerkorde en Kerkregeering" and the Reverend William Haverkamp was appointed to edit the department "Sekten."

The Editor-in-Chief was granted a leave for three weeks last fall in order to attend the Mission Anniversary and Conference on our Indian Mission Field. He was also one of the speakers at the Conference. Mr. Jacob Van Ess has now entered upon his fortieth year of service for our Church publications. Our Business Manager, Mr. J. Buiten, has been faithfully striving to have the Psalter Hymnal published but the Publication House entrusted with this work has delayed the project because of lack of paper. We have their promise for a partial delivery in May.

The request of the Grand Rapids Mission Board, made in the interest of our City Mission groups, to publish a Mission paper for the smaller children was granted after much preliminary work and discussion. Miss Dena Korfker has been secured to write the lessons for the project which has already been started. The City Mission Board has agreed to under-
write any shortage which may occur during the first year. After that the matter of financing the project will again come up for consideration. It is understood that this is a temporary venture subject to Synod’s approval.

The subscription prices for our publications had to be raised if we were not to continue operating at a loss. Labor and paper costs have risen tremendously during 1946. The Auditor’s report to Synod contains an analysis of the situation so that it is easy to determine to what the losses are due and which departments are losing. In order to operate, it has been necessary to dip into our reserve funds. The subscription prices for our publications are now as follows: The Banner $3.00, De Wachter $2.50, both papers to one addressee $5.00 per year. The yearly prices for the Sunday School papers are: The Instructor 75 cents, The Comrade 50 cents, and the Good News 75 cents. The price of advertising has been increased from $1.50 to $2.00 per inch and for Churches and other religious organizations from 75 cents to $1.25 per inch.

The Pamphlets on the Amusement Problem have been edited, published and advertised for sale to our churches.

II. SYNODELICAL DECISION WHICH REQUIRED EXECUTION

1. Pursuant to Art. 93, p. 68, Acts 1946, the matter of remuneration for the office and shop forces of our Church Publishing House has been adjusted in accordance with local standards.

2. Pursuant to Art. 93b, p. 69 Acts Synod 1946 the salaries of the Editors-in-Chief, the Reverends H. J. Kuiper and H. Keegstra were increased in agreement with the decision. Inasmuch as your committee interpreted these instructions as advisory rather than mandatory it has not increased the remunerations of the Co-editors of these papers nor of the writers of the Sunday School Papers. The Committee is of the opinion that we are paying a fair honorarium and therefore there should be no increase at this time in view of our financial condition.

3. Machinery has been set in motion to carry out Synod’s decision in republishing, storing, and distributing Denominational Tracts, cf. Art. 64c2p30 Acts 1946.

4. Pursuant to Art. 72, VII B, the Psalm Numbers which are to appear as plain Chorales in our next instalment of Psalter Hymnals have been prepared for printing. Professor Henry Bruinsma was secured to make the necessary musical alterations.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pursuant to Synod’s instruction Art. 65, 7 p. 31, your committee recommends that the term of the Editor-in-Chief of The Banner be set first at two years and then at six years. Thereafter consideration of reappointment every six years. The Committee recommends that the retirement age of this editor be set at 70 years without
making it a hard and fast rule. Reappointment every six years will offer opportunity for consideration of retirement before or after this age.

2. Since this is the year for the regular appointment of the Editor-in-Chief of the Sunday School papers, your Committee recommends that the Reverend J. H. Schaal, whose appointment was for one year, be appointed for the full term of this office.

3. In order to get the term of office of the Publication Committee member, the Reverend Peter Holwerda, in line with the rules and regulations which Synod has laid down for this committee, it is recommended that he be reappointed for one year at this time.

IV. REQUESTS

1. Your Committee requests Synod not to take action on Publication Matters without having consulted with the member of the Committee who has been appointed to represent it in these matters. The representative this year is the Reverend Peter Holwerda, Secretary.

2. Your Committee requests Synod to express itself on the matter of the publication of the Mission Sunday School paper for smaller children as suggested and expected in the "General Report." Par. 5.

V. OTHER MATTERS

1. Attached to this report please find letter of Professor D. H. Kromminga which he has asked your Committee to forward to Synod. The letter is self-explanatory.

2. Attached to this report also find copy of Preface which is going into the new edition of the Psalter Hymnal.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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Net loss $ 4,123.71
Balance Sheet as of Dec. 31, 1946

ASSETS

Cash on hand and in bank........................................ $ 6,380.54
Accounts Receivable............................................... 4,889.53
Inventory, Paper and Supplies.................................. 10,485.68
Bank Stock.................................................................. 250.00
Replacement Fund (U. S. Savings Bonds)....................... 52,000.00
Lot and Building..................................................... 49,407.46
Machinery and Equipment.......................................... 25,199.72
Office Desks and Furniture...................................... 359.50

Total Assets........................................................... $148,972.43

LIABILITIES

Due Old Kent Bank on Note.......................................... $ 5,000.00
Accrued Withholding tax........................................... 1,237.23
Accrued Contributions to Pension Fund......................... 848.07

Total Current Liabilities........................................... 7,085.27

EQUITIES

Investment Jan. 1, 1946............................................... $146,010.87
Loss, Banner and Wachter........................................... 9,925.58
Loss, Sunday School Papers........................................ 1,120.76
Gain, Psalter and Yearbook....................................... 4,750.52
Other Income (gain)................................................. 2,172.11

Net Loss .................................................................. 4,123.71
Total Investment Dec. 31, 1946................................. 141,887.16

Total Liabilities and Equities....................................... $148,972.43

PUBLICATIONS PRINTED:
The Banner, weekly.................................................... 31,000
De Wachter, weekly................................................... 5,500
The Instructor, weekly.............................................. 32,000
Children's Comrade, weekly...................................... 16,000
The Good News, weekly............................................. 2,000
The Key, semi-quarterly.............................................. 6,000
Good News for Little Ones, weekly........................... 1,000
Yearbook, annually.................................................. 8,000

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE OF THE
CHR. REF. CHURCH
PETER HOLWERDA, Secretary

LETTER OF PROF. D. H. KROMMINGA

The Christian Reformed Publication Committee,
Rev. Mr. Peter G. Holwerda, Secretary,
1271 Lee Street, S. W.,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Esteemed Brethren:

Yesterday's mail brought me your request to write a column a week on the history of our denomination for the running year in The Banner. Allow me, first of all to acknowledge and thank you for the trust thus placed in me and the honor thus conferred on me. The invitation is in more ways than one an attractive one, even though the whole plan raises some puzzling questions in my mind; as, How is it, that suddenly there is room in our much cut-up Banner for an additional column for a whole year? Is this year or 1957 the proper year to commemorate our Church and its rise? Should any writer jump on such short notice into so novel and great a job? and, Is my age and physical strength sufficient to warrant my doing so? I would be tempted to undertake the task nevertheless, if I were really free to bring to our Church in connection with her origin and history the message which I feel I should above all bring. My big obstacle is, that I lack such freedom. Since this lack of
freedom bothers me not only now but has at times bothered me in the past in writing for our denominational papers, I take your kind invitation as a welcome occasion to give the situation a brief airing, not only for your benefit, but also for that of the Church at large, and I am asking you to convey this letter in your annual Report to Synod as the body from which I hold my appointment as member of the Publication Committee.

My premillenarian leanings have never been a secret in our Church and, as I know from reliable sources, they were the subject of some discussion at the Synod of 1928, before it appointed me to the chair of Church History at Calvin Seminary. It was but natural, that now and then in writing for our Church press and in appearing in our pulpits I did not feel free to say just what I would want to say were I to voice my own deepest convictions. But the situation remained bearable until January 11, 1945, when the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary prohibited me from publishing the last two chapters of my book, *The Millennium in the Church*, so that that volume had to appear without them, "for the sake of the peace of the church and the prestige of the prof. and the school, and from the viewpoint of Christian Ethics," as Art. 16 of the minutes of the Executive Committee under that date has it. The understanding was, as those same minutes state, that "he may be able to present the material in those two chapters to the Church through the channel provided for such purposes." I forthwith proceeded to carry out that understanding; but, as can be verified from the relevant sections in our synodical Acts and Agenda since that date, my efforts have not yet elicited from our Synods any pronouncement that passed judgment on the views which I presented to them.

In a telephone conversation touching this new assignment with which you have honored me though I cannot accept it, your secretary voiced the question, what all this has to do with writing on the history of our Church. This legitimate question will readily arise in your minds and in the mind of Synod also and certainly calls for an answer, the more so, since I am in untold ways deeply indebted to our Church and would not know where else to look for as congenial an ecclesiastical home if I had to do so. I was born and nurtured in the Old Reformed Church of Ostfriesland and Bentheim, for which both my parents had forsaken the established Reformed Church of those regions. When they took me to America, I was received into the Christian Reformed Church; there I made my public confession of faith, and that Church enabled me to procure my training for its ministry. In fact, even the views in which I deviate from Article 37 of the Belgic Confession could not well have arisen in my mind except against the background of the eschatological teaching given me in our own Seminary by Professor Ten Hoor. And it cannot be seen, how I would ever have reached the degree of clarity concerning them which I enjoy, had not the Christian Reformed Church entrusted to me the position of its seminary teacher in Church History. Moreover, in spite of the known difference between my views and its Creed the Church had done me the exceptional and rare honor of delegating me to the recent Reformed Ecumenical Synod; and now you add the honor of this new assignment which I am unable to accept. These are just a few outstanding obligations which I owe the Church I love, and in view of them all I feel it my duty to explain my inability to serve as you would have me serve as briefly as is consistent with clarity.

The difficulty which I encounter in your assignment lies precisely in the times in which you ask me to write on the history of our Church. We are living ecclesiastically and theologically in an age that is becoming marked more and more by ecumenicity. Our own tiny Reformed ecumenical movement is as nothing in comparison with the great ecumenical movement that is afoot and is by this time far advanced in worldwide Protestantism and reaching far beyond Protestantism. Christendom is moving toward a "United Church," as William Adams Brown put it shortly before his demise, and we are looking forward to the "Coming Great Church," as T. O. Wedel proclaims. Unless all signs fail, it will be in the very near future, that our own Church and Synod will have to define our position over against this big and comprehensive ecumenical movement which has sprung into overshadowing prominence with the cessation of the second world war and which is hailed by not a few as the great hope for the world in its desperate situation. It is hailed as God's own work, Who in His mercy has granted apostate Protestantism a rediscovery of the Bible, not as verbally inspired and infallible, to be sure, but in the Barthian sense. We
shall soon have to say, whether we can agree or must dissent. Personally, I see no way of agreeing and, when I see the loose liberals and the loose evangelicals of our good city of Grand Rapids together taking the German confessor Niemoeller under their arm and parading him before all our churches on the rostrum of the Civic Auditorium, then I cannot withstand the impulse to whisper to my neighbor: that is not the revived and repentant Church of Christ, but the great Harlot of Rev. 17 and 18.

Probably some will say that I see phantoms. Be that as it may, I cannot ignore what I see. And with such expectations in my soul I could not get very far with the remarkable and singular history of our Church before reaching a point at which these expectations and their underlying convictions would want to crop out. As Reformed men we are averse to a mechanical and atomistic conception of history; our conception of history is too organic to neglect the connection of all history with the evident history that is making in our own times, and to neglect the connection of all church history with that of our own Church, and to neglect the connection of modern Protestantism with the story of the Churches which have sprung from the Dutch Secession in 1834 and which were privileged to meet in an ecumenical Synod of their own right in our own midst last summer. Professor Otto A. Piper of Princeton Seminary is not an acceptable guide for us by any means; but I must give him credit for at least some elements in what he wrote in criticism of Oswald T. Allis' book on Prophecy and the Church in The Princeton Bulletin, Winter, 1946, p. 41: "Furthermore, Dispensationalism rightly presents Christianity as an eschatological religion. With his own amillennialism, the author ignores the fact that the Bible presents the purpose of God as being carried out in holy history, i.e., in a sequence of events, all of which form a whole and reveal a common underlying dynamic."

And I am glad, that in its Testimony the recent Reformed Ecumenical Synod, while reaffirming our organic view of history, showed better discrimination as to the holiness of that history, when it stated: "In her Creed the Church confesses the fulness of the triune God and cannot view history otherwise than in the light of Scripture that meets us in God's revelation concerning creation, fall, and redemption . . . the Church confesses that the whole of history without this Bible-believing confessing becomes incomprehensible and senseless . . . The confession of God's creation and of the fact of man's fall stands in indissoluble connection with the grand expectation which is given us in Jesus Christ."

The struggle of the Church proceeds throughout the course of the ages. But that struggle also increases in intensity as the day of the appearance of Jesus Christ draws near . . . The work of God in history approaches its consummation . . . " There is more, worth reading and pondering. I am grateful for this element in the Testimony which was unanimously adopted without discussion; — I am grateful for its reaffirmation and definition of our Reformed conception of history as moving steadfastly forward to the coming of our great Lord and King, Jesus Christ. It is the testimony our times cry out for.

You may still ask, what all this has to do with my difficulty with Article 37 of the Belgic Confession. For such as do not yet sense it, I shall try to make it clearer. We need not be hasty in identifying the big ecumenical movement with the emergence of the great Harlot of Rev. 17 and 18. Proof positive we shall have if and when the rulers of the nations sweep the coming great Church away in utter destruction and to the utter confusion and stagnation of commerce and the world's economic life. We may prefer to keep still and observe till such an event makes the interpretation certain. But we should note, that such an event will once for all sweep away also our traditional Augustinian conception of the Book of Revelation and specifically of the millennium, as it lies at the bottom of Article 37 of our Creed. It will then be seen, that that Book sketches out for the Church a definite trail through the centuries of our Christian era. That is my conviction now. And, having that conviction, I cannot remove the return of our Lord and the millennial reign of the saints with Him from the place which God's Word assigns to them in the succession of events that marks that trail. But your invitation to write on our denominational history of course wants me to do so in accord with our amillennial Creed. In fact, I am expressly bound till now by our Synod and its Executive Committee for Calvin College and Seminary, to do so, if at all, in harmony with the Augustinian eschatology of our Creed. That means, that I am bound to reverse the order in which the Word of God places those glorious coming events that hold so much comfort for the Church of Christ, and by that reversal, placing the millennium before the return of Christ.
to obscure the whole message of Rev. 19 and 20. Brethren, rather than do such a thing publicly with the convictions I have on this matter, I shall keep silence and preserve my selfrespect. The present phenomenally rapid march of events makes it quite dubious whether the whole forty or fifty articles can be finished before it becomes imperative to connect the history of our Church with the events that seem so plainly to be in the making; and for that reason I must decline to engage in the undertaking which you so kindly propose to me.

This, I hope, suffices to answer the question which your Secretary raised. I trust also, that it suffices to make clear to both you and Synod, why I can ill afford to serve my Church any longer in publication matters, where the need of standing up and speaking out for my convictions publicly may now become really pressing at any moment. The same fundamental difficulty may in some new form stare you and me in the face at every new turn of our road. Your Committee ought to be composed solely of men who are in full inner accord with Article 37 of the Belgic Confession. Above all, your chairman ought to be such a man. As the Church knows, I am not of that type. If our Church will take up my document which lies before it since June, 1946, for the purpose of either establishing its essential harmony with the Word of God and with the really great positions of our common Reformed Faith or, on the other hand, of making at least an honest attempt to show me the basic conflict of my views with those Reformed positions and with the Word of God, I may be freed out of this impasse in which I find myself now. But as long as the Church through Synod has not done so, I shall be compelled quietly to pursue my task of teaching Church History in Calvin Seminary and to leave all responsibility for silence on my part about the remarkable church-historical developments of our day as they appear in the light of God's Word entirely for Synod and our Church and its theologians.

In view of the importance of this whole matter for Synod and the Church, and in view of the fact that I have been appointed to your Committee by Synod and my resignation, which I herewith tender, together with its grounds should come to Synod for action, I herewith request you, to show me the kindness of presenting this letter together with your annual Report to Synod in the official synodical Agenda, whether as a supplement or by way of incorporation. I am not pressing for synodical action on the big document Synod has on its table. I can very well understand and sympathize with any wish Synod may have to move slowly and cautiously in a matter that may ultimately involve a reversal of our traditional eschatological position. Having now said all to Synod what needs to be said, I can very well wait in silence. But I found it necessary to point out, to Synod even more yet than to you, the difficult position I am in if I am called upon indiscriminately to do all kinds of service in and for the Church; and I sincerely trust that particularly Synod will readily take proper account of those difficulties. Let me add, that, unless you prefer otherwise, I shall be glad to function as your member and chairman to the extent of my ability till Synod convenes in June.

Your fellow-servant of our Lord,

D. H. Kromminga.
PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION OF THE PSALTER HYMNAL

This third edition differs from the two preceding editions only in the changes which have been made in the chorales taken from the Dutch Psalter. Ever since this praise book first appeared, many of our people were disappointed because of the rhythmic setting which was given these chorales. In the second edition the rhythm was still retained, though the harmonizations were made more pleasing and acceptable. At last, however, the desire of many to sing these tunes just the way they used to be sung in the Dutch Psalter (namely, as plain chorales, with all the notes of equal length) found official expression in a decision of the Synod of 1946 that in the next edition of Psalter Hymnals these melodies should be printed as plain chorales. Accordingly, the Publication Committee engaged Professor Henry A. Bruinsma of Calvin College to make the changes required by this decision. After some thought and discussion on the part of Mr. Bruinsma and representatives of the Publication Committee, it was decided to choose as the basis for this work the Dutch Koraalboek for organists by B. De Vries, the most popular of the many formerly in use among us. Only such changes were made as were necessary to avoid archaic modal harmony and to make proper transitions from line to line, after the omission of the organ interludes which still appear in the above mentioned chorale book, though these have not been played for many decades past. No change has been made in the melodies. Congregations which still use the first or second edition can therefore sing these chorales even though the organists play from this new edition. The numbers indicating these adaptations of De Vries’ harmonizations are the following: 5 (Ps. 3), 11 (Ps. 6), 32 (Ps. 19), 48 (Ps. 25), 63 (Ps. 33), 80 (Ps. 42), 83 (Ps. 43), 92 (Ps. 47), 123 (Ps. 65), 131 (Ps. 68), 148, (Ps. 73), 156 (Ps. 77), 161 (Ps. 79), 166 (Ps. 81), 172 (Ps. 84), 175 (Ps. 87), 182 (Ps. 89), 197 (Ps. 97), 200 (Ps. 98), 202 (Ps. 99), 205 (Ps. 100), 207 (Ps. 101), 211 (Ps. 103), 221 (Ps. 105), 242 (Ps. 116), 247 (Ps. 118), 249 (Ps. 119), 273 (Ps. 121), 276 (Ps. 122), 286 (Ps. 130), 292 (Ps. 133), 303 (Ps. 138), 325 (Ps. 150), 344 (Song of Zacharias), 345 (Song of Simeon), 397 (Same tune as Ps. 42), and 468 (Old Hundredth).
REPORT NO. 20

REPORT
on the
FIRST REFORMED ECUMENICAL SYNOD
by the
DELEGATES OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church
countering in Grand Rapids, Michigan
June 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The undersigned, chosen by the Synod of 1946 to represent the Christian Reformed Church at the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod, have the pleasure to submit the following report.

The Ecumenical Synod met in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from August 14 to August 30, 1946, in the Assembly Room of the Calvin Seminary building. Throughout the sessions the weather was ideal and the atmosphere within delightful. The delegates desire to express their appreciation of having been honored to represent the Christian Reformed Church at this unique and important gathering of brethren from three continents.

In reporting on the work of the Ecumenical Synod we refer Synod to the Acts of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod which came off the press in March 1947. Copies have been sent to all the consistories as well as to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church. A copy of the Acts accompanies this report.

As the Acts state, since 1924 attempts have been made to call an ecumenical synod. On August 14, 1946, the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod met in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A prayer service had been held the previous evening in the Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Professor L. Berkhof preaching the sermon and the Rev. I. Van Dellen leading the congregation in prayer. Seventeen delegates were present. Four delegates from “De Gereformeerde Kerken In Nederland”: Prof. Dr. G. Ch. Aalders, Prof. Dr. G. C. Berkouwer, Dr. J. Hoek, Elder A. Warnaar. Three delegates from “Die Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid-Afrika”: Prof. Dr. S. du Toit, Dr. P. J. S. de Klerk, Elder Dr. H. G. Stoker. Ten delegates from the Christian Reformed Church of America: Prof. L. Berkhof, Prof. D. H. Kromminga, Rev. I. Van Dellen, Rev. E. F. J. Van Halsema, Dr. J. T. Hoogstra, Dr. Herman Kuiper, Elder Dr. E. Y. Monsma, Elder Dr. L. Fokstra, Elder Mr. G. Buist, Elder Mr. F. Keegstra.

Synod chose as officers: Prof. L. Berkhof, President; Prof. Dr. G. Ch. Aalders, Vice-President; Rev. E. F. J. Van Halsema, First Clerk; Prof. Dr. S. du Toit, Second Clerk.
Two committees were appointed, a committee on Authority and Membership, Committee I, and a committee on Synodical Program, Committee II. See Art. 16, Acts.

After some deliberation, Synod decided to rearrange the material found on the tentative agenda of the three Churches under the headings: Doctrine and Creed, Reformed Testimony and Action, and Ecclesiastical Difficulties in the Netherlands. Synod approved of the Revised Agenda as found in Article 24, pp. 19-21, Acts.

The subjects on the Revised Agenda were elucidated and discussed. The conclusions to which Synod came are recorded in the Acts, to which we respectfully direct the attention of Synod. After two and one-half weeks of labor the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod adjourned and the members returned to their homes. The African delegation, we are sorry to report, experienced some difficulty in securing shipping accommodations. It was not until Christmas that they succeeded in leaving the United States. Meanwhile their prolonged presence was a wholesome stimulus and a delightful experience to our people in the East and in the West. On January 15, our African friends were happy to set their feet again on South African soil.

In view of the fact that the Synod of 1946 declared “that the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church considers the decisions of this forthcoming (ecumenical) Synod binding only when the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church approves,” see Acts 1946, Art. 88, p. 59, we respectfully request Synod to approve the decisions of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod as recorded in the Acts of that Synod.

Among the decisions we call the attention of Synod to the following:
1. Concerning Synodical Program, Acts, p. 21,
3. Concerning character, foundation, purpose of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod, p. 36.
4. Concerning the binding character of its decisions, p. 36.
5. Concerning the basis for future Ecumenical Synods, pp. 41, 42.
6. Concerning calvinistic organizations, p. 44.
7. Concerning our mission in the modern world, pp. 51, 52.
11. Concerning committees of study, pp. 50, 56, 57.
14. Concerning statement with regard to First and future Synods, pp. 61-64.
15. Concerning invitations to other Churches, p. 67.
16. Concerning the name, p. 131.
17. Concerning the archives, p. 67.
Your delegates, with the exception of Mr. F. Keegstra, met on March 6, 1947, and decided to recommend to Synod that the churches named below be invited to the next Ecumenical Synod.

In making their recommendations your delegates were guided by the decisions of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod, viz.,

“All Churches which profess the Reformed faith are to be invited unless they fail to exercise discipline in the case of departures from the Reformed faith.” Acts, p. 48.

“The foundation for the Ecumenical Synod of Reformed Churches shall be the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as interpreted by the Confessions of the Reformed faith, namely, the First Helvetic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Gallican Confession, the Belgic Confession, the First Scotch Confession; the Westminster Confession, the Canons of Dort, the Thirty-nine Articles. It should be understood that these Scriptures in their entirety, as well as in every part thereof, are the infallible and ever abiding Word of the living Triune God, absolutely authoritative in all matters of creed and conduct, and that the Confessions of the Reformed faith are accepted because they present the divine, revealed truth, the forsaking of which has caused the deplorable decline of modern life. It has to be emphasized that only a wholehearted and consistent return to this Scriptural truth of which the gospel of Jesus Christ is the core and the apex, can bring salvation to mankind and effectuate the so sorely needed renewal of the world.

“Because of the diversity in the forms of government of the Reformed Churches, uniformity of church polity cannot be stressed as a fundamental requisite, except in so far as the principles of this polity are contained in the Reformed Confessions, as for example the headship of Christ and the marks of the true Church: the pure preaching of the Gospel, the Scriptural administration of the sacraments, and the faithful exercise of discipline.

“All Churches which, in the judgment of Synod, profess and maintain the Reformed faith will be invited to participate in the Ecumenical Synod, on the basis mentioned above. Moreover, they will be kindly requested to express their explicit agreement with it, and all delegates to the Synod will have to testify their adherence to the Confessions of the Reformed faith and to the aforesaid statement.” Acts, p. 64.

In the light of these decisions your delegates recommend that the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church invite:

1. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Professor D. H. Kromminga requested that his negative vote be recorded. He protested against the Committee’s decision as follows:
The undersigned desires to have his negative vote recorded and protests against the decision of the Christian Reformed delegates to the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod to advise the Christian Reformed Synod, meeting in June 1947, to extend an invitation to the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to participate in the next Reformed Ecumenical Synod, without at the same time resolving to call Synod’s attention to the fact that the old so-called Rochester Case is officially still not settled as far as Synod is concerned, cf. Overture of Classis Hudson, Acts 1940, pp. 63-68. He feels duty bound to call Synod’s attention to this matter.

D. H. Kromminga.

2. The Free Magyar Reformed Church.
3. The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.
4. The Reformed Presbyterian Church — General Synod.
5. The Associate Presbyterian Church.

With deep regret your delegates have to record the fact that they are unable to advise Synod to extend an invitation to participate in the next Reformed Ecumenical Synod to the Reformed Church of America, since your delegates are convinced that as a body the Reformed Church of America is definitely not maintaining the traditional Reformed creedal positions. It would be only with an orthodox Reformed minority that we could seek such fellowship as the Ecumenical Synod seeks and offers, and it is with sincere and deep regret that we see no way of establishing such fellowship with that minority.

Your delegates also regret the fact that they are unable to advise Synod to extend an invitation to participate in the next Reformed Ecumenical Synod to the Protestant Reformed Church, since your delegates are convinced that as long as the Protestant Reformed Church assumes the position and attitude as expressed in the official communication addressed to the Christian Reformed Synod of 1943, Acts 1943, Art. 161, attempts in the direction of ecumenical fellowship with the Protestant Reformed Church are futile.

There may be other Churches to which an invitation to participate in the next Ecumenical Synod should be extended, but your delegates are not ready to advise Synod further at this time.

Synod will kindly inform Prof. Dr. G. Ch. Aalders which Churches have been invited by it to the next Ecumenical Synod, Acts, p. 74.

Should the next Ecumenical Synod be held in 1948, Synod may consider the advisability of appointing the delegates of the Christian Reformed Church at this time.

Summarizing this report, your delegates recommend that the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church approve the decisions of the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod as found in the Acts of that Synod.
Should Synod see its way clear to grant this approval, Synod

1. appoint two members of the proposed International Reformed Mission Council, Acts, p. 51.

2. appoint three delegates to the Second Ecumenical Synod

3. consider matters for the agenda of the Second Ecumenical Synod, Acts, p. 60.

4. inform Dr. G. Ch. Aalders which Churches have been invited by the Christian Reformed Church.

5. instruct the Stated Clerk to send henceforth two copies of all the official documents of the Christian Reformed Church to the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands and to Die Gereformeerde Kerk in Suid-Afrika.

Respectfully submitted,

The delegates to the Christian Reformed Church to the First Reformed Ecumenical Synod,

L. BERKHOF
D. H. KROMMINGA
I. VAN DELLEN
HERMAN KUIPERS
J. T. HOOGSTRA
L. FLOKSTRA
E. Y. MONSMA
G. BUIST
F. KEEGSTRA
E. VAN HALSEMA
REPORT NO. 21

Report of the Committee to Re-examine the Decisions of 1890 and 1908 Dealing with Church-membership of Unbiblically Divorced and Remarried Persons Who Come to Repentance of Their Sins.

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The mandate of your committee is found on p. 69 of the Acts of the Synod of 1945:

"We recommend that Synod appoint a committee to re-examine the decisions of 1890 and 1908, dealing with church-membership of unbiblically divorced and remarried persons who came to repentance of their sins.

Grounds:

a. Synod has never adopted an official exegetical position in support of its previous decisions.

b. The decisions of 1890 and 1908 are inflexible and allow no exceptions.

c. The decisions of 1936 clearly recognize that exceptions must be made. A renewed endeavor should be put forth to remove the apparent inconsistency.

d. This recommendation is in harmony with the overture of the Classis Chicago North."

For the history of the divorce-question during the period 1908-1936 your committee would refer you to Agenda, part I, 1936, p. 46 ff., and Agenda, part II, 1936, p. 341 ff.

The Synod of 1936 reached a decision in connection with the Alpine Ave. case which has some bearing on the question now before us. We quote from the Acts of 1936, p. 145:

"A certain party, while in the state of unbelief and godlessness, was divorced by his wife, without resistance on his part, upon the grounds of cruelty and non-support. He remarried with another woman (who had also been divorced), was subsequently converted and declared and manifested sincere repentance as to his sins pertaining to this divorce and his adulterous marriage . . . We advise that if to the satisfaction of the consistory this person confesses his sins of unbiblical divorce and adulterous remarriage, and manifests true godliness in his life, he may be admitted to membership in our church."

In connection with this decision it should be noted that the person in question committed his sin "while in the state of unbelief and godlessness." Hence, the decision of Synod in this concrete case was not in conflict with either of the two extensive Reports on Divorce which were presented to the Synod of 1936. Synod did not adopt the position of

Cicero-I presented to the Synod of 1944 a question of admitting to membership in one of our churches "persons who are the guilty parties in divorces in which adultery was involved." Acts of 1944, p. 57 ff. Synod decided that "in this concrete case the parties guilty of divorce and adulterous remarriage may not be admitted as members of one of our churches." Acts of 1944, p. 59 ff. However, the Synod of 1945 reconsidered this case. The committee on Protests-I made the following recommendation:

"We advise that Synod declare that if, to the satisfaction of the consistory of Cicero-I, these people are thoroughly repentant, and if after satisfactory probation, the consistory is persuaded that they evidence a godly walk, they may be admitted to membership in the church." Acts of 1945, p. 68. It was explained that the sins of the persons involved "were committed at a time when both parties were in a state of spiritual darkness," p. 78; cf. p. 93. A history of the case was given. Synod decided as follows:

"In view of this history, the Synod advises Cicero-I, that, in this particular case, these people may be admitted to membership in our church, if to the satisfaction of the consistory they confess their sins of unbiblical divorce and adulterous marriage and manifest true godliness in their life," p. 93.

As in the case which was before the Synod of 1936 so also in this case two facts figured prominently in Synod's decision:

a. earnest repentance manifested by a godly manner of life, and
b. the fact that, according to the history given, the sins were committed while the persons involved lived in the state of spiritual darkness.

Inasmuch as in this particular case the second reason (b.) was subsequently denied, the Synod of 1946 reversed the decision of 1945. See Acts of 1946, p. 73. Ground 2 for the motion to reverse the decision of 1945 reads:

"The decision of 1945 is contrary to actual facts."

"The Synod of 1946 mentions as the third ground for the motion to reverse the 1945 decision the fact that this decision is contrary to the historical stand of 1890, 1908 and reiterated by 1944.

It is, indeed, true that the decisions of 1890, 1908 leave no room for such decisions to admit or readmit to membership. The decision of 1890 declares:

"A man who, because he committed adultery, is divorced legitimately by his wife, may not remain a member of the church if he remarries while his first wife is living."

— 111 —
The decision of 1908:

"Such a person by his act of adultery freed his wife but not himself; before God he is still bound to his first wife, and his second marriage is, moreover, a living in adultery."

Your committee is of the opinion that the decisions of 1890, 1908 fail to incorporate satisfactory scriptural evidence. Moreover, such inflexible decisions are undesirable. In saying this we do not conceal the fact that in your committee the view that the decisions of 1890, 1908 contain elements that are eminently scriptural is also represented.

It is the conviction of your committee that a solution of the divorce problem should be found and can be found. This does not mean that there will ever be unanimity with respect to every aspect of the complex problem. The two elaborate Reports to the Synod of 1936, in which both the history and the exegesis of the question receive abundant attention have been considered at length both in personal study and in committee-room discussion. However, these Reports indicate conflicting conclusions on several questions; such as:

a. Has the guilty party, whether in a legitimate or in an illegitimate divorce, the right to remarry?

b. Does the exceptive phrase ("saving for the cause of fornication") in Matt. 5:32, modify the last as well as the first part of the sentence?

c. Is a marriage, begun in adultery, continued in adultery? And if the latter, what does that imply with respect to the conditions upon which restoration is possible for such persons who persisted in their sins against better knowledge?

Now, on such questions as these, opinions differed in the past and differ today, and these differences are also represented in your committee.*

With respect to the question regarding readmission (or admission) to membership (or the full rights and privileges of membership), which has been one of the main questions in dispute, your committee has discovered an approach not indicated in the 1936 Reports. Nevertheless, the approach is not altogether new. The idea of a probation-period to prove the genuine character of one's confession of sorrow over sin is found in the Report of the Committee of Protests-I, Acts of 1945, as quoted in the preceding.

*In view of the insufficiency of the data both from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, it is the conviction of the undersigned that the differences here projected cannot be resolved on the basis of thorough exegesis. Three reasons may be adduced: 1 — The paucity of the Biblical material. 2 — The lack of absolute clarity in the interpretation of the biblical material adduced. 3 — The testimony of the Holy Spirit in the Church, as evident from the conflicting opinions, suggests that room must be left for certain elements in both opinions heretofore projected. It is therefore incumbent upon us to deal individually with each case in the light of the basic Christian principles hereinafter set forth in this report. — Ralph Stor.
Your committee is in full agreement on the following points:

(1) Persons who commit the sin of adultery or make themselves guilty of unbiblical divorce and who subsequently contract a second marriage can be admitted or readmitted to the church (or to the full privileges of church-membership):

a. If they confess their sins before the consistory, this confession to be announced to the congregation.

b. If, during a period of probation, they manifest the genuine character of their confession by a godly life. See, however, below, point 4 of our Advice.

(2) Consistories should deal more leniently with those persons who have sinned in ignorance than with those who, though duly and repeatedly admonished, persisted in their evil way.

(3) The decisions of 1890, 1908 fail to incorporate satisfactory scriptural evidence for the position that unbiblically divorced and re-married persons who manifest sincere repentance can under no circumstances be readmitted (or admitted) to the church (or to the full privilege of church-membership). Hence, something better should be substituted for these decisions.

(4) Whereas the evil of divorce is increasing, consistories and ministers should warn unceasingly against this evil and should faithfully set forth the ideal of Christian marriage as held before us in Holy Writ.

ADVICE

Accordingly, your committee advises Synod to adopt the following propositions, which, as is clearly evident, embody the indisputable teachings of Scripture to which constant reference is made:

(1) Whereas, according to Scripture, the marriage-bond is sacred, a union for life, Rom. 7:2,3, a symbol of the eternal love-relationship existing between Christ and his church, Eph. 5:31,32, and

Whereas the divine ideal is the faithful union of one man and one woman, Matt. 19:3-9, and

Whereas Scripture and our church permit divorce on only one ground, namely, fornication, Matt. 5:32, and

Whereas the evil of unbiblical divorce is increasing on every side, and

Whereas, Jesus teaches emphatically that remarriage after unbiblical divorce is adultery;

Therefore, consistories and ministers should do all in their power to warn unceasingly against every violation of the marriage-bond through unbiblical divorce or through adultery before or after unbiblical divorce.

SCRIPTURAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS POINT

Rom. 7:2,3: “For the woman that hath a husband is bound by law to the husband while he liveth; but if the husband die, she is discharged from the law of the husband. So then, if while the husband liveth, she
be joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if the husband die, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be joined to another man."

Eph. 5:31,32: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great: but I speak in regard of Christ and of the church.

Matt. 19:3-9: "And there came unto him Pharisees, trying him, and saying, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said, Have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and the two shall be one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why then did Moses command to give a bill of divorcement, and put her away? He saith unto them, Moses for your hardness of heart suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it has not been so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery."

Matt. 5:32: "But I say unto you, that every one that putteth away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, maketh her an adulteress: and whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery."

Heb. 13:4: "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Tit. 2:11-14: "For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world, looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works."

(2) Persons who commit the sin of adultery or make themselves guilty of unbiblical divorce and who subsequently contract a second marriage sin grievously against the moral law. If, in addition, these individuals were members of the church at the time when the sin was committed, were duly and repeatedly admonished — Tit. 3:10 speaks of a first and second admonition — but persisted in their evil way, they have thereby greatly added to their sin and have given great offence to and in the church of Christ Lk. 12:47,48; Lk. 23:34; Acts 3:17; I Tim. 1:13.
Scriptural Confirmation of this Point

Lk. 12:47,48: "And that servant, who knew his lord's will, and made not ready, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes; but he that knew not, and did things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. And to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom they commit much, of him they will ask the more."

Lk. 23:34: "And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Acts 3:17: "And now, brethren, I know that in ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers."

I Tim. 1:13: "Though I was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: howbeit I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

(3) Whereas by violating the divine marriage-ordination in the aforesaid manner offence is given in the church, and the name of the Lord is reproached and ill-spoken of by the world, II Sam. 12:14 (especially when the offenders are church-members), and this offence and reproach must first be removed, and

Whereas Scripture everywhere teaches that true repentance and genuine faith are evidenced by godly conduct as their fruit, Prov. 28:13; Matt. 7:18-20; Phil. 1:27; Jas. 3:13; I John 2:29; 3:6; so that after the sins have been confessed and this confession has been announced to the congregation time must be given during which this godly conduct can be made manifest to all, and

Whereas the guilty persons should become deeply impressed with the heinous character of their sins, Num. 12:13-15;

Therefore, persons who have made themselves guilty in the aforesaid manner should be given a period of probation. During this period of probation the consistory has the opportunity to become convinced of the genuine character of their sorrow and of their earnest desire to live a new, godly life. In this way the congregation also can be expected to give silent approval of the consistorial action of admission or re-admission, and the offence that was given can be removed. This period of probation should not be too short, in order that the holy things of God be not given to those who are not entitled to them, Matt. 7:6; neither should it be too long, lest the truly penitent be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow, II Cor. 2:5-7. The length and acceptable evidence of repentance in each concrete case should be determined by the consistory. The period should be longer and the requirements of probation should be more severe for those who persisted in their sins against better knowledge than for those who sinned while living in moral and spiritual darkness, outside the church, Lk. 12:47,48; 23:34; Acts 3:17; I Tim. 1:13.
SCRIPTURAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS POINT

II Sam. 12:14: "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."

Prov. 28:13: "He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper; But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy."

Matt. 7:18-20: "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits ye shall know them."

Phil. 1:27: "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ."

Jas. 3:13: "Let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom."

I John 2:29: "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone also that doeth righteousness is begotten of him."


Num. 12:13-15: "And Moses cried unto Jehovah saying, Heal her, O God, I beseech thee. And Jehovah said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? Let her be shut up without the camp seven days, and after that she shall be brought in again. And Miriam was shut up within the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again."

Matt. 7:6: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before the swine, lest haply they trample them under their feet, and turn and rend you."

II Cor. 2:5-7: "But if any hath caused sorrow, he hath caused sorrow not to me, but in part (that I press not too heavily) to you all. Sufficient to such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the many; so that contrariwise ye should rather forgive him and comfort him, lest by any means such a one should be swallowed up with his overmuch sorrow."

Lk. 12:47,48; 23:34; Acts 3:17; I Tim. 1:13 have been quoted in full under the previous Point.

(4) The question whether the sincerity of the repentance should also be manifested by the abrogation of the marriage or at least by abstinence from marital relations is one on which your committee could not come to agreement. It is the judgment of the committee that this should not be required of those who committed the sins while living in the state of spiritual darkness. 1) (See on spiritual darkness the passages quoted under Point (2) above.) On the question whether this

1) The undersigned cannot conscientiously agree with the above statement on the ground that the committee has not in its discussion or Report adduced sufficient scriptural evidence for this position. WM. P. BRINK, ANTHONY HOEKEMA.
should be required of those who committed their sins while they were members of the church of Christ your committee is divided.

(5) Inasmuch as the decisions of 1890, 1908 leave no room at all for the admission or restoration of unbiblically divorced and remarried persons who sincerely repent of their sins, the aforementioned regulations — (1), (2), and (3) above — are hereby substituted for the decisions of 1890 and 1908. Grounds:

a. The decisions of 1890, 1908 do not incorporate satisfactory scriptural evidence.

b. Scripture promises forgiveness and restoration to all who manifest genuine repentance.

Scriptural Confirmation of this Point

Ps. 32:5: “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, And mine iniquity did I not hide; I said, I will confess my transgressions unto Jehovah; And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”

Ps. 34:18: “Jehovah is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, And saveth such as are of a contrite spirit.”

Ps. 51:17: “A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Prov. 28:13: “He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper; But whoso confesseth and forsa keth them shall obtain mercy.”

Is. 1:18: “Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as snow.”

Is. 57:15: “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit.”

Lk. 7:47,48: “Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.”

Lk. 15:17-24 (the penitence of the Prodigal Son and the manner in which the Father welcomed and forgave him).

Lk. 18:13,14: “But the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God, be thou merciful to me, a sinner. I say unto you, This man went down to his house justified rather than the other ....

Respectfully submitted, The Committee:

J. Gritter
J. Weidenaar
W. Hendriksen
G. Hoeksema
R. J. Danhof
A. A. Hoekema
W. Brink
R. Stob

— 117 —
REPORT NO. 22

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS

To the Synod of 1947.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

On account of Synod's decision in 1946, setting the deadline at March 15 for the inclusion of reports and recommendations in the Agenda, our report this time will be shorter and less comprehensive than that of former years. Our mission activity year runs from June 1st to May 31st, but in this report we can cover only the period from June 1st of last year to February 28 of this year. With respect to some of our fields and stations history is still in the making, so that certain important details will have to be reported by our representatives at Synod. Our fiscal year runs from January 1st to December 31st, but we cannot give a financial report here because the auditors could not go over our finances in time to have the report included in the Agenda. A summary of our financial report for 1946 in mimeographed form will be presented to all the delegates at Synod. Copies of a complete and detailed financial report for 1946 will be given to the officers of Synod and to the members of Synod's Budget Committee.

SECTION I: ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES

Those who functioned as members of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions during the past nine months are:

Classis California ................................ Rev. J. J. Steigenga
Classis Chicago North ............................... Rev. T. C. Van Kooten
Classis Chicago South .............................. Rev. W. P. Brink
Classis Grand Rapids East ......................... Rev. L. Oostendorp
Classis Grand Rapids South ....................... Rev. C. Boomsma
Classis Grand Rapids West ....................... Rev. H. J. Evenhouse
Classis Hackensack ................................. Rev. B. Essenburg
Classis Holland .................................. Rev. H. Verduin
Classis Hudson ..................................... Rev. Dr. P. Y. De Jong
Classis Kalamazoo ................................ Rev. H. Bouma
Classis Minneapolis .............................. Rev. J. P. Smith
Classis Minnesota ................................ Rev. J. O. Bouwsma
Classis Minnesota ................................ Rev. D. Drost
Classis Minnesota ................................ Rev. J. Entingh
Classis Minnesota ................................ Rev. A. A. Koning
Classis Muskegon ................................ Rev. J. H. Schaal
Classis Orange City .................................. Rev. J. Rubingh

Classis Ostfriesland ............................... Rev. P. Huisman
Classis Pacific ..................................... Rev. P. De Koekkoek
Classis Pella ......................................... Rev. T. Verhulst
Classis Sioux Center ................................ Rev. J. Zwaanstra
Classis Wisconsin ..................................... Rev. J. C. Schaap

Classis Zeeland ....................................... Rev. G. Yff
Members at large... Mr. H. Boersma, Mr. H. Denkema, Dr. R. Wierenga
Secretary of Missions ............................... Dr. J. C. De Korne

The present officers of the Board are:
President .............................................. Rev. H. J. Evenhouse
Vice-president ......................................... Rev. George Yff
Secretary ................................................ Dr. J. C. De Korne
Treasurer .................................................. Mr. Henry Denkema
Assistant Treas ........................................ Dr. R. Wierenga
Minute Clerk ............................................ Rev. J. Beebe

The Board held its annual meeting on Feb. 12-14, 1947. The Executive Committee met six times since June, 1946. At its November meeting this Committee decided to meet henceforth once a month on account of the increased volume of work demanding attention. The Finance Committee, composed of the members at large and the secretary, met twenty-one times during this period.

SECTION II: BRIEF SURVEY OF OUR WHOLE MISSION PROJECT

A. Personnel. At the time this report is written one minister and one candidate are considering calls to missionary work; another candidate has indicated his acceptance of a call to China. Three calling churches have been presented with nominations from which they will choose men for missionary work in the near future. The Board is making efforts to obtain an unordained man for the position of principal at the Zuni mission school. By the time Synod meets we may have an increased number of workers on our mission force.

Here follows a tabulation of our entire force at the present time, indicating the workers as married or single:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total with Wives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained men</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campworkers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial workers</td>
<td>6 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office clerks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

--- 119 ---
Principals and teachers .... 1 13
Women gospel workers .... 2 3
Doctors and nurses .... 1 6
Cooks, matrons, laundresses .... 11
Under appointment .... 4 1
Native assistants paid by the Board .... 11 1

Indian M S China M S Nigeria M S Administration M S Total Total with Wives

17 18 5 5 10 11 11 11
6 10
12 23

In the above tabulation we have not included the native evangelists and teachers in Nigeria who are supported by native churches and who are not connected with our Board. These number 28 married men.

B. Results. Speaking of results, we must not overlook the important work that has been done in edifying and strengthening the converts in the midst of their adverse environment. As to professions of faith and baptisms of adults, we call special attention to the fact that professions of faith by native covenant children and baptisms of adults on profession of faith usually take place after the season of catechetical instruction terminates in the Springtime of the year. Our missionaries report that some are receiving that instruction now. By the time Synod meets the number mentioned below undoubtedly will have increased.

During the past nine months 4 infants of believing parents were baptized on our Indian field, and 13 adults received baptism on profession of faith on our Nigerian field. For obvious reasons no results could be reported from our China field at this time.

SECTION III. THE INDIAN FIELD

A. Survey of the various stations.

Carissom. Mr. David C. Boyd is the missionary here, with John Largo as his interpreter. He conducts a service and a Sunday school meeting on Sunday and gives religious instruction at the government school during the week. Much of his time is spent in campwork. One of the problems in this area is the extensive use of the peyote drug in connection with religious ceremonies by the Indians. The government is making some efforts to stamp out this evil, but is not meeting with much success.

Crown Point. Rev. Jacob Van Bruggen is the missionary stationed at this post. He conducts two services on Sunday and with the help of Mrs. Van Bruggen gives religious instruction during the week at the large government school at this place.

—120—
With the help of a team of native workers, Alfred Bicenti and Ben Henry, Mr. Van Bruggen also gives religious instruction at five other government schools and exercises some care over the vacant posts of San Antone and Star Lake. The native workers also carry on campwork. For this work the Board has decided to furnish them with a pick-up.

FARMINGTON. Rev. H. J. Schripsema labors here as missionary, Mr. C. Dykema as industrial assistant, and Mr. Chee Anderson as interpreter. Two services and a Sunday School meeting are held here on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon Geronimo Martin conducts a Sunday school class in the Navajo language, while the missionary gives religious instruction at the government school at Ignacio, Colorado, which is 65 miles away. At this school religious instruction is also given for one hour on Wednesdays, when the missionary is assisted by Mr. Dykema, Mr. Anderson, and Miss Chamberlain.

GALLUP. This post has been vacant since Dr. C. G. Hayenga was transferred to the work at Phoenix, Arizona. The Sunday evening service here has been conducted by Rev. J. R. Kamps.

In connection with this mission station a situation has developed that calls for the special attention of Synod. Gallup is a trading center for the Indians and contains much in the line of drinking places and vice dens to lead them to destruction. Many Indian girls, some of them christians, find employment in this wicked city and are in need of more extensive christian care. The Indian Committee of the Home Missions Council sensed this situation and decided to establish a social center for the Indians under the auspices of the Gallup churches. This would be a modernistic affair with features that would be detrimental to our mission work.

However, after some correspondence with us on this matter, the Council decided it will not establish this social center, if the Christian Reformed church is willing to do it. If we do not, the Council will go ahead. If we do, we will have full and complete control of such a social center.

Upon the recommendation of General Conference, Dr. Hayenga who knows the field, and the Inspection Committee, the Board decided to ask Synod for permission to establish a social center for the Indians in connection with our regular evangelistic work in Gallup. It would be an evangelistic social center requiring the following items: 1. A large room for services only, as much as possible. 2. A recreation room. 3. A reception room. 4. Rest rooms for men and women. 5. Showers for men and women. 6. Two bedrooms for emergency lodging. 7. Kitchen for social purposes. 8. Living quarters for the family of an Indian assistant.

Our present mission property in Gallup is not situated in a suitable location and should be sold. About $25,000.00 will perhaps be needed for new property. A request with respect to this project will be found in the list of recommendations at the end of this report.

—121—
NAHASCHITTY. At this post a native christian, Mr. Louis Henry, has been doing part-time mission work under the general supervision of Rev. G. Pars. An ordained man should be stationed here.

The Board took steps toward obtaining an ordained man for Nahaschitty by sending a request to the Sixteenth St. Christian Reformed church of Holland, Michigan, to become the calling church for this post and to assume responsibility for his salary. At the time this report was written the Sixteenth Street consistory did not yet have time to reply, but we have reasons to believe that the reply will be a favorable one.

PHOENIX-BLUEWATER. During the months from October to the end of May some 2000 Navahos, most of them from our field in New Mexico, are employed on large gardening projects at Phoenix, Arizona, about 350 miles west of Gallup. Since the beginning of last year Dr. C. G. Hayenga has been doing evangelistic work among these Indians, assisted by Mrs. Hayenga and students at the Cook Bible Training School for native workers. The Synod of 1946 gave the Board authority to open a mission post at Phoenix either on a part-time or full-time basis.

At its meeting on Dec. 12, 1946 General Conference passed a motion to advise the Board that Phoenix should be a part-time project. The Inspection Committee of the Board endorsed this advice and stated that Dr. Hayenga could be employed during the summer months at Bluewater, about 60 miles from Gallup, where another gardening project employs many of our Navahos.

The Board decided to have Dr. Hayenga work at Phoenix during the months from November to the end of May and at Bluewater during the remaining months. Classis Muskegon, which supports Dr. Hayenga as its missionary, has graciously consented to have him work according to this arrangement.

RED ROCK. This station, situated about 25 miles southwest of Shiprock, has no resident missionary as present, but is under the general supervision of Rev. F. Vander Stoep. A native christian, Mr. John Redhouse, lives in the interpreter's home and takes care of our property here. He also tries to testify to Indians who come to Red Rock and does a little campwork in the area.

The Board decided to secure an unordained white man as assistant to the missionary at Shiprock and to have either this man or Rev. Vander Stoep conduct one meeting a week at Red Rock and do campwork one day a week in this area.

REHOBOTH PASTORAL. Rev. Abel Poel conducts two services on Sunday, preaching to an audience composed of white workers, Indian school children, and Indian adults. He also teaches catechism classes during the week, visits the sick and holds gospel services in the hospital, and takes part in the Training School program.

Besides his duties at Rehoboth, Mr. Poel has supervision of the work at Fort Wingate where he has a class of 160 Indian students at the gov-
ernment school, and where the teachers and other workers under the leadership of Miss Stob conduct a Sunday School session on Sunday. Every Tuesday evening, under the leadership of the pastor, a fifteen-minute Gospel broadcast is given over Station KGAK in Gallup, in which the Rehoboth School children take part. Miss Sadie Wiersma prepares the program and Mr. H. P. Bloem serves as announcer. Every other week Mr. Poel also conducts a devotional service over this same station.

**Rehoboth Field Pastoral.** Besides his regular duties as campworker, Rev. J. R. Kamps has also been engaged in teaching in the Training School and conducting meetings at Bethlehem Chapel, Mariano Lake, and Church Rock. Since Dr. Hayenga left for Phoenix, Mr. Kamps has also conducted the Sunday evening services at Gallup.

General Conference recommended to the Board that Rev. J. R. Kamps be appointed to the position of Language Supervisor and Director of the Training School. The Board decided to appoint the brother to this position as soon as a man can be obtained in his place as campworker.

**Rehoboth Educational.** Arranged in historical order we have the following educational projects at Rehoboth.

(a) **The grade school.** In this school about 120 Indian children, many of them covenant children, receive christian instruction. Miss Renzina Stob functions as principal and the Misses Alyce Haveman, Gertrude Van Haitsma, and Jennie Visser serve as teachers.

(b) **The high school.** Fourteen students are enrolled in the 9th and 10th grades, 9 girls and 5 boys. Mr. Henry P. Bloem serves as principal and the Misses Dorothy Dykhuizen and Sadie Wiersma as teachers.

(c) **The training school** for native workers. Let no one despise the day of small things. At present we have only one student, Mr. John Redhouse, who comes from the Red Rock district. The Inspection Committee reports that he is making good progress. Giving instruction in this school are Rev. J. R. Kamps, Rev. A. Poel, Miss R. Stob and Mr. H. P. Bloem.

In this connection we may state that a young Navaho couple, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henry (Ella Mitchell) are studying at the Reformed Bible Institute at Grand Rapids with the purpose of preparing themselves for evangelistic work among their own people.

**Rehoboth Medical.** The hospital work is again in full swing under the direction of Dr. Louis Bos. This means not merely medical work, but medical mission work. Dr. Bos has arranged a schedule whereby he and Rev. Poel on alternate days bring a gospel message to the patients. Every morning a period of devotions is held by the entire staff. The following Registered Nurses give christian care to the patients in the hospital: The Misses Winnifred Hoekstra, Sadie Van Dyken, May Van Zwoll, Gertrude Oranje, Christine Haskeltse, and Madge Lyttle. We are glad to state that the last two are native christians, a fact which adds to their usefulness in the care of our Nahaho patients.
REHOBOTH INDUSTRIAL. Mr. J. H. Bosscher, who has been in the service of our mission longer than any other worker, is the industrial and business superintendent at Rehoboth. He is responsible for the upkeep of the buildings, repairs of various kinds, the purchase of materials and food stuffs, and the general business administration. His assistants are Mr. Peter Meyer, Mr. Tuli James, a native carpenter, and Miss Esther Schepers, the office clerk.

The central heating plant is proving to be an efficient and economical means of heating the buildings, and in addition it has reduced the fire hazards on the premises. Mr. Arthur Bosscher serves as engineer, assisted by his brother Robert who has been hired on a temporary basis.

The housing problem at Rehoboth is still acute. At the time this report is written three larger houses and one smaller one are under construction, but their completion is delayed by the lack of certain building materials.

In the dormitories Miss Marie Vander Weide serves as boys' matron, and Miss Dora Hofstra as girls' matron. In the Mission House the following are employed as cooks: The Misses Hattie Grevinggoed, Clara Kollis, and Elizabeth Kollis, and Mr. Richard Kruis who served as a cook in the Army. The work in the laundry is done under the direction of Miss Bessie Tjoelker, assisted by Miss Rena Bates.

All these workers in the industrial department assist in one way or another in the evangelistic work or help to promote it.

At the request of the Board “Uncle Dick” has kindly consented to raise through the medium of his Banner Department the sum of $3,000.00 for a School Bus at Rehoboth. The response has been wonderful, so that the Bus can be purchased in the near future. It will be named, “The Indian Cousins’ Bus.”

SAN ANTONE. The buildings at this station are in good condition, but the place has been vacant for about two years. Rev. J. Van Bruggen of Crown Point does what he can for the welfare of this post, although he has his hands full with his own work. With the hope of obtaining a missionary for this station the Board presented the following duo to the Peoria, Iowa, Christian Reformed church, the calling church for San Antone: Rev. Henry De Mots and Candidate Simon Viss, Jr.

SHIPROCK. Rev. F. Vander Stoep is the missionary at this post. He is assisted by Miss Ethel Chamberlain and by Mr. Edwin McKenzie, his interpreter. During the past few months Mr. Vander Stoep has been attending the Whitener language school at Tohatchi five days a week. He conducted two services each Sunday at Shiprock and one at Red Rock. Rev. H. Schripsema and Mr. David Boyd with the help of Miss Chamberlain took care of the classes for religious instruction in the large government school at Shiprock.

There is too much work for one man in this field. The Board has decided to engage an unordained white worker as an assistant to the
Shiprock missionary. If this plan materializes, more campwork can be done, the needs of Red Rock can receive more attention, and the aggressive efforts of the Mormons in this area can be counteracted.

**STAR LAKE.** This post has been vacant for over a year. For several years there has been a controversy regarding the place where the missionary should be located. At its annual meeting the Board decided to arrange for the calling of an ordained man for this post and to have him live at Crown Point for one year, during which time special study can be devoted to the problem of where the missionary should be located permanently.

The following duo was presented to the Sherman Street Christian Reformed church, the calling church for Star Lake: Rev. Paul Holtrop and Candidate Robert Recker.

**TOADLENA.** Rev. J. C. Kobes is the missionary here. He is assisted by Miss Angie Niewsma and by Mr. Sidney Nez, his interpreter. Besides the Sunday services and week-day Bible classes at the Toadlena government school, religious instruction is given each week at the Nava Day School and the Beautiful Mountain Day School. Camp work is also done as much as possible.

The government has decided to erect a large high school in the Toadlena area. If this is done, the missionary will need another assistant. The Board instructed Mr. Kobes to keep the Executive committee posted on developments with respect to this project. The Inspection Committee advised the placing of a worker at Beautiful Mountain when the new high school at Toadlena is built. The Board decided, that if Mr. Kobes gets an assistant at Toadlena, this man and Mr. Kobes should try to work the Beautiful Mountain district together.

**TOHATCHI.** Rev. and Mrs. Garrett D. Pars arrived at this station in the spring of 1946. They were fortunate in having the opportunity to study the language at the beginning of their missionary career. They spent five days a week in the study of Navaho under the direction of Rev. H. C. Whitener at Tohatchi.

The government school at Tohatchi did not reopen in September, and as a result the audiences at the Sunday services and Sunday School meetings were very small. Yet there is abundant opportunity for work in this area, especially in the line of campwork and of holding evangelistic meetings in the outstations. Mr. Pars reported that there is need of a chapel at Mexican Springs. The Board suggested to him that he should try to have the Indians build a hogan chapel like the one we have at Two Wells.

Last summer Mrs. Ella Mitchell Henry of the R.B.I. and Miss Juanita Bitsy of the Cook Bible Training School did evangelistic work among the women and children of the Tohatchi area.

**TWO WELLS.** Rev. J. B. Swierenga is the missionary at this post, and Mr. Melvin Chavez is his interpreter. Services are held in the hogan chapel at Two Wells and also at a place called Skeets Camp. As much time as is possible is spent in campwork. Mr. Swierenga also conducted the services at Zuni every other Sunday evening.
The exceedingly bad roads in this district present the missionary with a serious problem. There are times when he cannot leave home with a car. It is evident now that the mission property is situated in the wrong location. General Conference and the Inspection Committee are of the opinion that we should sell our present property and locate the mission nearer to the Gallup-Zuni highway. The Board decided to defer action on this matter for a year.

WINGATE-Perea. This promising district is not yet a separate mission post, but the time may come that we shall ask Synod for authority to open a post in this area.

At Fort Wingate, situated about five miles east of Rehoboth, there is a large government school, affording a wonderful opportunity for evangelistic work. As recorded elsewhere, Rev. A. Poel with the help of teachers and others takes care of the work here as much as possible.

At Perea, located about 15 miles east of Rehoboth, Mr. H. P. Bloem with the help of the older Rehoboth school girls holds a service on Sunday and conducts campwork on Saturday afternoon.

General Conference came with the recommendation, which was endorsed by the Executive Committee, that a full-time worker should be stationed in this area. The Board decided to defer action on the matter of a full-time worker, but stated that when we obtain a man for the San Antone post, he could take charge of the Wingate-Perea for the time being.

Zuni. Since Rev. George Yff left this station in November, 1944 several attempts were made to obtain an ordained man in his place, but all efforts failed.

Mr. C. Kuipers, principal of the mission school, served as acting superintendent of the Zuni mission. With the assistance of Mr. Rex Natewa, the interpreter, and of the other members of the Zuni staff the evangelistic work was carried on. Rev. J. B. Swierenga came from Two Wells every other Sunday evening to conduct a service.

The mission school gives Christian instruction to 148 pupils in the grades from one to ten. The teachers are: The Misses Nellie Lam, Martha Vos, Leonora Vander Veer, Helen De Lange, Janet Maring, and Nellie Tibboel. Miss Johanna Struyk serves as matron. Mr. Gerrit Stam is the industrial assistant.

Upon recommendation of the Executive Committee the Board decided to offer Mr. C. Kuipers the appointment as acting missionary at Zuni for the period of two years beginning June 1, 1947, subject to the approval of the Bethany Christian Reformed church at Muskegon, Mich., which supports the Zuni missionary. If his work proves to be satisfactory, Mr. Kuipers will be advised to seek ordination by way of Article VIII of the Church Order. It was also decided to ask Classis California to grant Mr. Kuipers the privilege of exhorting in the churches of that Classis.

By way of correspondence the Bethany church of Muskegon signified its hearty approval of the above arrangement regarding Mr. Kuipers. The
brother himself was present at the Board meeting and expressed his willingness to accept the appointment. The whole staff at Zuni is also heartily in favor of having Mr. Kuipers serve as acting missionary at this post.

Steps have also been taken to obtain a principal in the place of Mr. Kuipers.

There are several building and repair items at Zuni that call for attention, but we shall point only to the two most urgent ones:

(a) There is a decided need for a building which can be used as a combination recreation and assembly hall. The Catholic mission has a good building for this purpose and does not hesitate to use it as a means to draw our school children away from us. Even if this were not the case, there is still an urgent need for a building in which programs can be rendered and basketball and other games can be practiced and played. The Board decided to appropriate the sum of $15,000.00 for this building, to which will be added the money which the Zuni force has in its “Craft Fund.”

(b) When Mr. Kuipers becomes acting missionary a house will have to be provided for Mr. Stam who is now living in the parsonage. It was decided to take advantage of the offer made to the Board to lease the Vander Wagen property, consisting of a house and a 200 x 75 plot of ground. When the lease money for this house reaches a total of $5,000.00, the house becomes the property of the Board.

B. Items pertaining to the whole Indian field.

1. The Inspection Committee for 1947 was composed of Rev. J. P. Smith and Mr. Harry Boersma. Because our annual Board meeting was scheduled for February, this committee had to visit the field in the latter part of 1946. They were on the field from Nov. 29 to Dec. 16. The brethren appreciated the fine cooperative spirit manifested by the entire personnel on the field.


2. Representative of General Conference. It was a pleasure for the Board to have in its midst Rev. J. C. Kobes as representative of General Conference to advise us on Indian mission matters. We bespeak for him a hearty welcome at the meeting of Synod in June.

3. Rev. W. Goudberg. With the assistance of Mrs. Ella Mitchell Henry Rev. Goudberg continues to labor diligently in translating portions of Scripture into Navaho. He was also able to spend a month at the Farmington Translation Conference where matters pertaining to translation and spelling were discussed.

4. Language Supervisor and Director of the Training School. General Conference recommended that Rev. J. R. Kamps be appointed for this task. The Board decided to appoint Mr. Kamps to fill this position as
soon as we obtain a man in his place as campworker, subject to the approval of the Drenthe Christian Reformed church which supports him.

5. Examination of unordained workers.

(a) The Board decided that unordained white workers shall henceforth submit to an examination as to their spiritual and doctrinal fitness before they are appointed.

(b) Henceforth all native workers who enter into a contractual relationship with the Board shall submit to the same medical examinations as white workers, and also present a recommendation from their consistory or the “Missionary Committee” or the missionary of their district.

6. The Semi-centennial of our Indian work. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the semi-centennial book, “Navaho and Zuni for Christ,” is still in the hands of the printer at the time this report is written.

The Pageant “The Darkness and the Light,” written by Mrs. Louis Berkhoef, has been presented at meetings in the West, and will soon be presented in Michigan.

At Rehoboth, New Mexico, the semi-centennial celebration was held on the days of October 10, 11 and 12, 1946. All the speakers who had been invited were present to deliver their addresses, with the exception of Dr. Henry Beets and Rev. Herman Fryling who were unable to attend because of illness in their families. The main speeches on that occasion will appear in print in the semi-centennial book “Navaho and Zuni for Christ.”

A goodly number of former mission workers attended the meetings, as well as the present mission force, and also a number of mission friends and Christian Indians. Offerings and donations amounted to practically the cost of the celebration.

SECTION IV. THE CHINA FIELD

1. The Personnel in China. Rev. A. H. Selles sailed for China in March, 1946, Miss Kalsbeek in May, 1946, and Rev. A. H. Smit in December of 1946. They were instructed to make a thorough investigation of our field and to send a combined report to the Board with recommendations as to what should be done.

2. The Personnel under appointment. Rev. Peter De Jong is at present studying Chinese at the Berkeley School in California. Miss Marian De Young of South Holland, Ill. is studying at the same school. The Misses Lilian Bode and Magdalena Koets and Drs. B. J. Voss and H. E. Van Reken are waiting for instructions to sail for China.

At the time this report is written Rev. H. A. Dykstra is considering the call from the Alpine Ave. Christian Reformed church in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Candidate Henry Bruinooge the call from the Midland Park, N. J. Christian Reformed church for missionary work in China.

3. Conditions in our China field. In their combined report the missionaries in China state that the cities in our Jukao field are now controlled by the Central Government troops and that conditions are becoming
normal throughout our field. Trade between Shanghai and the ports north of the river is booming. Our Jukao people were friendly towards the missionaries and seemingly glad to see them.

Of the four missionary homes outside of the city wall two were completely obliterated by the Japanese and the two others very badly damaged. There is enough material left in the latter to rebuild them into one-story houses, suitable for small families. The estimated cost for rebuilding these houses would run from about $3,000 to $4,000 for each house. The two houses inside the city walls have suffered less damage and can be repaired at an estimated cost of a $1,000 for the one and $800 for the other. The hospital is also in need of repairs, but this can be done in sections as the need arises.

The Board instructed the China force to proceed with these repair and rebuilding projects.

4. The sending out of more workers and families to China. The force in China recommended that Mrs. A. H. Selles and son, Mrs. A. H. Smit and children, and the Misses Bode and Koets be returned to China as soon as arrangements can be made for passports and transportation.

With respect to Rev. Peter De Jong they recommend that he finish his first year of language study during a summer session at the Peiping College of Chinese Studies and then go to Jukao in the fall where he can take his second year of language study by means of correspondence with the Peiping School.

They advise that Drs. Voss and Van Reken, and Candidate Bruinooge if he accepts the call, enter the Peiping language school in the fall. Not knowing that Rev. H. A. Dykstra had the call from Alpine Ave., they made no recommendations regarding him. Having no definite information regarding Miss Marian De Young, they left her going to the Peiping school to the discretion of the Board.

The Board approved the above recommendations with the following exception and addition: That one of the doctors should first spend a year at Jukao in order to safeguard the health of the mission force and to begin the reestablishment of the hospital. Dr. Voss was given the privilege to choose between going to Jukao or to the Peiping language school; that Rev. H. A. Dykstra, if he accepts the call, will be sent to China at once, and that the China force will be instructed to arrange for a dwelling place for him and his family. The matter of Miss De Young was referred to the Executive Committee.

5. Possibility of taking over the Tungchow and Haimen field. The combined report of the China force states that our missionaries heard from two different sources that the Christian Mission, which has a field adjoining Jukao to the south, along the Yangtze river, consisting of the Tungchow and Haimen districts, is considering withdrawing from that field and relinquishing it to our Mission. Our missionaries feel that, if this field is offered to us, we should accept it at once, for then we would have a
sufficiently large and challenging field in China and it would not be necessary to look elsewhere for the expansion of our China work.

The Christian Mission has carried on very little evangelistic work in this field, so that there is but one organized church in the whole field, namely, in the city of Tungchow. Even if the field is not offered to us, we should ask the Christian Mission for permission to carry on evangelistic work in their field, since they do very little in this line.

The Board instructed the Executive Committee to investigate this matter and offered the suggestion that this possibility might be used as a ground for our recommendation to Synod to drop the matter of seeking for a field in West China.

6. Investigating the West China field. (See Acts of Synod 1946, Page 76, Article 106.) In view of the matter recorded above and also for other reasons the Board passed a motion recommending to Synod that we drop the matter of taking over a field in West China. This recommendation with the grounds for it will be found in the list of recommendations and requests at the end of this report.

7. Appeal to our churches for funds. In its combined report the China force suggests that this would be the psychological time for making a special appeal to our people for funds to reestablish our China work. They are confident that this appeal would meet with such a generous response that ample funds would be available to meet all extra expenses due to abnormal conditions in China.

The Board passed a motion to approve this suggestion.

SECTION V. THE NIGERIAN FIELD

A. Personnel. On the field at present are: Rev. E. H. Smith, Mrs. E. H. Smith, and the Misses Tena Huizenga, Anita Vissia, Margaret Dykstra, and Betty Vanden Berg.

Miss Jennie Stielstra, whose furlough of six months expired on Feb. 25, 1947, is waiting for passage back to Africa. Much of her furlough period was spent in deputation work, visiting churches in Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, New Mexico, California, Washington, and Montana, making between 90 and 100 addresses.

Rev. Harry R. Boer, who accepted the call from his home church (Prospect Park, Holland, Mich.) for missionary work in Nigeria, left last fall for a year of study at the Free University in Amsterdam, majoring in missions under Prof. Dr. J. H. Bavinck.

At the time this report is being written Candidate Peter Ipema is considering the call from the Rock Valley, Iowa, Christian Reformed church for missionary work in Nigeria.

B. Report of the Inspection Committee. The president of the Board, Rev. H. J. Evenhouse, and Secretary De Korne left for Europe and Africa on October 31st, 1946, and returned safely on February 28, 1947. It was not possible for them to have their report ready for inclusion in
the Agenda. They will submit a separate report to Synod on our Nigerian field, its workers, its fruits, its prospects and its needs.

C. Liturgical Forms. The Synod of 1946 (Acts, Pg. 75) refers this matter to the Board with instructions to present a copy of these Liturgical Forms in English to the Synod of 1947.

The Board instructed the Executive Committee to prepare this matter for Synod after receiving the report of the DeKorne-Evenhouse committee concerning these Forms.

SECTION VI: ITEMS DEALING WITH THE BOARD'S WORK AS A WHOLE

A. Administration. From June 1 to October 31, 1946 the Secretary of Missions, Dr. J. C. De Korne, continued his usual work of caring for voluminous correspondence, preparing the agenda for meetings and writing the minutes, conferring with prospective mission workers, giving mission addresses, arranging the tours for speakers at mission festivals and meetings of Women's Missionary Unions, etc. Editing the semi-centennial book "Navaho and Zuni for Christ" also demanded much of his time, in which task he received valuable help from Rev. W. Goudberg and Mr. P. B. Peterson. Preparing articles for the Mission page of The Banner is also a part of his regular work.

During the absence of the Secretary on his Nigerian inspection tour with President H. J. Evenhouse, Rev. G. J. Vande Riet served as Acting secretary.

We appreciate the faithful and competent work of our office clerk, Miss Reta De Boer, who cares for the typing and filing and does all the bookkeeping of our vast mission enterprise. Because of the overflow of work in the office we are glad to have the help of Mrs. Gertrude Vander Woude and Miss Grace Huisjen, who come in once and sometimes twice a week to do typing and mimeographing. The increasing volume of work in the office calls for still more help than we have been receiving heretofore.

B. Calling and Supporting churches. One of the Board's mandates is to seek for calling and supporting churches for our mission workers. We are happy to present the following list at this time. Churches unmarked pay the full salary of the workers, those marked with a * pay only a part of the salary, and those marked by a ** are only calling churches.

Grand Rapids —

Alpine Ave., Rev. H. A. Dykstra.
*Boston Square, Miss Renzina Stob.
Broadway, Miss Wilhemina Kalsbeek.
Coldbrook, Rev. A. H. Smit.
*Dennis Ave., Miss Ethel Chamberlain.
Seymour, Miss Dora Hofstra.
Burton Heights, Miss Margaret Dykstra.
Lagrange Ave., Dr. H. E. Van Reken.
**Fuller Ave., Rev. J. B. Swierenga.
Kalamazoo —
First Church, Miss Betty Vanden Berg.
*Second, Gallup missionary.
Third, Miss Magdalena Koets and Mr. David Boyd.

Fremont —
First Church, Christine Haskeltsi.
Second Church, Miss Jennie Stielstra and Rev. Peter De Jong.

Holland —
*Central Ave., Rev. A. H. Selles.
Maple Ave., Rev. G. Pars.
Prospect Park, Rev. Harry R. Boer.
Ninth Street, Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Smith.
Fourteenth Street, Dr. B. J. Voss.

Wellsburg — First Church, Miss Tena Huizenga.
South Holland, Ill. — First Church, Miss Marian De Young.

Rock Valley, Iowa, Church — Nigerian missionary.
(Cand. P. Ipema is considering call)

Midland Park, N. J. — Miss Anita Vissia and Rev. H. Bruinooge.

Grand Haven, Second Church, — Miss Lillian Bode.

Classis Muskegon — Dr. C. G. Hayenga.

Muskegon, Bethany Church — Mr. C. Kuipers.


**Paterson Churches — Rev. J. Van Bruggen.

*Peoria, Iowa — Missionary for San Antone.


Zeeland, First Church — Misses Gertrude Van Haitsma and Leonora Vander Veer.

The office is at present corresponding with Sherman St., Grand Rapids and Sixteenth Street, Holland, concerning their calling and supporting a mission worker. We have reasons to believe the results will be favorable.

SECTION VII. LIST OF REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYNOD.

1. Board Representation at Synod. The Board requests Synod that, in addition to Secretary De Korne, Rev. George Yff be permitted to represent the Board at Synod in matters pertaining to Indian and Foreign missions, with Rev. H. J. Evenhouse as his alternate: Also that Dr. R. Wierenga be permitted to represent the Board with respect to the financial matters of our mission.

2. Evangelistic Social Center at Gallup. The Board recommends to Synod the establishment of an evangelistic social center in connection with our regular mission work in Gallup. The need for this project and its requirements are set forth in our report under the heading of Gallup. Grounds for this recommendation:

(a) General Conference, Dr. C. G. Hayenga, our former missionary at Gallup, and the Inspection Committee are convinced of the need for
such a social center in connection with our mission set-up there. (The whole Board is in agreement with this).

(b) The Home Missions Council of North America has decided to establish a social center in Gallup, if the Christian Reformed church does not. A social center run by this Council along modernistic and worldly lines would be detrimental to our mission work.

3. Zuni Mission Matters. The Board asks the approval of Synod with respect to the following decisions regarding Zuni:

(a) The decision to appoint Mr. C. Kuipers as acting missionary for two years, with a view to his seeking ordination via Article VII of the Church Order, if his work proves satisfactory. The books Mr. Kuipers has written are evidence of his special talents, and his many years of experience at Zuni are a distinct asset to our mission work here. Bethany church, Muskegon, the supporting church for the Zuni missionary, is heartily in favor of this arrangement.

(b) The decision to lease the Bernie Vander Wagen property on terms of monthly payments until the sum of $5,000.00 has been paid, after which the house becomes our property. This house is needed for the industrial assistant who is now living in the parsonage.

(c) The decision to place $15,000.00 in the Budget for 1948 for the purpose of erecting an assembly hall at Zuni. This building is needed for recreational purposes, the rendering of programs, and the holding of various kinds of meetings. The Catholics have such a building and do not hesitate to use it as a means to draw our school children away from us. Other items of necessary repairs will be presented in our Budget reports.

4. Language Supervisor and Director of the Training School. Upon recommendation of General Conference the Board decided to appoint Rev. J. R. Kamps to this position as soon as we obtain a man in his place as campworker, subject to consultation with the Drenthe church which supports Mr. Kamps. This would require a home for the campworker and the seeking of a calling church to support him. We request Synod's approval of this decision.

5. The Tungchow and Haimen field in China. In our report under the heading of China we speak of the possibility of our taking over the Tungchow and Haimen field, situated south of our Jukao field, from the Christian Mission. The Board instructed the Executive Committee to investigate this matter. In case this field is offered to us before Synod meets, we ask Synod's permission for the Executive Committee to bring this matter to Synod for action.

6. Investigating the West China field. (Acts of Synod, 1946, Page 76, Article 106.) The Board recommends to Synod that we drop the matter of taking over a field in West China.
Grounds:
(a) The combined report of our missionaries in China shows that conditions with respect to our present field are much improved.
(b) The leaders and churches in West China are not entirely satisfied with our stand regarding the use of tobacco and wine.
(c) The cost of setting up a whole new mission project in a new field would come exceedingly high.
(d) The combined report of our force in China gives us some hope of obtaining a field directly south of our Jukao field.

7. Nigerian Mission Matters. Since it was impossible for the De Korne-Evenhouse Inspection Committee to get its report ready in time for the Agenda, we request that this committee be permitted to submit its report, together with the decisions of the Executive Committee connected with it, to this meeting of Synod.

8. Time of Annual Board Meetings. The Board decided to send the following petition to the Synod of 1947: "To the Synod of 1947, Esteemed Brethren: The Christian Reformed Board of Missions kindly petitions Synod to reconsider the decision of 1946, (Acts, Art. 72, IV, C, 2, e) which requires that the annual meeting of our Board be held in February, and return to the former custom of meeting in May.

Grounds:
(a) The present arrangement requires the delegates to break away from the congregational work in midwinter for a week, and for some even longer (two weeks), in the busiest season of the year.
(b) There is a lapse of more than four months between the meeting of the Board and the time that Synod receives its report. Therefore, this report does not give an up-to-date picture of the situation at the time when Synod considers it.
(c) The Board must prepare the budget almost a year in advance. It is difficult to plan efficiently the expected income and disbursements so far ahead."

9. Committee for fostering missionary education. Last year the Board came to the Synod of 1946 with the request that a committee be appointed to draw up a comprehensive plan for fostering missionary education among the members of our church, both children and adults. The object of this educational program would be: (a) to define the mission responsibility of the individual Christian and to challenge him with this responsibility; and (b) to keep the members informed on the complete program of mission work carried on by our church, and to seek to instil in their hearts a genuine enthusiasm for that program.

The Synod of 1946 (Acts, Pg. 80, II, 2.) tabled a motion to refer this matter to the standing committee on education until this committee had first reported on other matters. Afterwards Synod forgot to take up this matter again. Therefore the Board comes to the Synod of 1947 with a renewal of the request mentioned above. The Board considers this to be an important matter.

—134—
10. Pension Fund for unordained workers. The Board requests Synod to approve its decisions regarding the establishment of a Pension Fund for unordained workers. The following motions were passed:

(a) At a meeting of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions, Feb. 12-14, 1947, the Committee appointed to present plans for a Pension Fund made its report, and it was unanimously decided to adopt the report and to establish such a Fund for its unordained employees under a written contractual agreement. The Fund is to be known as the Pension Fund of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

(b) It was decided to set aside the sum of $10,286.26 to set the above plan in motion, and to include the sum of $2,214.75 in the budgets for 1947 and 1948.

(c) The Finance committee was instructed to lay the groundwork for this Pension Plan by contacting the unordained workers who are eligible to come under this plan. They will be informed that, if the Synod approves this plan, their contributions towards this Fund will begin on January 1, 1947.

Here follows a brief of the proposed Pension Plan:

BRIEF OF THE PROPOSED PENSION PLAN FOR UNORDAINED WORKERS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS

1. Eligibility.
   All full time unordained employees under written contractual relationship with the Christian Reformed Board of Missions may come under the Pension Plan.

2. Amount of Pension.
   a. Employees must have been in the employ of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for ten years in order to be eligible for pension.
   b. For those who have been in the employ of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for ten years, or more, payment shall be made according to the following schedule: percentage to be based on the average annual salary which was received by such employee for the ten years previous to his retirement: 10 years — 10%; for every additional year 2% will be added. The maximum pension shall be 40%. Interest accumulated on this sum after the 25 years shall be paid to employee at time of retirement.
   c. No employees shall be required to pay into the Pension Fund for more than 25 years. When 25 annual payments have been completed, the paid-in amount by such an employee shall bear interest at the rate of 2½% per annum.

3. Contributions.
   a. Each member entitled to benefit from this fund shall contribute 3% of his salary, which is to be deducted from his wages each month.
   b. The Board shall pay 3% of the monthly payroll of the employees who have come under this plan. This amount is to be added monthly to the amount paid by the employees.

4. Retirement Age.
   a. Retirement age shall be 65 years for male employees and 60 years for women employees.
   b. Those who desire to continue work after age of retirement can do so only when special arrangements are made with the Board.
   c. No premium shall be paid by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for employee after reaching the age when he or she is eligible for pension.
   d. No additional benefits shall be paid if employee continues in the employment of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions after the age when he or she is eligible for pension.
   e. In case an employee must discontinue his work because of physical disability, before he or she is eligible for pension he or she shall receive benefits out of the pension fund according to the schedule in Art. 2b, as long as the disability lasts.
until he or she shall be paid an amount equal to all contributions paid into the fund by such person and by the Board for such person.

5. Death Before Retirement.
   a. In case of death before retirement the dependent or dependents shall be paid an amount equal to all contributions paid into the fund by such person and by the Board for such person.
   b. In the event of the death of a person receiving pension i.e., after retirement, the dependent or the dependents of such a person shall be paid an amount equal to all contributions paid into the fund by such deceased person and by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for such deceased person, less an amount equal to the sum already paid to the deceased.
   c. But in the event there be no dependents, then the designated beneficiary or the estate shall be paid the amount paid in by such deceased person less an amount equal to the sum already paid to the deceased.
   d. Widows (widowers) and children under 18 years of age and also children over 18 years of age who are physically or mentally incompetent shall be considered to be dependents.

6. Leaving employment before 60 or 65.
   a. In case an employee discontinues his services for personal reasons, he or she shall be entitled only to the amount he or she has paid in, plus 2½% per annum.

7. Administration.
   This fund shall be managed by a committee of five: three from the Board and two from the employees.

8. Investment of the Fund.
   The money of the Pension Fund shall be kept in a separate bank account, under the control of the committee of pensions and in a bank to be approved by the Board. All this is to be supervised by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions. Surplus funds shall be invested only in Federal Government Bonds.

9. Limitation of Assignment.
   For the protection of the employee, life income payments as well as other benefits or refunds under the plan are not subject to assignment, attachment, garnishment, execution, levy or sale on judicial proceedings, nor transferable by any means, voluntarily or involuntarily, prior to their actual payment.

10. The Board shall rule in all special cases.

11. Supplementary Budget for 1947. The Board asks Synod to approve a supplementary budget for 1947 amounting to the sum of $77,836.61. We expect to pay for the items in this budget partly by dipping into our reserves and partly by special gifts that come in.

   Here follows a breakdown of the above amount showing the estimated sums needed for our three fields, for administration expenses, and for the General Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>$35,023.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>25,637.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1,925.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>2,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>13,151.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Total ........................................ $77,836.61

12. Budget for 1948. The Board requests Synod to adopt the budget for 1948 amounting to the sum of $395,148.35. We expect to raise about $60,000.00 by means of special gifts, which leaves the sum of $335,148.35 to be raised by quotas.

   — 136 —
A breakdown of the above amount shows the estimated needs for our three fields, for administration expenses, and for the General Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>$269,004.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>79,258.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>25,310.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>12,375.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>49,199.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total ...................................... $435,148.35

Less estimated salaries paid by supporting churches .................................. 40,000.00

For the 1948 Budget .................................. $395,148.35

13. *Quota per family for 1948.* The Board recommends to Synod to increase the quota per family for 1948 to $11.00. As grounds for our recommendation for this greatly enlarged quota we submit the following:

1. Our reserve funds are rapidly being depleted. It was only because we had generous reserves that we were able to carry on our missionary activities during recent years with the very low quota which has been in effect since 1942. During 1946 our reserves were depleted by $30,000.00, and an additional $54,000.00 was earmarked during that year. Because of the expansion of our work already authorized, the year 1947 will see a further depletion of at least $133,000.00. Even the figures which appeared in recent years as surplus are only apparent figures, for they included earmarked funds; when earmarked funds are deducted, we have as of December 31, 1946 only a surplus of $176,000.00. The Board finds it necessary to propose to Synod that for our 1947 expenditures we draw on our reserves to the extent of $133,000.00. This will leave us at the end of 1947 with a reserve of only $43,000.00, which is not a large amount in view of the fact that our normal disbursements exceed $300,000.00 and probably will run to $400,000.00. Besides this, $12,000.00 of this reserve belongs to an annuity fund on which we have to pay interest.

2. The cost of our Indian and Foreign mission work is increasing greatly, due to the following factors:
   (a) The present salary rate for missionaries is 44.44 per cent above what it was in 1942. The higher cost of living has made this increase necessary.
   (b) Some buildings have been erected during 1946 (Central heating plant and four residences begun), but there is a bigger building program ahead of us. Equipment for these buildings must also be purchased, and all building costs and equipment are greatly increased in price.
   (c) Cost of transportation of missionaries and of supplies has increased greatly. In 1938, when our total quota was $.405 per family, it cost us four cents per mile for missionary automobile travel on the Indian field; now it costs us approximately seven cents per mile.
3. The rehabilitation of our China Mission is calling for huge expenditures. During the war we could not send any missionaries out there, and we had no working budgets to supply. Our principal expense was the support of missionaries in this country. Some received their support from other organizations with which they were temporarily connected, but others were supported entirely or in part from usual mission funds. Now the whole picture changes. Practically all of our former missionaries are back in the service of the China Mission. We bought three trans-Pacific steamship tickets in 1946; in 1947 we have already purchased seven; and if present plans can be carried out, there will be four more married couples and one single girl going out before the end of 1947. Several of our buildings in China have been destroyed completely and all the others will need extensive repairs.

4. Our expenses were kept low during recent years because we were not able to do the building that should have been done. Now that construction work can again be undertaken, naturally our expenses are going to be much higher.

5. We should rejoice in the expansion of our missionary work which has been made possible in the way of God's providence. When the old quota of $4.92 per family was set in 1941 (for the year 1942), we had a total of 98 missionaries; our present total is 123. These figures include native workers and wives.

Respectfully submitted,

G. J. Vande Riet,
Acting Secretary
REPORT NO. 23

SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The great purpose of our Churches and of your Committee for South America is still that of promoting the spiritual interests of the Brazilian and Argentinian Hollanders of Reformed persuasion, according to our Synodical mandate of 1912. This mandate was our guide also in 1946.

But a new purpose of your Committee is that of bringing the gospel also to others in South America besides Hollanders, as God’s providence may direct, in harmony with the broadening and expansion of our mandate by the Synod of 1946. (Article 135, B, 3; Acts, page 100.) This expansion was suggested to your Committee by the Rev. Jerry Pott, during his furlough, it was advocated by our Committee, approved by the Synod of 1946, and will be of increasing importance for the work in both Argentina and Brazil, and possibly elsewhere, in South America.

Especially the work of the Rev. Jerry Pott in Argentina has touched not only immigrant Hollanders but also native Argentinians, because the Rev. Pott has a marked evangelistic approach in his Spanish sermons that is appreciated by both our Hollanders and by the traditional Argentinians. We are thankful that, after a brief stay of a few months in the Rev. Wm. V. Muller’s church, in Carambehy, Parana, Brazil, the Rev. Jerry Pott is again back in his beloved Argentinian field of Tres Arroyos.

After the Rev. Jerry Pott had returned from the Rev. W. Muller’s church in Brazil to his own church and family in Argentina, he wrote one more of the many reports that he has sent to our Committee. But his praise for the work of Rev. Muller should not go unnoticed in this report of our Committee to Synod. For Rev. Muller has been both the pastor of his church and the leader of the Dutch colony of Carambehy for more than a dozen years. Of the work of Rev. Muller, now on furlough, the report of Rev. Pott contains the following appreciation.

“As one travels through the colony and visits the families, there are several things that impress, which I would like to sum up as follows:

1. The high caliber of the work performed by the Rev. and Mrs. Muller in both a spiritual and material way, and the rich fruits upon their labors. As one hears the history of the past ten years, and upon perusing the consistoryal minutes, there is no doubt but that the Rev. and Mrs. Muller have given themselves entirely, having given freely of their time and talents for the welfare of the congregation and colony.

2. The deep appreciation on the part of the congregation for all the self-sacrificing labours of the pastoral family. It is not characteristic
of the Hollander to express his appreciation lavishly, and I can just imagine that they never told the Mullers themselves just how much all their labours were appreciated; but they did tell me, and I am very happy to inform the Committee of it.

"3. The unity of this isolated group. There are, of course, differences of opinion, and some do have a tendency to criticize others. But when it comes to essential and cardinal points, the strong undercurrent of brotherly love and unity in faith reveals itself in a very practical way. And it is not primarily the isolation that brings that about, but the oneness in Christ is the tie that binds.

"4. The spirituality of many members. With many in the congregation, it was not at all difficult to enter into a spiritual conversation; on the contrary, I had several opportunities to speak with them about the more intimate things of our Christian life, and they enjoyed it and also made references to points of Christian doctrine and life expounded by the Rev. Muller in his ministerial and pastoral labours. In that way the congregations here in South America stand higher, I think, than the average congregation in the States, where the hustle and bustle of modern life leaves less room for meditation and spiritual conversation.

"5. The Dutch character of the colony manifests itself clearly; people coming to Carambei soon forget they are in Brazil, in a Roman Catholic country using the Portuguese language. For in Carambei everyone speaks the Holland language. And the general characteristics which mark our Holland people are clearly evident in every phase of the life there.

"6. The progressiveness of the colony as a whole is evident from the fine houses and barns and the modern conveniences in the home. Everything gives the impression that the people have forged ahead, especially these last years. And many have plans for expansion and improvement."

Although our Committee had during Rev. Pott’s recent furlough discussed with Rev. Pott a change in his field of labor to Brazil or Buenos Aires, Rev. Pott had expressed himself that he felt that his work in Tres Arroyos was not yet finished, and that he much preferred to go back to the same place.

We can also report that similarly our Committee had discussed with the Rev. W. V. Muller, during his recent furlough, a change in his field of labor to Argentina, but that the Rev. W. V. Muller also felt that the Lord had opened effectual doors to him in Brazil, so that he too greatly preferred to return to the same place. Barring unforeseen developments, the Rev. and Mrs. W. V. Muller and their son Hans will be back in Brazil by the time this report is in the hands of the members of Synod.

The Committee authorized both the Rev. Muller and the Rev. Pott to go on speaking tours to present the cause of South America to our people, and we are grateful to everyone that has helped to make these itineraries a real success, and a blessing under God.
The furlough of the Rev. W. V. Muller came at the regular time, but due to the war that of the Rev. Jerry Pott was several years late. Under the circumstances, the Committee had the unique privilege of meeting with both the Rev. Muller and the Rev. Pott at the same time, giving opportunity for the discussion of many questions of general policy in South America, and for the development of some opinions in the Committee. These opinions will have a bearing upon advices that the Committee may be called upon to give in the future.

The Committee has decided definitely that we favor the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt for home missionary (predikant in algemeenen dienst) in Classis Buenos Aires, and has so informed him, the Church at Buenos Aires and the Committee in the Netherlands. The Committee in the Netherlands acquiesces in this, providing a successor can be found for Rev. Sonneveldt at Buenos Aires, and providing adequate financial arrangements can be made. We would like to hear from men willing to serve at Buenos Aires.

Your Committee has authorized Rev. Muller to visit both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, again, if he deems it wise, for Home Mission work.

In harmony with a decision of the Synod of 1946 (Article 135, B, 2; page 100 of the Acts), concerning Juan Samuel Boonstra, a young man of Rev. Pott's church that desires to study for the ministry, your Committee authorized its secretary to send an official request for support to three Classis to the amount of three hundred fifty dollars per year for each Classis, to the Rev. D. D. Bonnema for Classis Zeeland, to the Rev. H. Blystra for Classis Holland and to the Stated Clerk of Classis Ostfriesland; your Committee included with these requests also the consistorial recommendation in English. This recommendation is presented here, translated according to Synodical decision.

"Committee of the North American Chr. Ref. Church for South America, Dr. M. J. Wyngaarden, Secretary.

Dear Brethren:

"Upon the advice of Rev. J. Pott, Mr. Juan Samuel Boonstra, a member of the Church of Tres Arroyos, requested a testimonial from the Consistory of his Church, in behalf of a request for aid to study, in preparation for the Ministry of the Word.

"At the meeting of January 25, 1946, the Consistory considered this request and unanimously decided heartily to recommend Brother Boonstra to your Committee.

"Brother Boonstra is a confessing member, and as far as the Consistory knows, sound in the faith and unblamable.

"His parents are Godfearing members of the Congregation, very faithful and cooperative, and they stand at the head of a large (nine children) and promising family, but the material resources are lacking to enable them to permit their children to study.


— 141 —
Their different children show signs of a material of which something can be made.

The oldest son, Juan Samuel, is a zealous and talented worker in Evangelization, the Sunday school and the Youth Societies.

The work in the small business of his parents does not attract him, but during the summer months of his vacation he succeeded in finding well-paid work in Buenos Aires, which also shows his good capacity.

Concerning the motives of Juan for his choice, we think that we may trust that, amid all human imperfection, the faith and fear of God, and the hand of God are working here, in the line of the covenant.

For the rest, Rev. J. Pott has learned to know him more personally and intimately.

To Mr. Boonstra himself, our Consistory has given a shorter testimonial, to send to your Committee.

Imploring God's blessing upon all your work in His kingdom, we remain,

Yours in the Lord,

In name of the Consistory of the
Reformed Church of Tres Arroyos, Argentina,
(was signed) D. BERGMA, President
(was signed) D. ZIJLSTRA, Clerk.

There is a slow progress in emigration from the Netherlands to South America, from time to time. We are desirous that Dutch emigrants will settle in communities in South America where there are Reformed Churches. Hence our Committee held a brief informal meeting with the delegates of the Ecumenical Synod from the Netherlands and from South Africa in order to discuss problems of emigration and other matters. The delegates promised to cooperate with our effort, to guide such Dutch emigrants as may desire to go to South America to Reformed communities there, and to emphasize this matter in the Dutch religious press of the Reformed people in the Netherlands.

The Rev. W. V. Muller and the Rev. Jerry Pott as well as the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt have throughout the years worked to the same end. If Reformed Dutch emigrants to such places as Rosario were lost to the Reformed Churches several decades ago, we can report with joy that the last few decades have seen very commendable efforts to retain a high percentage of Reformed Dutch emigrants to South America for our Reformed Churches there.

Of course this has meant some expense such as is commonly incident to Home Mission work, even when some of this work is done by pastors in established congregations, as their bases from which they make extensive Home Mission trips occasionally.

The Committee has authorized the continuation of such trips by the Rev. Muller and the Rev. Pott also in the future. We feel that our Synod is definitely interested in the church extension feature of our work, especially among scattered Hollanders of Reformed persuasion both in
Brazil and Argentina, even though there may be only a few such families at a certain place. We are looking toward the future, when emigration from the Netherlands may make some of these small Dutch settlements more significant and when new settlements may be established. The Rev. Wm. V. Muller has made extensive investigations as to the possible location of a new Reformed Dutch settlement of farmers in Brazil, and has selected a site where some 60 families could locate, if the financial matters can be arranged. That will, however, be difficult.

Although our Committee leaves matters of immigration entirely to private initiative, we do seek to promote the spiritual interests of such Ref. Dutch emigrants as may choose to come to South America, by encouraging their location in communities where they can receive pastoral care. Leading members of the Reformed Churches in South America are also working toward this end, through local immigration societies.

We are glad that there is a student from Argentina studying at the Kampen Theological Seminary. We hope that he will return to Argentina for service in the Kingdom of God. If the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands cannot bear the full burden of supporting both the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt and this young man, our Committee hopes that our Churches will enable us to supply such financial support as may be needed.

Your Committee is also pleased that the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt, who serves Buenos Aires and Chubut, has requested a pastor for Chubut from the South African Reformed Church. For Chubut is a congregation composed of South African Boers that emigrated to South America after the Boer War, and that have maintained a vigorous congregational life under the leadership of the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt for many years. His services are still greatly appreciated in Chubut, but because he is now over 65 years of age, he is looking forward to the time when a successor will be needed. We hope the South African Reformed Church may see its way clear to loan a preacher to Classis Buenos Aires for Chubut, as our denomination has loaned both Rev. Muller and Rev. Pott to this Classis. We also hope that South Africa may send subsidy to the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt in the near future, as our Committee suggested to the South African delegates to the Ecumenical Synod, and because the inflation makes additional funds for Rev. Sonneveldt imperative.

During the war, the South America Committee of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands has faithfully paid the annual stipend for the Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt into their denominational Pension Fund, from which Rev. Sonneveldt is to be supported, the Lord willing, when he is retired at the age of seventy. We earnestly hope that the Dutch Committee for South America may be able to send at least a part of Rev. Sonneveldt’s subsidy to him, in the near future, though none was sent to him by the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, during 1946. May the Lord abundantly bless Classis Buenos Aires and our sister churches in the Netherlands and in South Africa.
With respect to the work of your Committee for South America and Ceylon, the Committee has designated the Secretary as its representative to the Synod of 1947.

CEYLON

In harmony with a decision of the Synod of 1946, (Article 135, C; page 101 of the Acts), the Rev. A. H. Smit, Missionary to China, visited Ceylon promptly after his return to the Far East. He sent us a letter written at Shanghai and mailed at Calcutta. He met with the General Consistory of the Reformed Churches of Ceylon, at two special meetings that were arranged for him in February 1947. The General Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Churches of Ceylon corresponds largely to a Classis, in our denomination.

The Rev. A. H. Smit is reported to have made a very favorable impression for the Christian Reformed Church, at the two special meetings of the General Consistory but not all the members could be present. The matter was deemed to be so important that it had to be taken up at a full meeting of the General Consistory, and so it will be considered again at the next regular quarterly meeting of the General Consistory, which comes in April. On Ceylon we therefore hope to present a supplementary report to this Synod, concerning Rev. Smit's forthcoming report and the General Consistory's action.

We are very grateful to the Rev. A. H. Smit for the service that he has rendered both to our denomination and to the Reformed Dutch Church of Ceylon, which has approached several denominations in order to acquire an additional Reformed minister to widen their spiritual horizons and to deepen their appreciation of Reformed theology and Reformed Church government. No doubt the Rev. A. H. Smit's visit has contributed to this very end.

The present scriba, or secretary, of the General Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church of Ceylon is Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, whose address is Verdley, Inner Flower Road, Colombo, Ceylon.

May our Churches continue to consider the needs of Ceylon prayerfully, in order that decisions made by the General Consistory of Ceylon may be conducive that God's name is hallowed, His Kingdom comes, and His will is done.

As usual, and as was done in 1946, the financial report will be presented to Synod separately.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Synod continue to support the work entrusted to its Committee for South America and Ceylon with an annual offering of seventy-five cents per family.

II. In order to meet excessive inflation in South America your Committee requests Synod to approve of the following schedules for 1947, beginning January first, and the Committee is now paying Rev. Muller and Rev. Pott accordingly. These brethren have actually been losing...
money, in trying to meet an inflation of several hundred percent, and much higher even than that.

Basic salary, Rev. W. V. Muller ........................................... $2,600.00
Salary raise after ten years, Rev. Muller ......................... 200.00
Child's allowance, Rev. Muller ........................................ 100.00
Inflation bonus, Rev. Muller, $100 per month .................. 1,200.00
Basic salary, Rev. Jerry Pott ........................................ 2,600.00
Salary raise after five years, Rev. Pott ......................... 100.00
Children's allowances, Rev. Pott .................................... 450.00
Inflation bonus, Rev. Pott, $100 per month .................. 1,200.00

Mileage for both Rev. Muller and Rev. Pott at five cents per mile

III. The following budget for 1948 is presented to Synod for approval:

Basic salary, Rev. Wm. V. Muller ............................................. $2,600.00
Salary raise after ten years, Rev. Muller ............................ 200.00
Child's allowance, Rev. Muller ........................................ 100.00
Inflation bonus, Rev. Muller, $100 per month .................. 1,200.00
Basic salary, Rev. Jerry Pott ........................................ 2,600.00
Salary raise after five years, Rev. Pott ......................... 100.00
Children's allowances, Rev. Pott .................................... 450.00
Inflation bonus, Rev. Pott, $100 per month .................. 1,200.00

Mileage at five cents, Rev. Muller and Rev. Pott, each serving a congregation and scattered groups of Reformed Hollanders ........ 1,000.00

Subsidy, Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt serving Chubut and Buenos Aires .. 900.00
(Loan to the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands)

Inflation bonus, if necessary, Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt .......... 1,200.00
(Loan to the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands)

Basic salary, another ordained worker in Classis Buenos Aires, approved by Synod ........................................ 2,600.00
Inflation bonus, this prospective ordained worker .............. 1,200.00
Children's allowances according to schedule and transportation to South America ........................................ 1,000.00
Salary, Cand. Bergsma, with free board and lodging in Christian Boarding School of which his wife is matron ............... 1,200.00
Child's allowance, Cand. D. Bergsma ................................. 150.00
Ceylon expenses, if necessary ........................................... 1,500.00
Administrative expense .................................................. 250.00
Furlough Reserve .......................................................... 500.00

Total ........................................................................... $20,050.00

Expected from Carambehy for Rev. Muller's salary ............... $360.00
Expected from Tres Arroyos for Rev. Pott's salary .................. 240.00

Total ........................................................................... $600.00

Respectfully submitted,
Committee for South America and Ceylon,
HENRY BEETS, Pres.
MARTIN J. WYNGAARDEN, Sec'y and Treas.
DAVID D. BONNEMA, Vice-Pres.
HARRY BLYSTRA
THOMAS YFF
REPORT NO. 24

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF CALVIN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The Board to which you entrusted the care of our college and seminary met on February 5 and 6 of this year. Under the able guidance of the Rev. G. Hoeksema it was able to do its work in two days. However, it found that it was impossible to finish certain parts of its work, notably the budget for the coming school year, hence it intends to meet again on May 7, the Lord willing. This report presents for your consideration as much of the work as it was able to cover.

College

President Henry Schultze of our college was able to render his seventh report in his present capacity. He finds the work always interesting and educational but not growing easier. He greatly appreciates the willingness of his staff in the cooperation given. He began his report with the following general comments which we believe may prove of interest to your honorable body:

General Comments

"During the war years educational leaders were complaining about the impossibility of carrying on. The government interfered with the educational policies of institutions; courses shifted to the sciences; there was a restlessness among the students due to the uncertainty of their lot in the war program; there was a constant depletion of the student body and teaching staff; there was a demand to accelerate the programs of instruction. There were other problems constantly placed at the door of the educator. How he longed and prayed for peace! What a relief it would be for him!

"But the end of the war did not diminish his problems. It only increased them. Everywhere shortages blocked his plans — a shortage of faculty members, a shortage of classroom facilities, a shortage of housing — and all that in the face of a growing number of students who had lost the idea of a liberal education and insisted upon professional courses that would give them a job at good pay as soon as possible. The presence of the veterans has increased the problems because of their relationship to the government subsidy plan. What a tremendous lot of clerical work was imposed upon our office force! And with what redoubled devotion they took it all in their stride!

"The spiritual effects of the war are clearly discernible among those who remained at home as well as those who were abroad. The extremes
are a bit more pronounced. On the one hand are the indifferent; on the other, the deeply pious folk. It is not the same college it was before the war, and perhaps it should never become so. Let us pray that any change may be in the direction of greater devotion to our spiritual heritage. It would be a great help if we had a chapel large enough to gather the student body together daily for devotions. As it is now, the students can be required to be present only three days per week.

"The social life of the students has also been affected. The veterans, in the main, are older. They have lost some precious years of their lives. They do not seem to have retained an enthusiasm for social contacts. As a result, the social life of the students has suffered. Due to the size of the student body, we have found it impractical to have any all-school socials. There is, therefore, a greater tendency on the part of like-minded students to gather in small groups, which are, of course, much more difficult to direct and control. We lost much when we could no longer arrange socials for them, properly chaperoned and controlled."

**Enrollment**

In 1946 Calvin College opened its doors a week later than usual: it was impossible to get all things ready for opening before that. On September 12 some 1300 people, consisting of professors, students and friends, crowded the First Protestant Reformed Church, graciously opened for that purpose, and the president delivered the opening address.

The total enrollment as of September, 1946, was 1245, of which 778 were men students, 467 women students. At the close of the first semester 95 did not re-register, 8 graduated. However, 112 new students registered, so the figure in the second semester stood at 1253. The summer session enrollment was 280 students from sixteen different states, including 100 discharged veterans. The enrollment in the regular term has climbed from 385 in 1943 to 1245 in 1946.

It is expected that in June 1947 about 95 will graduate with an A.B. degree; 12 will complete three-year preprofessional courses; 33 will receive their A.B. in education; 9 will be awarded the two-year Limited Certificate.

**Teachers Staff**

Though the facilities of the college were overtaxed the work went on with amazing smoothness, thanks to the efficiency of the Dean and the Registrar in organizing the schedule. We have one teacher for about twenty-five students. Accrediting agencies recommend one teacher for about fifteen. Thus it is plain that our teachers are overloaded. Fifteen hours of teaching is considered a regular load; this in the main was upheld; but many classes were too large. All shouldered their loads willingly; cooperation was on the whole all that could be expected. The members who joined our teaching staff at the opening of the school year have proved to be very good additions. As the large freshmen class
moves into its second year and more diversity of courses will be necessary, more teachers will be required.

**DISCIPLINE**

The president reported that there had been no major discipline problems. The return of many veterans in other schools has brought many such problems, in ours there was no noticeable difference. Overcrowded conditions could easily lead to many violations of rules; there were minor infractions; but there appears to be no cause for alarm.

**HOUSING**

Housing for men students gave much concern. Attempts to secure government housing projects proved futile. An appeal in June to our Chr. Ref. people of Grand Rapids brought practically no response. In early June eight rooms of the Alexander School were leased; these were furnished with army equipment, offering room for 124 men. Another plea to our people, made in mid-August, brought a response so great that not all available rooms were needed. As a result only 70 men are housed at the Alexander Hall; they secure meals at the dormitory; Prof. and Mrs. A. E. Broene live at the Hall and provide supervision.

The dormitory dining room and kitchen designed to board about 80 students, were enlarged so that a much larger number can be accommodated cafeteria style. Mr. and Mrs. Schreur have succeeded in operating the new facilities successfully. Thus also part of the housing problem was met.

**WOMEN STUDENTS**

The Dean of Women was relieved of her teaching duties so that she might better attend to other phases of her work. In the first semester 467 women students were under her supervision. The number of out-of-town girls has increased from 110 in 1941 to 284 in 1946. The dormitory houses 79 girls with Mrs. Anna Dolfin as housemother; Calvin Hall 20 under guidance of Miss Jessie Bylsma; College Hall 16 under supervision of Miss Cora Hazebrook; Grace Hall 17 with Mrs. Alberdina Kruithof as the head. Private homes take care of 152 girls, of which about 70 work for room and board, most of them not in Chr. Ref. homes. Experience indicates that the wise policy is to steer for more college-supervised homes for out-of-town students. The Dean of Women does much counselling. Besides, there are many other duties — social, academic, and disciplinary.

**LIBRARY**

During the war there was a shortage of paper available for books and foreign books were almost non-obtainable. Now books are coming off the presses in increasing volume. Many books are now obsolete. Since August, 1946, we have added more than 100 books a month to our library. The need of more room for shelving, for general study and for group study is constantly becoming more pressing. The large enrollment has naturally increased the use being made of the library. More books
are being sent out to ministers and others. The inter-library loan plan has secured books for professors and students. Almost 600 students a day are using the library. Two classes had to meet there three times a week. How we need that addition to the library! Besides, the building as it is needs some repairs. The library staff consists of Miss H. Josephine Baker, Mrs. Esther Bierma, Miss Kathryn Lobbes, Miss Anetta Buurstra.

EXPECTED ENROLLMENT

Last year some 400 young people seeking entrance into our college were turned away because they did not seem to represent the type we desire for our school. All Chr. Ref. applicants who could meet the entrance requirements were accommodated. Educational authorities agree that we may expect a steady increase in the number of students for the next three or four years. It is possible that our college enrollment may run up to 1800. Certainly, barring unforeseen circumstances, we may expect to keep our present enrollment for several years. This once more emphasizes our need of more teachers. See appointments made later in this report. We need also more room. Priorities for the new science building have been secured, plans are ready, we hope to break ground in May, the building can be ready at the earliest in September, 1948. Arrangements have been made for government property to be moved on our campus, free of charge, except that we must furnish the plans and the foundational work. This will give us 7,500 square feet of laboratory and lecture rooms and counselling rooms.

APPOINTMENTS OF LAST YEAR

Mr. Roger Heyns who last year was appointed to the chair in psychology to begin teaching in September, 1947, found that he could not be ready to begin teaching at that time, declined the appointment, and this declination was recognized by the Executive Committee.

Since both Dr. Wolthuis and Dr. Velzen declined their appointments Mr. John Huizenga was appointed to teach chemistry, for a year.

A teacher in sociology being greatly needed Mr. Donald Bouma was appointed Acting Instructor for a year.

The Rev. John Bratt was appointed to provide much needed help in Bible, English and Speech, for one year.

COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

The Executive Committee of the Board meets monthly, at times oftener, to attend to the educational side of school life. It consists of six ministers living in or near Grand Rapids. It decides on matters which need immediate attention, visits class rooms, interviews candidates for teaching positions. It finds its work greatly multiplied by the increased enrollment.

The Board of Finance, consisting of two ministers and five laymen in or near Grand Rapids, holds monthly meetings to manage the financial
side of our two institutions. With our budget hovering around the $300,000 mark one can readily see that this too must require much time and thought.

**SPIRITUAL CARE OF STUDENTS**

In an institution such as ours this should be an important part of the program, and it is. Chapel exercises are daily held, in which the teachers by turns lead in the reading of Scripture, appropriate talks and prayer. In special seasons such as Christmas and Easter special speakers are often employed and special music is rendered. The Dean of Women has personal conferences with the girls; the teachers of Bible have these with the boys. Frequent warnings against worldliness and especially certain forms of worldliness are given. In case any are found indulging in these forms they are called in for correction. In cases of special sins, such as occur at times, much spiritual care is bestowed upon the offender. The pastors of the churches in the city are given the names of those who attend their churches, so that they may give them special attention. Naturally, the school cannot do everything, and no group of people is perfect. But on the whole we may be thankful for the group of young people at our college.

**SEMINARY**

President Samuel Volbeda began his report to the board with the following general observations:

"Before reciting such fata academica as we would bring to your official attention, it behooves us to praise God in the spirit of joyful thanksgiving for His consistently gracious care and watch over the Seminary. As the God of life and death He chose to bestow life and health upon both professors and students and to keep death from our doors. By the boon of health to which there were but few interruptions and slight, we were enabled not only to enjoy the life God gave us, but also to utilize it, as He blest it, in the great work of the study of God's Holy Word and the instruction in the sacred mysteries of the faith once for all delivered unto the saints.

It affords us no end of pleasure to assure you that we as professors have this past year delighted in our labors. Needless to say, the continued study of the words of eternal life revealed to us in Holy Scripture through Jesus Christ our great prophet sent us by God, and the discovery of new treasurers of divine truth in God's wonderful Word, have enriched us with a deep and stirring happiness; and have been a source of constant inspiration and enthusiasm. As you know, earnest and intensive study of God's Word has a way of lifting us measurably above the sordid and sorry situation that obtains in this sub-lunary world and of giving us glimpses, be it from afar, of the better, that is, the heavenly country which is our true fatherland.

We are very happy to report that our students have under our guidance and direction diligently studied the Scriptures in the spirit in
which we ourselves study and teach them. To them the Word of God is the sourcebook of Reformed theology indeed. But it is to them also a fountain of spiritual satisfaction. Our students are very generally possessed not only of academic interest in God’s special revelation, but also of spiritual hunger and thirst for the knowledge of the only true God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, and which Christ Himself pronounced to be eternal life. It is our solemn conviction that this attitude on the part of our students is a token of God’s grace upon our church and the happy augury of a blessed and fruitful ministry on the part of these young men in time to come. This devotional attitude does not hamper them in their theological studies: it rather intensifies their scholarly scrutiny of the Book of God. Perhaps it is not quite correct to say *Pectus facit theologum*; but neither is it true that one can be a real and good theologian *sine pectore*.

After what we have testified of our students you will not be greatly surprised to learn that the conduct of our students has been very satisfactory. Correctionary discipline has not proved necessary in a single instance. Relations of faculty and student body have left nothing to be desired.”

**STUDENTS**

On September 4, 1946, the Seminary opened its doors with an opening address by Dr. C. Bouma on “Calvinism in American Theology.” Eight new students enrolled, one of which later discontinued when he came to the conclusion that the ministry was not his calling. There were 7 middlers, 13 seniors, 14 resident graduate students, 9 non-resident graduate students, 2 unclassified; making a total of 53. The 13 seniors graduated in January, thus in the second semester there was no senior class. The next class will graduate, the Lord Willing, in May, 1948.

One unclassified student is Mr. Anton G. Foenander, a member of the Old Reformed Church on Ceylon, who because of his interest in the Reformed theology came for two years of study at our seminary, at the end of which he hopes to receive his Th. B. After that he hopes to return to his native land and to advance the Kingdom of God as the Lord may provide opportunity.

**MISSIONS**

As a result of an awakening interest in Missions among us the Seminary has included in its curriculum 2 hours of Principles of Missions, 2 hours of History of Missions; and one hour was added to an already given 2 hour course in Ethnic Religions. The Faculty has gone on record as favoring a Chair of Missions and deems the establishment of such a chair feasible. The Faculty deeply feels that Missions is a cardinal duty of the Church and that training must be provided for this branch of Kingdom work too. This decision of the Faculty was brought to the Board and it concurred. The Board appointed its Executive Committee to work out a plan to be presented to the Synod of 1947. We expect that
this plan will be before the Board at its May meeting and will be presented in due time.

On November 20, 1946, the Seminary had its first Calvin Seminary Mission Day. The speakers were the Reverend A. J. Ramiah, of India, and Dr. S. Bergsma, formerly a medical missionary in India and Abyssinia. The Seminary Chorus furnished music. All in attendance pronounced the venture a great success.

The Faculty together with the Board of Missions are arranging for Dr. J. H. Bavinck, Professor of Missions at the Free University of Amsterdam and the Theological School at Kampen, to carry out a speaking tour in our church next fall and to present a series of scholarly lectures at our Seminary.

DUTCH

The Board of Trustees has decided that beginning September, 1948, a reading knowledge of Dutch shall be a requirement for entrance into the Seminary. The Faculty, while appreciating the motivation for this decision and believing that a reading knowledge of the Dutch is certainly very desirable for a student in our Seminary was nevertheless a bit apprehensive that this rule, if rigidly enforced, might deflect some worthy students from our theological school. The Board decided that exceptions may be made as agreed upon by the Faculty and the Board.

FIELD WORK PLAN

Synod last year adopted the idea of field work for seminary students. Details were to be worked out. It was tried last summer and according to the Faculty worked out very well. A detailed plan was presented at our Board meeting. The Board felt the need of a somewhat simpler plan and appointed a combined committee of the Faculty and of Board to work on such a plan. No doubt it will come before the Board meeting in May and be presented to Synod in June.

Matters For Action

1. We ask your approval of the following new appointments:
   Henry Bengelink, A.M., for two years as Instructor in Organic Science;
   James De Jonge, A.M., for two years as Instructor in Music;
   Thedford Dirkse, Ph.D., for two years as Associate Professor in Chemistry;
   Ruth Hoekenga, A.B., for two years as Assistant in English;
   Cornelius Jaarsma, Ph.D., for two years as Associate Professor in Education;
   Stanley Koning, A.B., for two years as Assistant in English;
   Anita Peterman for one year to assist in Speech;
   Helen Van Laar, A.B., for two years as Assistant in Education;
   Frank Verbrugge, Ph.D., for two years as Associate Professor in Physics.
   (Mr. H. Fles was appointed for economics but has already signified that he will not accept.)
2. We ask your approval upon the following reappointments:
   Donald Bouma, A.M., instructor in sociology for another year so that
   he may fill out the regular initial two year term.
   The Rev. John Bratt, Th.M., S.T.M., for another year as Associate
   Professor in Bible.

3. We ask your approval upon the following promotions:
   Dr. Henry Stob to full professorship in Philosophy;
   Dr. Richard Drost to full professorship in History;
   Mr. Gordon Buter, A.M. to Associate Professorship in Economics.

4. Feeling the need of a man to devote his time to our Building Expan-
   sion Fund the Executive Committee appointed Mr. Samuel Van Til,
   for one year. The brother began his work on October 15, 1946, works
   under the supervision of the Board of Finance. That his labors have
   brought good returns will become evident from the financial report
   to be submitted. He was given the title of Field Representative; this
   leaves open the position of Educational Secretary. The Executive
   Committee is inclined to think that there is room for both and that
   we may desire to have both.

5. Bearing on this matter of an Educational Secretary the Board pre-
   sents the following:

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF CALVIN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, June, 1947:

The Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary feels con-
strained to bring the following matter to the attention of your honorable
body. Synod 1946 refused to approve the appointment of Rev. Hiemenga
as Educational Secretary of Calvin College. The Board in obedience to
this unexpected decision at once notified Rev. Hiemenga that his appoint-
ment was to be nullified.

However, we feel it necessary that Synod once more give this matter
its earnest consideration for the grounds given for this action by Synod
1946 are in conflict both with the facts in the case and with synodical
rules; and the results have been deplorable. Not only has it brought dis-
may and suffering into the heart of one of our outstanding ministers. It
has confused our people. It has interfered with our efforts to promote
the financial interest of Calvin at a time when the cooperation of all,
also of our synods, is sorely needed in view of the rapid growth of our
student body and the urgent need of expansion. However, one other con-
sideration practically forced us to bring this matter to your attention.
The fact is we cannot go ahead. We do not know in what direction to go
until Synod 1947 clears the air.

We remind the Synod that the Synod 1940 laid down a basic program
for the office of Assistant to the President. We speak of a basic program
first because the office was created at that Synod. (We now use the name
Educational Secretary, but the office and the work are the same.) We quote from Acts 1940, page 163, 3A;

"The Board decided that for the coming year the rules that shall govern this new office should be as follows:

A. As to the work he shall do.

a. To acquaint our people as to the proper functions and ideals of a Reformed College;

b. To arouse enthusiasm for such a school through the press and public addresses made to Classes and congregations;

c. To visit the homes of our people that our college may receive the most desirable young people as students;

d. To gather additional funds in view of the fact that the College needs expansion in the department of Bible, Music, Science, Economics and has to have more equipment."

This program was approved by Synod. Acts, page 101, 4. It is plain that Synod wanted not merely a collector of funds, it wanted a real assistant to the president, a man who would perform much educational and spiritual work in addition to promoting the financial welfare of Calvin.

Secondly, 1940 consciously and squarely faced the question whether a minister could and should be used for this work. It decided to "approve the recommendation of the Board as to his ministerial status." Acts, page 101, 5. This recommendation was: "He shall retain his ministerial status thus enabling him to occupy the pulpits of our church." Acts, page 164, B.

This decision has never been rescinded neither by 1942 nor by any other synod. It is today, and was when Rev. Hiemenga was appointed, ecclesiastical law in our Christian Reformed Church that a minister could be called or appointed to this work. Therefore, when Synod 1946 refused to approve the appointment of Rev. Hiemenga because synodical disapproval rested upon such an appointment, it completely ignored the basic program of 1940. At the same time, and largely because it ignored 1940, it gave an unwarranted interpretation to the action of the Synod of 1942.

Here are the supposed grounds given by Synod 1946 for its action. Acts 1946, page 93, Article 124:

"1. The appointment of Rev. J. J. Hiemenga as Educational Secretary. (Report, Board of Trustees) (Cf. Supplement 28.)

Your Committee recommends that Synod declare that though it acknowledges the dire need of Calvin College, and also that it is urgently necessary that a person be employed for the purpose of gathering funds for the expansion of the institution, yet it does not approve the appointment of the Rev. J. J. Hiemenga as Educational Secretary. Grounds:

1. The Synod of 1942 definitely disapproved the appointment of an ordained minister of the gospel for this position. (Acts, 1942, pp. 116, 117.)

— 154 —
2. The Board was instructed (Synod 1942) to obtain the services of a qualified non-minister for this work.

3. The Board of Trustees erred in appointing the Rev. Hiemenga a few weeks before the Synod of this year was to meet and in failing to seek the Approval of Synod before the appointment was accepted.

As to Ground 1 we remark:

A. It is contrary to fact. Synod 1942 did not definitely disapprove the appointment of an ordained minister of the Gospel for this position. This is a mere statement of the Advisory Committee and later unfortunately adopted by Synod. But it is not true, and no attempt is made to prove that it is true. A certain page in the Acts of 1942 is given as reference but no decision is literally quoted. (May we in this connection call the attention of Synod 1947 to the significant fact that we repeatedly and literally quote synodical decisions while the Synod of 1946 does not even once quote one single synodical decision in support of its unexpected action.)

B. If Synod 1942 had definitely disapproved of the appointment of a minister it would have been an illegal decision for then it would, in a matter involving principle, have decided the very opposite of 1940 without first rescinding 1940.

C. Synod 1942 merely decided (1) "that a well educated layman be appointed as Assistant to the President." Page 116, Article 122. In other words Synod 1942 wanted a layman for this work but it never ruled as a matter of principle that a minister might not be appointed and as already shown it could not legally so rule without first rescinding 1940; (2) "It is more in the province of a layman than of an ordained man to gather funds." This then is supposed to be proof for the statement that Synod 1942 "definitely disapproved the appointment of a minister." But it is evidently no proof whatsoever. Synod 1942, putting its finger on one phase of the work, namely the financial, said "that one phase is more in the province of a layman than of a minister." And nobody disagrees. That is a self-evident and altogether innocuous statement. But the real question is, may a minister be called to execute the four fold, full-orbed program laid down by Synod 1940—a program that is primarily educational and spiritual? Synod 1940 said "yes," and Synod 1942 never said "no." It did not say "a minister may not be called to this work." It simply said "the financial part of the work considered by itself is more in the province of the layman." It then added that the other phases of the work could also be performed by a layman and it asked that a layman be appointed.

That preference of that particular Synod had to be honored, of course, and we did honor it. We appointed a layman. But all that Synod 1942 really did was to lead us on a detour that departed from the main highway, the basic program laid down by 1940. Let it be said again that basic program was not rescinded nor did 1942 decide the opposite, how—
ever illegal such a decision would have been. It simply said, "We prefer to go in the opposite direction." And so far from this decision being a definite and permanent synodical disapproval of the appointment of a minister in future years, the language used by 1942 shows plainly that no such definite disapproval can possibly be read into those words. For it said, "It is more in the province of a layman than of an ordained man to collect funds." "More in the province." But that language plainly implies that in certain circumstances it may be in the province of a minister to collect funds. (Why of course. Think of the Apostle Paul. Think of Rev. Noordewier and his heroic financial accomplishments for our school in its infancy.) But now if Synod 1942 admits by plain implication that even that financial part of the work might in certain circumstances very properly be the work of a minister, then surely it is plain that all that 1942 intended was to express its preference. But the very language it uses positively forbids us to read into it a definite disapproval, as a matter of principle, of the appointment of a minister for a task not merely financial but largely educational and spiritual.

As to Ground 2: This point need not long detain us. The Executive Committee in 1942 did exactly what the Synod decided. However, the idea that is implied in this second ground is very erroneous. It is this, that the preference of 1942 for a layman nullified the basic program of 1940, so that synodical disapproval would henceforth and forever rest on the appointment of a minister. We utterly disagree. The preference of 1942 for a layman was not regarded by us, and it may not be regarded by anybody, as a permanent synodical mandate never to appoint a minister. When Mr. N. Hendrikse, the able layman appointed in 1942, informed us that he could not continue the work and therefore a new man had to be appointed, then the Executive Committee faced these facts: (a) 1942 preferred a layman, 1940 preferred a minister. But 1940 was the only Synod that had deliberately and consciously gone into the principle involved. It had decided that if a minister was appointed his ministerial status would be upheld. And therefore we did not hesitate one moment to appoint a minister. And when Synod 1946 implied that synodical disapproval rests upon such an appointment, it could do this only because it completely ignored the basic decisions of 1940 and therefore completely misinterpreted 1942.

As to Ground 3: We remark first of all that the appointment was offered to Rev. Hiemenga not a few weeks but some two and one-half months before Synod met. What is more important is this — that Ground 3 is a purely arbitrary opinion without one bit of proof or one bit of synodical support. We should have waited, says the Synod, and we deny the right of Synod to say that. We refuse to be judged in the light of the unexpected and unforeseeable opinions of a Synod that had not yet met. We will be judged only in the light of the decisions of past Synods, and these Synods gave us full authority to go ahead without waiting for Synod. Let Synod 1947 earnestly consider the following facts, especially
in view of the fact that the unsavory charge of "boardism" has been heard in connection with this matter.

a. The Board in 1940 appointed Rev. Hiemenga and Rev. Kok a week or two before Synod met. The appointments were approved and the method of appointment was never condemned.

b. Acts 1940, page 132, 1. Synod 1940 recognized the fact that in case Rev. Kok also declined, there would be no alternate, and gave authority to the Executive Committee and the Board of Finance to make a new appointment. Surely this Synod meant the new appointment of a minister.

c. Acts 1942, page 118. Synod 1942 gave authority to the Executive Committee to appoint a layman.

d. The Executive Committee appointed Mr. Hendrikse in the fall of the year without waiting for Synod and without even asking synodical approval later on.

Surely there can be no misunderstanding as to the meaning of these decisions. It should especially be noted that the Executive Committee acts for the Board in the interim between its annual meetings in May. When therefore the Executive Committee is given authority to appoint, that can mean only one thing. It has authority to appoint at any time during the year without waiting for Synod. And when Synod 1946 says "You should have waited," it practically says "We care not how much authority previous Synods gave you, we say you should have waited." In other words, Synod 1946 refuses to recognize the decisions of previous Synods and condemns us for exercising the authority these Synods had plainly given us. If this be "boardism," make the most of it.

In conclusion we would remark first, it should be well understood that in attacking and exposing the false grounds on which Synod refused approval, that we do not for one moment question from the technical viewpoint the right or authority of Synod to refuse to approve the appointment of Rev. Hiemenga. But then other grounds should have been given. If Synod did not approve of the man Hiemenga, then it should have said so and it should have given its reasons. Then the brother could defend himself. But now he is hurt and dismayed, his church is puzzled and dismayed, the Board is hampered in its work, and not one good ground for this unexpected action can be discovered.

Secondly, may we finally add that experience has abundantly proved the wisdom of the program laid down by 1940 including the appointment of a minister. Mr. N. Hendrikse, appointed in 1942, did some very good work, but he constantly felt and repeatedly told us this, that he felt hampered because he could not speak on the educational and spiritual needs of Calvin as could a minister who has access to the pulpit and is well known to all our churches. He is very strongly of the opinion that a minister should be appointed for this work. And the whole Board of Finance, the great majority of whom are laymen, business men of wide
experience, strongly favored the appointment of a minister. In view of
all the foregoing, we ask Synod to approve the following resolution:

"Synod 1947 rules that the Board and its Executive Committee are
authorized to proceed as soon as possible to the appointment of an Edu-
cational Secretary of Calvin College in accordance with the basic program
of the Synod of 1940 and by virtue of the authority plainly given by the
Synods of 1940 and 1942."

6. The retirement of Prof. J. Broene has been postponed for two years
and that of Professors A. E. Broene and J. G. Vanden Bosch for one
year because their services were greatly needed.

This led the Committee on Pensions to make the following ruling:

"Any employee who, after retirement is requested to serve in the
capacity of full-time instructor, shall not be expected to contribute
3% of his salary to the Pension Fund; and the institution shall not
be required in such instance to pay the usual 6% of the salaries of
such professors or teachers." This was approved by the Board.

The Committee on Pensions also decided "that all full-time employees,
whether temporary or permanent appointees, shall contribute the usual
3% of their salaries, beginning the first month of their employment.
Likewise, the institution shall contribute 6% of the salaries of such
employees." This too was approved by the Board.

7. Whereas it came to the notice of the Board that one of our Classes
gave preaching license in its territory to a student not of our Seminary,
the Board calls the attention of synod to a synodical decision of 1924,
Acts, 1924, Art. 41E, p. 38, stating that it is not desirable that Classes
give preaching license to students not studying at our school. The
Board believes this is a good decision and overtures synod to urge
Classes to act in conformity with it.

8. The Board has decided that the dormitory be used for girl students
for another year.

9. The Board has appointed its president, the Rev. G. Hoeksema, and
the undersigned, to represent it at synod.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN Gritter, Secretary
REPORT NO. 25

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE VIEWS OF PROFESSOR D. H. KROMMINGA ON ARTICLE 37

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

Your committee has received the following mandate from the Synod 1946: "to examine Professor Kromminga's views to determine whether they conflict with Article 37 of our Creed." (See Acts 1946, Article 140, p. 102). After meeting and discussing the matter, your committee has come to the conclusion that this mandate leaves us with little work to do.

We have been asked to examine Professor Kromminga's views to determine whether they conflict with Article 37 of the Belgic Confession. That Professor Kromminga's views on the Millennium deviate from Article 37 of the Confession, however, is the one point on which all who know anything about the issue, or are in any way involved are agreed. Professor Kromminga himself admits quite openly that his views do conflict with Article 37. In fact, it is precisely his recognition of that conflict which led him to address his first communication to the Synod of 1945, in which he explains that he was ready to publish his views on the Millennium but "since I discovered the conflict with Article 37 of our Creed, I have taken steps to withhold the offending section of my manuscript from publication; to wit, the last two of twenty-nine chapters in which I unfold my views of the nature and the function of the millennium" (Acts, 1945, Supplement 34-a, p. 338). In the communication which Professor Kromminga sent to the Synodical Committee appointed by the Synod of 1945, he likewise admits the above-mentioned deviation. For in that communication he tells the Committee: "You correctly say that in them (that is, in the professor's previous communications to Synod) I register my deviation from Article 37 in regard to its statement that at the return of Christ the number of the elect shall be complete" (Acts, 1946, Supplement 20-a, p. 254). And in the document of Professor Kromminga's entitled "The Millennium," which was placed into the hands of your committee, the professor again plainly states, in the very first paragraph, that his views deviate from Article 37. That statement reads as follows: "The Belgic Confession, the creed of my Church, is amillennial in its general thrust and specifically declares that our Lord will return when the number of the elect is complete. In my own opinion the millennium is both still future and will follow upon Christ's return and will have room for the conversion and salvation of men and women by the grace of God" (Document, "The Millennium," p. 1). In the opinion of your committee, this statement indicates, in the plainest possible language, that Professor Kromminga's views on the Millennium deviate from Article 37.

— 159 —
Furthermore, all the committees that have worked on this case agree that Professor Kromminga's views deviate from Article 37 of the Belgic Confession: The Advisory Committee on Varia appointed by the Synod of 1945 (Acts, 1945, Art. 96, p. 95); the Study Committee appointed by the Synod of 1945 (Acts, 1946, Supplement 20-a, p. 253); and the Advisory Committee appointed by the Synod of 1946 (Acts, 1946, Art. 136, p. 102). Your committee, therefore, could do nothing but agree with all the other committees who have worked on this matter that Professor Kromminga's views on the millennium do deviate from Article 37. That deviation concerns, as has been stated, the following statement of Article 37:

"Finally, we believe according to the Word of God, when the time appointed by the Lord (which is unknown to all creatures) is come and the number of the elect complete, that our Lord Jesus Christ will come from heaven ..."

Professor Kromminga's views conflict with the clause, "and the number of the elect complete," since, in his view, there will be a millennium after the coming of our Lord in which some of God's elect will still be gathered in.

We believe that this report, though brief, adequately serves to fulfill the mandate given us by Synod. We take leave, however, to suggest that the mandate of whatever committee will be appointed to study this matter further be changed to read somewhat as follows: to examine Professor Kromminga's objections to Article 37 of the Belgic Confession, together with their Scriptural proofs, in order to determine whether those Scriptural proofs are tenable.

Respectfully submitted,
THE COMMITTEE,

H. J. Kuiper
A. Hoekema
R. Bronkema
William Kok
Herman Kuiper
REPORT NO. 26

CANADIAN TREASURER

To the Synod of 1947:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN: —

THE undersigned submits the following report through your regular agenda. Final information shall be presented to you by the Canadian Treasury Committee at the time of your meeting, D.V.

I. CONDENSED ANNUAL STATEMENT

Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1945 ........................................... $11,086.68
Receipts 1946 (including proceeds of sale and premiums of $1,500.00 bonds) ........................................... 16,910.61

Total received ....................................................... $27,997.29
Disbursed 1946 ....................................................... 27,931.04

Balance Dec. 31, 1946: .................................................. $ 66.25

BONDS: — Of the $4,000.00 Canadian War Bonds held over from 1945, $1,500.00 worth were cashed and the money placed into the Current Account, as noted above. The remaining $2,500.00 bonds are still in the bank's safekeeping. The total balance on hand is: $66.25 plus $2,500.00 bonds and whatever premium and interest shall be added.

DETAILS: — In view of the closing of the Canadian treasury, the treasurer's books, showing the details of his 1946 transactions, shall be at Synod's disposal at the 1947 meeting.

II. REMARKS

A. The services of the Canadian treasury have been discontinued. The treasurer considered this action in harmony with Synod's decision "that this fund be discontinued as soon as the money is at par." (Acts Synod 1946, pg. 100). The Canadian government declared the Canadian and American dollars on par.

It should be observed that in reality the dollars are not altogether on par. Canadian dollars are discounted in a varying degree on the open American market. The Canadian treasurer, however, felt justified to discontinue his services in view of the following considerations:

1. The Canadian Government considers the dollars on par.
2. If the proper public channels are used for the transmission of money to the U.S.A., the Canadian money is discounted only ½%, which is negligible, and amounts to considerably less than the operating cost of the Canadian treasury of our churches.
3. The smaller contributions can be sent by congregational treasurers to their respective Classical treasurers in the U.S.A. more easily than
the accumulated amounts of a common treasury can be transmitted by a common treasurer. The transmission of larger amounts requires special permission of the Board of Foreign Exchange.

4. None of the Canadian churches has, when consulted, offered any objections to the discontinuance of the common treasury.

5. The undersigned could not carry on the work any longer in view of much work within and without his own congregation. And he would have resigned if the office had been continued after January, 1947.

6. The Synodical Committee acquiesced in the discontinuance of this office rather than appoint another treasurer at this time.

Your treasurer trusts that his action has the approval of Synod, and expresses his appreciation of the confidence Synod has shown in him by placing the Canadian funds temporarily in his care.

B. The cash balance shall be sent to the Synodical treasurer, and the books shall be sent to him for examination, after a reasonable time shall elapse after the publication of the denominational finances in the 1947 Yearbook. He shall, no doubt, report his findings to Synod.

As there is a balance in the Canadian treasury, Synod is requested to give instructions for its disposal, and also concerning the safekeeping of the books and the disposal of the adding machine.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL DE KOEKKOEK, Treasurer
REPORT NO. 27

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF MINISTERS CONNECTED WITH NON-ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTIONS

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

The charge given to your committee is as follows:

"Your Advisory Committee recommends that Synod appoint a committee to study and clarify the status of ministers connected with non-ecclesiastical institutions, and if the conclusions reached by the Committee after study warrant it, to draft proposed forms for the calling and installation of such ministers." (Acts 1945, Article 35, page 23, VI, C.)

This charge is the answer of Synod to the following overture from Classis Pella:

"Classis Pella overtures Synod to clarify the position of ministers connected with non-ecclesiastical institutions and consider the need of drawing up a proper form for the calling and installation of such men.

Grounds:
1. The present method of calling and installing does not answer the purpose:
   a. since consistories do not intend nor expect such ministers to function as assistant pastors; b. since the Form for the Ordination (or Installation) is not applicable to ministers serving in non-ecclesiastical institutions.
2. The task of these ministers is distinct and specific. (Agenda 1945, page 78, 6.)

It can hardly be said that the first part of our charge excels in clarity. Classis Pella overtures Synod to clarify the position of these ministers. Synod speaks not merely of clarifying, but also of studying the status of such ministers. This somewhat vague and general language might conceivably mean that we are asked to reconsider the whole question whether it is proper, from the viewpoint of ecclesiastical law, that such ministers retain their ecclesiastical status. However, we doubt whether this interpretation would be correct. And for the following reasons:

A. Classis Pella asked merely for the clarification of the status of these ministers. It is extremely probably that Synod meant no more than Classis Pella requested; in other words that "to study" and "to clarify" mean pretty well the same thing. At any rate in our opinion, if Synod 1945 meant much more than Classis Pella requested, if, in other words, it meant to reopen the whole question whether it is proper that such ministers retain their ecclesiastical status, it would have so declared in plain unambiguous language.

B. There is no request or charge to reconsider a previous decision upholding the ministerial status of such ministers. And the chief thrust of the overture of Classis Pella is in the direction of solving the problem, if problem there be, by drawing up a proper form for the calling and installation of such ministers.

C. No request to reopen the question or to reconsider the problem has been presented to Synod, either by Classis Pella or by any other
ecclesiastical body. In the absence of any such official request or protest, we hesitate to interpret Synod’s mandate as a charge to reconsider what has once been officially decided.

D. Several of our ministers have accepted positions as Bible teachers in Christian high schools and they have done this in good faith, presumably acting upon the basis of the precedent established by Synod 1934 (see below).

In view of all this, one might well wish that Synod had stated more plainly whether it merely desired light on the actual status of these ministers or whether it desired a reopening of the whole question.

From one other viewpoint the mandate of Synod is not expressed in the clearest possible fashion. Synod speaks of the “status of ministers connected with non-ecclesiastical institutions.” This broad term would include ministers connected with Christian institutions of mercy. However, the status of such ministers is already regulated by plain provisions of the Church Order and by unequivocal decisions of Synod. We quote:

“No minister shall be at liberty to serve in institutions of mercy or otherwise, unless he be previously admitted in accordance with the preceding Articles (Church Order, Art. 3, see p. 29 (b); Art. 4, see p. 31 (a); Art. 5, see p. 34 (a)), and he shall no less than others, be subject to the Church Order. Church Order, Article 6.”

“The status of a minister who performs official work in a non-ecclesiastical institution of mercy is determined by Article 6 of the Church Order. Non-official work performed for such institution, as, for instance, the collection of funds or soliciting of new members, whether the minister be in active service or retired, is covered by Article 12 of the Church Order (see p. 42 (c)); and is in conflict with his ‘being bound to the service of the Church for life,’ and with ‘his name and honor as minister,’ and with Articles 13 and 14 of the Church Order. Acts 1928, Art. 137, p. 140.”

In view of these plain decisions there can be no uncertainty as to the actual status of ministers serving in institutions of mercy. Moreover, if we are not completely mistaken, Classis Pella was thinking primarily, if not exclusively, of ministers serving as Bible teachers or otherwise in non-ecclesiastical educational institutions, especially in our Christian high schools. In consideration of the foregoing, we are not sure that Synod expects more of us than that we give answer to the following two questions: (1) What is the actual situation today as regards the ministerial status of ministers connected with non-ecclesiastical institutions of learning? (2) Should special forms for the calling and installation of such ministers be drawn up, and if so, in what form? However, as will become evident later on, in answering the latter question we are forced to enter somewhat into the question whether it is proper that such ministers retain their ministerial status.

1. Synod has twice considered the question of the ministerial status of ministers connected with non-ecclesiastical institutions of learning. Synod 1930 decided as follows:

“The status of ministers who are serving in non-ecclesiastical institutions of learning is in every particular case to be ‘judged on its own merits by the Classis to which the minister belongs.’” Acts 1930, Art. 57, p. 55.
Synod 1934, in considering the status of a particular minister, passed two important resolutions.

1. If the Rev. ............... were engaged only as a teacher of Bible, his ministerial status could be continued though he were not actively engaged as a minister in a congregation.
2. Since, however, the principalship of a high school does not pertain to the Ministry of the Gospel, and this constitutes a very large share of his activities, his ministerial status should not be continued if he desires to retain that position.” Acts 1934, page 17.

The present situation as regards the ministerial status of such ministers may therefore, in the light of these decisions, be summarized as follows: a. They may serve as teachers of Bible and retain their ministerial status. b. If the work is primarily that of a principal their ministerial status must be discontinued. c. Classis must judge each particular case on its own merits.

2. The second part of our mandate is as follows:

“if the conclusions reached by the Committee after study warrant it, to draft proposed forms for the calling and installation of such ministers.”

And Classis Pella overtured Synod to “consider the need of drawing up a proper form for the calling and installation of such men.” As already stated, the implication of the overture of Pella, as also of the mandate of Synod, is this, that in all probability whatever problem there is in this matter can very likely be solved by drawing up special forms for their calling and installation. However, we have no absolute charge to prepare such forms and present them to Synod. Synod 1945 left us an open door. We must prepare such forms “if the conclusions warrant it.” We are thankful for this open door, for we cannot in good conscience prepare such forms and present them to Synod, and we herewith give our reasons.

First, however, a preliminary remark. It is not our purpose at this point to present to Synod a thorough discussion of the question whether such ministers should be permitted to retain their ministerial status. However, we must give account to Synod why we cannot conscientiously advise the drawing up of special forms, for the calling and installation of these men. And these reasons cannot but reveal our doubts whether our present stand on this question is correct. Here then are our reasons:

a. Classis Pella says “since the form for the ordination (or installation) is not applicable to ministers serving in non-ecclesiastical institutions.” We heartily agree with this position of Classis Pella. The four-fold task of the minister, as described in the form is: to proclaim the Word of God publicly and privately; to call upon the Name of the Lord, especially in congregational prayer; to administer the Word and the sacraments; and with the elders to maintain the purity of the church by Christian discipline. Surely, it is true, as Classis Pella contends, that the form is not applicable to ministers serving in non-ecclesiastical institutions.

However, where Classis Pella sees in this difference a probable reason for drawing up special forms for the ordination of such ministers, we find in it a reason for earnest consideration on the part of all our churches
whether men whose daily work and chief task does so little justice to the form of ordination, should retain their ministerial status.

b. Classis Pella says the present method "of calling and installing does not answer the purpose. (1) Since consistories do not intend nor expect such ministers to function as assistant pastors."

Again we heartily agree. But we have serious doubts, not merely whether the present method is correct, as Classis Pella puts it, but whether there is not much, in the very methods used, that casts doubts upon the propriety and legality of the whole stand of the church in this matter. Has not that stand led to many an empty form that should have no place in the Church of Christ? Churches call ministers as assistant pastors, yet everyone knows they are not going to serve as assistant pastors. Can such empty forms possibly be pleasing to the Lord? Churches loan our ministers to non-ecclesiastical institutions, but is it not time to give earnest consideration to the question whether the Church of Christ, called by its King to perform a very specific and glorious task in this world, namely the administration of the Word and sacraments, may "loan" its ministers to non-ecclesiastical institutions. Must it not keep in its own hands the actual living control of the work of the men it has once ordained? And must it not insist that they be busy in the specific work of the institute of the church?

c. To draw up special forms for the aforesaid purpose would be one more seal of approval upon our present stand and practice. But we have serious doubts whether this stand and practice is not in conflict with Article 12 of the Church Order. This article reads as follows:

"Inasmuch as a Minister of the Word, once lawfully called as described above, is bound to the service of the Church for life, he is not allowed to enter upon a secular vocation except for such weighty reasons as shall receive the approval of the Classis.

A minister, according to this article, is bound to the service of the Church for life. In our opinion this means two things: a. He must actually be in the service of the Church. The Church must control and supervise his work, not some non-ecclesiastical institution. Yet in the case of the aforesaid ministers actual control is in the hands of the non-ecclesiastical institution to which he is loaned, and his connection with the Church is a mere technical life-line to protect his ministerial status. b. He must perform the work of the Church. That is, he must be busy in the administration of the Word and sacraments in the ordinary sense as minister or missionary, or he must, as for instance our Professors of Theology, perform such special work as the Church has officially judged to be vitally necessary for the successful prosecution of its peculiar task, and which the Church has therefore declared to be part of its task. We purposely use this very specific language. The very general phraseology that has sometimes been used in this connection, as for instance that the work of a Bible teacher "stands in connection with the Gospel," is altogether too vague and therefore exceedingly dangerous. It tends to obscure the sharp..."
line of demarcation between ordinary religious work and the official work of the Church of Christ. For all religious work bears some relation to the Gospel, the work of Christian parents in the home, of Sunday School teachers, and many others; but surely all this is not official ministerial work.

Finally, we remark that we are far from convinced that it is necessary for the welfare and proper functioning of our Christian high schools that ministers be sought and used as teachers of Bible. Those who are now serving in such capacity should not be disturbed. If a mistake has been made, it is not they, first of all, but the church that is responsible. But before more of our ministers leave their churches and become high school teachers, it would be well that earnest consideration be given to the following question: Is it really true that the free Christian School Society cannot adequately care for the teaching of the Bible within its precincts without calling in the help of the church? Let us remember that this same task is being performed in the grammar schools, though necessarily on a lower educational level. But surely there is no essential difference between the teaching of Bible in our grammar schools and the same teaching on a higher level in our Christian high schools.

And if our Christian high schools should continue to feel that they absolutely need men with theological training for this work, then they should not in the first instance approach the man, the minister, whom they desire for the position of teacher of Bible. They should remember, and the minister concerned should remember, that he is bound to the service of the Church. He is not a free man, free with perfect propriety to consider appointments from non-ecclesiastical institutions. If anything is to be done, and to be done properly, the school should first of all approach, not the man, but the divine institution of the church, whether local or general, and attempt to convince the church that a certain work that must be done within its precincts can be performed and should be performed only by the divine institution of the church. And if it succeeded in convincing the church, it should understand that the calling of the minister, the choosing of the person, the supervision of his work must be completely in the hands of the church and not of the school. We have serious doubts, however correct such a procedure would be from the technical viewpoint as regards the minister and his being bound to the service of the church — we have serious doubts whether this is the best method to follow. In our opinion more earnest consideration should be given to the question whether such ministers should not seek honorable release from their ministerial responsibilities and therefore termination of their ministerial status according to Article 12 of the Church Order.

Just a closing word. Herewith we believe that we have done justice to our mandate. We have sought to clarify the status of ministers connected with non-ecclesiastical institutions. We have given our reasons why we cannot conscientiously present special forms for the ordination or installation of the aforesaid ministers, and in doing this we have been
forced to enter indirectly into the problem that we were not specifically charged to study, but which we feel both Classis Pella and Synod may have had in mind when our committee was appointed.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee on the Status of Ministers Connected with Non-Ecclesiastical Institutions.

WILLIAM KOK
G. HOEKSEMA, Sec.
WILLIAM VAN REES
REPORT NO. 28

CHURCH HELP COMMITTEE

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren:

We herewith submit our report to you for the year 1946.

We can report that we were able to help all our weak congregations in their various projects, although the full amount asked, could not be given in every case.

The treasurer's report gives the details of the financial status of this Fund. The receipts for 1946 amounted to $48,119.98. The greater part of the amount held in bonds, is on reserve for churches which have applied for aid, but which have not been able to obtain the necessary building materials.

Two churches failed to make repayment on their loans, and five failed to make payment on the Quota for this Fund. We have written to these churches in accordance with the Synodical ruling.

Your committee would urge our Classes to exercise caution in its recommendation for loans from the Church Help Fund. Classical recommendation should be given only if a particular congregation can be classified as a "weak congregation" (cf. Schaver 73b).

The Home-Missions Committee has informed us that it will appeal to Synod in re one of our decisions. A representative of our committee will be present at Synod to present reasons for our action.

The books of the treasurer have been audited by a Public Accountant, Miss Cora Hilger of LeMars, Iowa. We herewith attach a report of the treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

O. Breen, Sec'y.

The Christian Reformed Church in North America

CHURCH HELP FUND — 1946

SCHEDULE "A"

BANK RECONCILIATION

Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, Iowa

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<th>Account</th>
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<td>1945 Deposits (Late)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>Balance in Canadian Treasury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less checks outstanding, December 31, 1945</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Ledger Balance</td>
<td>$36,442.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946 Receipts</td>
<td>48,119.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$84,562.44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Less 1946 Disbursements ........................................ 68,153.36

On Hand ......................................................... $16,409.08
Cash ............................................................. $16,409.08
Bank Balance as per Statement .............................. 10,119.76
Deposits (Late) ................................................ 10,119.76

Total ............................................................ $26,936.52
Less Checks Outstanding December 31, 1946 ............ 10,527.44

$16,409.08

SCHEDULE “B”
ANALYSIS — LOANS OUTSTANDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church At</th>
<th>Outstanding Jan. 1, 1946</th>
<th>New Loans</th>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>Outstanding Dec. 31, 1946</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allinson, Iowa</td>
<td>$ 700.00</td>
<td>$ .00</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
<td>$ 600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcadia, Calif.</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>4,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ackley, Iowa</td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>2,375.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bejou, Minn.</td>
<td>425.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellflower Second, Calif.</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>5,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwyn, Ill.</td>
<td>9,500.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>9,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bozeman, Mont.</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Square, Grand Rapids, Mich.</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar, Iowa</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>950.00</td>
<td>2,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham, Ont., Canada</td>
<td>2,825.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>2,725.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compton, Calif.</td>
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<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>6,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crookston, Minn.</td>
<td>907.90</td>
<td>1,300.00</td>
<td>525.00</td>
<td>1,682.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duvall, Wash.</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Plaines, Ill.</td>
<td>1,939.19</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>105.00</td>
<td>1,834.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur, Mich.</td>
<td>3,125.81</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>111.46</td>
<td>3,014.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver Second, Colo.</td>
<td>5,600.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>375.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorr, Mich.</td>
<td>962.50</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>962.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Martin, Mich.</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton, Alta, Canada</td>
<td>2,850.00</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>10,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estelline, S. Dak.</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everson, Wash.</td>
<td>4,500.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>9,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flint, Mich.</td>
<td>4,475.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>275.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grandville, Mich.</td>
<td>4,930.63</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>310.00</td>
<td>4,620.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goshen, Ind.</td>
<td>1,125.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>1,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids East Leonard St.</td>
<td>3,650.00</td>
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<td>254.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollandale, Minn.</td>
<td>3,057.50</td>
<td>.00</td>
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<td>2,872.50</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hamilton, Ont., Canada</td>
<td>2,056.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>1,906.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hills, Minn.</td>
<td>1,102.70</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1,102.70</td>
<td>.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holland, Minn.</td>
<td>2,488.57</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>1,488.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland Marsh, Ont., Canada</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston, B. C., Canada</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lansing, Mich.</td>
<td>6,375.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>375.00</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luverne, Minn.</td>
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<td>.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>3,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacombe, Alta, Canada</td>
<td>3,800.00</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>4,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modesto, Calif.</td>
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<td>.00</td>
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<td>1,750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morrison, Ill.</td>
<td>2,025.00</td>
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<td>2,025.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montello Park, Mich.</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Vernon, Wash.</td>
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<td>.00</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarch, Alta, Canada</td>
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<td>8,000.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neerlandia, Alta, Canada</td>
<td>501.09</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>501.09</td>
<td>.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newton, Iowa</td>
<td>4,385.00</td>
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<td>6,085.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange City Second, Iowa</td>
<td>1,050.00</td>
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<td>112.50</td>
<td>937.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogilvie, Minn.</td>
<td>237.78</td>
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<td>237.78</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preakness, N. J.</td>
<td>550.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patchment, Mich.</td>
<td>1,850.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>1,700.00</td>
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<td>Pipestone, Minn.</td>
<td>3,235.00</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>596.00</td>
<td>2,639.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church At</td>
<td>Outstanding Jan. 1, 1946</td>
<td>New Loans</td>
<td>Payments</td>
<td>Outstanding Dec. 31, 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek, Mich.</td>
<td>1,765.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>240.00</td>
<td>1,525.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plainfield, Mich.</td>
<td>1,250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randolph, Second, Wisc.</td>
<td>3,518.32</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1,615.94</td>
<td>1,902.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond, Minn.</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripon Immanuel, Calif.</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumas, Wash.</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>111.33</td>
<td>438.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sully, Iowa</td>
<td>1,450.00</td>
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<td>1,450.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>925.00</td>
<td>4,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibley, Iowa</td>
<td>764.60</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>764.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux City, Iowa</td>
<td>2,945.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>355.00</td>
<td>2,590.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sioux Falls, S. Dak.</td>
<td>420.00</td>
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<td>420.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarnia, Ont., Canada</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>225.00</td>
<td>2,550.00</td>
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<td>San Diego, Calif.</td>
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<td>7,000.00</td>
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<td>7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy, Iowa</td>
<td>3,500.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>175.00</td>
<td>3,325.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vona, Colo.</td>
<td>247.25</td>
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<td>247.25</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D. C.</td>
<td>3,850.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>3,650.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>Western Springs, Ill.</td>
<td>875.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>625.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnipeg, Man., Canada</td>
<td>1,083.79</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>133.79</td>
<td>950.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Totals** ........................................... $150,628.63 $ 66,800.00 $ 25,799.96 $191,628.67

**SCHEDULE "C"**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>1945 Balance</th>
<th>1946 Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$609.41</td>
<td>$867.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago North</td>
<td>$1,312.87</td>
<td>$1,315.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago South</td>
<td>$1,275.11</td>
<td>$1,401.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids East</td>
<td>$1,831.31</td>
<td>$1,843.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids South</td>
<td>$1,977.38</td>
<td>$2,119.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids West</td>
<td>$1,131.00</td>
<td>$1,175.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackensack</td>
<td>$715.25</td>
<td>$715.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>$1,805.30</td>
<td>$1,745.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>$1,217.31</td>
<td>$1,197.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>$838.52</td>
<td>$987.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$897.89</td>
<td>$994.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>$1,756.85</td>
<td>$1,722.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange City</td>
<td>$742.64</td>
<td>$773.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ostfriesland</td>
<td>$547.50</td>
<td>$509.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>$682.64</td>
<td>$951.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pella</td>
<td>$1,111.59</td>
<td>$1,223.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Center</td>
<td>$1,231.35</td>
<td>$1,069.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>$603.75</td>
<td>$619.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeeland</td>
<td>$1,367.82</td>
<td>$1,439.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, Personal</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Churches</td>
<td>$335.49</td>
<td>$397.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** ................................. $21,995.98 $23,080.02

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**The Christian Reformed Church in North America**

**CHURCH HELP FUND**

**SUMMARY**

| Balance on Hand January 1, 1946 | $36,442.46 |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS:**

| Repayments "B" | $25,799.96 |
| Quotas "C" | $23,080.02 |
| Washington, D. C., C.R.C. and Minneapolis, Minn., C.R.C. | 180.00 |

**Total** ................................. $49,059.98
Less Discounts to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston, B. C., Canada</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrison, Ill.</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duvall, Wash.</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Falls, S. Dak.</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$940.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:**

- **New Loans** ........................................... $66,800.00
- **Administrative Expenses** ......................... $693.36
- **Discounts paid by checks:**
  - Hills, Minn. ................................... $150.00
  - Sully, Iowa .................................... 300.00
  - Holland Marsh, Canada ......................... 30.00
  - Home Missions Committee for Washington, D. C.
    and Minneapolis, Minn. C.R.C. ............... 180.00

**Balance on Hand December 31, 1946** .................. $16,409.08

We are also holding $55,500.00 in Government Bonds, bought in 1944 and 1945.

Respectfully submitted,

**CHARLES R. MULDER, Treas.**
ADDENDA TO REPORTS

ATTENTION:

In addition to the material submitted in this Agenda the attention of delegates to the Synod of 1947 is directed to the following reports submitted for final decision by the Synod of 1946:


(3) "Examination of Candidates for the Ministry," appearing in Supplement 16 of the Acts of 1946, pages 221-236. Decision of Synod of 1946 is on page 118.

The above three reports were not reprinted in our present Agenda, since these reports have been before the church for the past year. Delegates to Synod can facilitate matters by bringing a copy of the Acts of the Synod of 1946 to the forthcoming meeting of the Synod of 1947.

Cordially,

R. J. Danhof, S. C.
COMMUNICATION

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PROMOTION

To the Synod of 1947.

Esteemed Brethren: —

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midland Park Christian School we discussed the relationship of the Christian Reformed denomination to the Christian school. We recognized that since its organization the denomination has fostered the organization and attendance of the Christian day school, and further, that the church through its church visitors and in its formal questions in Article 41 D.K.O. regards the Christian day school as part of the faith of the church. Each church representative is specifically asked whether his church supports the cause of Christian education.

We as a Board believe that the denomination should appoint more space in its official organ, namely the Banner, and more time in its joint meetings to the matter of Christian education — particularly primary and secondary schools; further, that the various ministers of the church be urged to promote the cause of Christian education and Christian professions at appropriate times in the year.

The need for the Christian day school was never so urgent, and the cause has never been so flourishing as is the case today. Yet almost every congregation is divided on the matter of this type of education and every school has, to say the least, great difficulty in obtaining teachers and of providing satisfactory income for the teachers it has, not to speak of the inadequate buildings.

We feel that the whole matter of Christian education, primary and secondary, deserves more official recognition and official promotion than it has received in the past. We recognize that there has been a committee on education and its integration appointed by the Synod of 1946, but thus far (the undersigned is on that committee) it appears that it is not concerned with what has been stated in the above.

We are taking this method of approaching the Synod realizing that we are unable to come to it through any overture because the school is not a part of the organic unity of the church and can only approach Synod through a communication. We write this because of a sincere interest in the Christian education of all our youth.

Sincerely yours,

Wendell H. Rooks, M. D.
Vice President
For the Board of Directors
of the Midland Park Christian School Association.

— 174 —
OVERTURES

No. 1. Catechetical Instruction

Since it has come to our attention that there is present danger that our children from six to twelve years will no longer receive the necessary catechetical instruction as they have done in past generations, and that this catechetical instruction will be superceded by other agencies which will bring about the loss of that greatly needed sense of attachment to the church we overture Synod to stress the need of giving catechetical instruction also to the children of this tender age.

We urge also that this instruction be given by the pastor of the church if at all possible, for this belongs to his official work. Christ said, "Feed My Lambs".

Classis California,
REV. L. BOUMA, S.C.

No. 2. Junior College

Classis California overtures Synod to establish a Junior College on the West coast as soon as practicable.

Grounds:

1. The rapid growth and development of the Classes on the West coast indicate the strategic importance of this part of our denomination. Note figures below:
   Number of Families 1936; 1946 Incr. % of Incr.
   Whole Denomination 24,171 30,052; 5,881 24.3
   Classes Pacific and California 1,583 2,596; 1,013 63.9

2. The growth of the western Classes is a reflection of the growth of the West. And in view of the fact that this economic and industrial development is by no means complete, we can be quite sure of the continuation of the present trend, namely, that the western Classes will, for some time to come, constitute an ever increasingly larger part of the church as a whole.

3. Even though Calvin College carries out its full expansion program it will nevertheless not be able to carry the complete denominational load, and further, because of its inconvenient location for the far West, more students could benefit from a Junior College placed here. It would then serve as a feeder for Calvin.

Classis California,
REV. L. BOUMA, S.C.
No. 3. Transfer to Another Classis
The Consistory of the Luverne, Minn., Christian Reformed Church petitioned Classis Sioux Center to be transferred to Classis Minnesota and to take the necessary steps to bring about the transfer.

Classis Sioux Center decided in its session of March 4, 1947 that it has no objection to the transfer of the Luverne church.

Classis Sioux Center,
Rev. S. Fopma, S.C.

No. 4. Mailing of The Banner and De Wachter
Classis Sioux Center overtures Synod to reverse the mailing dates of De Wachter and The Banner, in order to enable more of our people in outlying districts to receive The Banner before the Sunday following its publication.

Reasons:
1) Due to the present late mailing date of the Banner, many, if not most of our people in those districts (i.e. especially west of the Mississippi, and on the eastern coast) are unable to receive The Banner during the same week of its publication. Because of postal classification, other mail has the precedence in delivery, causing The Banner to be set aside for later delivery. Thus many subscribers — who otherwise would receive it before Sunday — because of the present late mailing date, do not receive The Banner until the week after its publication.

2) In view of the exceedingly greater number of subscribers to The Banner, as compared with that of De Wachter, a far greater number of our people would be benefited under such an arrangement.

3) By enabling more of our people to receive The Banner before the Sunday following its publication, the promotion of good Sunday reading in our circles will be fostered.

Classis Sioux Center,
Rev. S. Fopma, S.C.

No. 5. Publication of Overtures
Classis Zeeland overtures Synod to have the unwritten overtures that are acted upon by Synod published in the Acts of Synod.

Reason:
When reference is made to decisions that are based on such overtures the reader is ignorant, very often, of the background of said decisions.

Classis Zeeland,
Rev. H. Kooistra, S.C.

No. 6. Meeting of Boards
Whereas it has been brought to the attention of Classis Minnesota that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions is overtures Synod to
return to the former method of meeting in May, we as Classis overture Synod to abide by the decision of Synod taken last year in re these matters and not to adopt the overture of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

Classis Minnesota,
REV. JOHN EHLERS, S.C.

No. 7. Investment of Moneys by the Various Boards

Classis Grand Rapids West overtures Synod that it instruct the various boards under its supervision, to give careful consideration to the firms and organizations in which its moneys are invested, and that, if it appears that moneys are invested in firms and organizations whose activities give offense to the Christian conscience by public Sabbath desecration, etc., to instruct the boards to take the necessary measures to invest these moneys elsewhere.

Grounds:
1. It is the duty of the churches in their joint activities as well as the duty of the individual Christian to refrain from giving offense to the Christian conscience as much as possible.
2. It violates the Christian conscience to use moneys for kingdom purposes when it is apparent that the manner by which these have been obtained is unscriptural.

Classis Grand Rapids West,
A. PERSENNAIRE, S.C.

No. 8. Minister’s Salary Plan

It is a known fact that there is a great discrepancy in the amount of contributions paid per family towards the minister’s salary in the various churches of the Christian Reformed denomination. Even though the families in the smaller churches are contributing proportionately far more than the families in the larger churches towards the pastor’s salary, many ministers in the smaller churches are underpaid. (see Acts of Synod, 1946, pages 332-335).

Synod has for many years sought to meet the needs of the weaker churches by means of the Subsidy Fund. However, this method has not proved satisfactory as is shown from the present situation.

CLASSIS CALIFORNIA, therefore, OVERTURES SYNOD to adopt the following plan:

1. Synod establish annually, an adequate basic salary for all ministers of the Christian Reformed Churches.
2. Synod establish a MINISTER’S SALARY FUND by means of a denominational, per-family quota.
3. The basic salaries of the ministers in all churches shall be paid from this fund, leaving it to the discretion of the individual congregations to enlarge this sum according to the local needs.
4. Synod appoint a denominational treasurer whose task it shall be to administer the distribution of these funds according to a plan devised by a committee appointed by Synod.
BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

1. It offers the larger congregations a greater opportunity to share the burdens of those who are weaker.

2. It will tend to develop a better financial policy in the congregations.

3. It will tend to promote the cause of Home Missions since the Home Missionary stationed in a newly organized congregation can be replaced by a regular pastor almost immediately without causing undue burdens to rest upon that particular church.

4. This plan will eliminate the further need of the present Fund for Needy Churches.

REV. L. BOUMA, Stated Clerk
Classis California

No. 9. Home Mission Churches

Classis Chicago North overtures Synod to establish rules for the Home Missions Field along the same lines that obtain on the Indian Field; namely, that of establishing missionary churches, when, by the grace of God, individuals are converted through Home Missionary endeavor. (Cf. Acts of Synod, 1942, Art. 80, esp. par. C. and subpoints as found on p. 681.)

Grounds:

1. Such was the procedure of the Church in the Apostolic age. Paul, wherever he went, moved in the direction of establishing missionary churches. He did this even in localities where the condition of those who were converted was still far from ideal. (I Cor. 11:21; Titus 1:5,6) The new converts were not made members of the sending mother church at Antioch or Jerusalem.

2. Experience has shown that it does not work out well to take these converts out of their missionary environment and incorporate them as members in some church with which they have had no connections and where they do not feel at home.

Classis Chicago North,
WM. P. BRINK, Stated Clerk

No. 10. Reprinting of Dutch Psalm Tunes

Classis Chicago South overtures the Synod of 1947:

"A. To hold in abeyance its decision in re the reprinting of Dutch Psalm tunes as plain chorales (cf. Art 72, VII page 37, Acts 1946),
B. To appoint a committee of men, who are specialists in music, including some of our prominent organists, for the purpose of studying the hymnology of our Psalter with special reference to melodies borrowed from the Holland Psalter, with a view to improving both the melody and the poetic content of some of the numbers in our Psalter.

Grounds:

1. Classis is not certain that the change decided upon by the Synod of 1946 will meet with the general approval of the
majority of our people. Though chorale singing is a thing to be fostered for congregational singing, it is equally true that not all plain chorales are equally uplifting. Consequently, why with one blanket statement argue for the one and ignore the other. Why not leave it up to the individual congregation which way they prefer to sing these chorales.

2. Some of the changes made in the music of the psalm tunes have not increased the love of psalm singing by our people. The melodies as our fathers were wont to sing them have been tampered with. Also, the problem of our Psalter is broader than the one point singled out by the Synod of 1946.”

Classis Chicago South,
H. De Mots, S.C.

No. 11. Proposed Change in Church Order

Classis Kalamazoo overtures Synod to change the by-law of Art. 5, Church Order, advising vacant churches “not to nominate ministers who have not served their present church for two years,” to make this “four years,” instead of “two years.”

Grounds:

1. The best work in a church cannot be done in a shorter period of time.
2. This would spread the calls over a greater number of ministers.

Classis Kalamazoo,
Henry Exoo, Stated Clerk

No. 12. Lay Members of Board of Trustees

Classis Grand Rapids South, overtures Synod to augment the present Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary with the addition of five lay members, to be elected at large by Synod.

Grounds:

1. In our churches, we emphasize the office of the believer, which should come to expression in every domain of our church life.
2. In the past the Board of Trustees has deemed it necessary to secure the services of laymen on the Finance Committee. The laymen should not only be asked to serve on this committee, but should be given due recognition by being seated on the Board of Trustees and given an opportunity to take an active part in the formulation of “policies”.
3. This will make our Board of Trustees conform to other denominational boards, such as the Christian Reformed Board of Missions, The Home Mission Committee, The Publication Committee, and the Back to God Hour Committee, which are composed of both clergy and lay members.
4. Due to the large enrollment at Calvin College and the expansion of the various departments, there should be business, professional, and other men, who are well qualified in the various fields, on the Board of Trustees. The membership of the Board of Trustees should not be limited to men trained in one department, i.e., the Pre-seminary and Seminary, to the exclusion of all others.

Classis Grand Rapids South, WM. VANDER HOOK, S.C.

No. 13. Woman Ecclesiastical Suffrage

Classis Muskegon overtures Synod to study further the question of the proper function of the Congregational Meeting among our ecclesiastical assemblies and to properly delineate the authority of that assembly with a view to the solving of the problem of allowing women members to vote in congregational meetings.

Grounds:

1. Classis Muskegon received an overture from one of its consistories because of the request of some of its women members to participate in congregational meetings.
2. The Classis, after extensive study, felt that, for the sake of uniformity, this should not be merely the decision of a single classis or congregation.
3. There are now some congregations that permit woman ecclesiastical suffrage, so that in actual fact, uniformity is not now a reality.

Classis Muskegon, I. D. COUWENHOVEN, S.C.

No. 14. Lay Missionary Funds

Classis Muskegon overtures Synod to study the advisability of founding classical funds for the purpose of giving aid to those who desire to prepare themselves for lay missionary work.

Grounds:

1. This matter is properly the province of Synod because “The missionary work of the Church is regulated by the General Synod in a Mission Order.” (Art. 51. C. O.)
2. Synod’s decision would give uniformity of practice throughout the denomination.
3. The Student Fund is also denominational in character and not classical.
4. The relation of the lay missionary to the institutional church is not clearly defined.

Classis Muskegon, I. D. COUWENHOVEN, S.C.
No. 15. Art. 70. Church Order

The undersigned requests:

"That Art. 70 of our Church Order be eliminated from said document."

Text of Art. 70: "Since it is proper that the matrimonial state be confirmed in the presence of Christ's Church, according to the Form for that purpose, the consistories shall attend to it."

Reason: The matter of which this Art. speaks, is not an ecclesiastical matter.

Grounds:

a. This Art. speaks of a "confirmation of the matrimonial state."
The matrimonial state or the state of marriage is a divine ordinance given for the natural life of man and woman while on earth. It is rooted in creation. God made both Adam and Eve to be husband and wife and thereby established the first marriage. He confirmed it by saying: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

There is therefore nothing spiritual or ecclesiastical in a marriage. The married state as such and its consummation are matters in the realm of common grace.

Whereas God solemnized the first marriage, it is proper, that God's representative in the territory of common grace, which is our civil government, now performs this rite.

In the Old Testament times it was the father or the patriarch who gave the daughter in marriage. Examples are Bethuel giving Rebekah; Laban giving Leah and Rachel in marriage; Jethro giving his daughter to Moses; Caleb giving his daughter to Othniel and many other examples could be quoted. And the marriage of Boaz and Ruth was witnessed and confirmed by the elders of Bethlehem.

The married state was then and is now governed by civil laws. Our civil government is God's representative in the province of the natural life. Its laws in all matters, which properly belong in the territory of the State and which also include the solemnization of a marriage, are binding for all, for the Christian as well as for the unbeliever or heathen. Nowhere in Scripture is the marriage ceremony spoken of as being a Priestly work.

b. This Art. speaks of a "confirmation of the matrimonial state," which clearly refers to a custom held in the Netherlands until the present time, namely that the Church should confirm that which the State has enacted. But why should the Church confirm or have to confirm that which the State has done in its own right and province? Was that act not considered legal
and binding? In that case, it must not be confirmed. But was it legal and binding? Then it does not need to be confirmed.

This “confirmation” by the Church of what the State has legally enacted is evidently a relic of the Roman Catholic hierarchy which does not acknowledge the validity of the civil act even to this day.

c. In the United States the marriage bond is performed by the Civil Government. That government has delegated the power to perform these rites to its judges and to all ministers of the gospel, but not to any Church as such. A marriage performed by a justice is just as sacred and binding. And when a minister marries a couple in the midst of the congregation nothing ecclesiastical takes place. Though the whole congregation witnesses the ceremony the marriage itself is purely civil. The Church has neither voice nor hand in performing the act, nor can it confirm that which has properly been done by the agent of the State, who is the minister.

Though it be commended that the rite be performed in the midst of the congregation at a regular service, (in the presence of such a host of witnesses) this does not change the essence of it.

d. This Art. has given rise and still gives rise to much confusion of thought. It presents the marriage solemnization as somewhat semi-civil and semi-ecclesiastical, and because of that presentation there is sometimes apparent conflict between the laws of the state and the rules of the Church. The Church properly deals with the whole life of its members, also in the realm of the married life, as to its spiritual side, and must discipline its members when a continuance in sinful practices is shown; but, as regards the bond of marriage which the State as God’s representative consummates or dissannuls, the Church, as the body of Christ, cannot change those laws but must respect them.

But instead of respecting the laws of the State there is often shown a tendency to ignore completely what the State has done. The misrepresentation which Art. 70 creates fosters a disrespect for the State and its laws. This is not so much shown by a spirit of aggressiveness, as if the Church would take over from the State (except in a few individual cases, where a return to the Roman Catholic standpoint has been advocated) but more in a complete negation and ignoring of what the State, as authoritative representative of God’s justice, has done in its own rightful province.

— 182 —
For the above named reasons, based upon the grounds mentioned, this Art. 70 should be erased from our Church Order.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER L. VAN DYKEN
Ripon, Calif., Jan. 7, 1947

No. 16. Proposed change for Meeting of Synod.

Classis Wisconsin respectfully calls Synod's attention to the difficulty it may have in carrying out the decision regarding the submission of synodical matters to the Stated Clerk. Because this classis in common with all the others is requested "to submit all matters intended for Synod to the Stated Clerk not later than March 15" (Acts 1946, pg. 35), it will have to meet either in the last part of February or the first part of March, a time of the year in which travel in this part of the country is often difficult, and occasionally even dangerous.

In view of this situation this Classis asks Synod to revise this particular decision of 1946 — if necessary, by changing the date of Synod's meeting to some time in July or August.

Classis Wisconsin,
N. JANSEN, S. C.

No. 17. Re-appointment of Radio Minister.

Classis Wisconsin overtures Synod to reappoint the Rev. P. H. Eldersveld as Radio Minister.

Reasons:
1. His appointment was for only one year.
2. His radio messages are good and well received. The love of this cause has greatly increased among our people who support it.
3. Continuity of a radio minister is very necessary for real advancement in Radio work.

Classis Wisconsin,
N. JANSEN, S. C.

No. 18. Subsidy for Mountain Lake Church.

Classis Minnesota carefully considered the subsidies for the subsidized churches in our midst. Special attention was given to the church of Mountain Lake. Having heard the explanation of the Mountain Lake delegates, Classis decided to overture Synod to raise the subsidy for the Chr. Ref. Church of Mountain Lake, Minn. to $850.00.

Grounds:
1. The salary which was reported at $2000.00 for 1948 was so specified in the hope of receiving additional aid from the Subsidy Fund.
2. The consistory has set the salary at $1850.00 including $150.00 bonus. According to present synodical procedure $150.00 should be added to the amount asked.

Classis Minnesota,
J. EHLERS, S. C.
No. 19. Woman Suffrage.

The Church of Prospect St., Passaic, N. J., being confronted with the issue of Woman Suffrage, asks Classis Hackensack to petition Synod of 1947, in conjunction with Classis Muskegon, to guide our Churches in this matter.

Classis Hackensack overtures Synod accordingly.

Classis Hackensack,
J. R. Rozendal, S. C.

No. 20. Time of Board Meetings.

Classis Hackensack submits to Synod the overture of the Summer St. Chr. Ref. Church "that the meetings of Curatorium and the Mission Boards be held again as formerly, later in the year:

Grounds:
1. It now take the ministers out of their congregations during the busiest periods of the year.
2. Too long a period elapses between the meetings of these Boards and the meeting of Synod to present an up-to-date report.
3. The Budget must be prepared almost a year in advance. It is impossible to plan these accurately since conditions change continually."

Classis Hackensack,
J. R. Rozendal, S. C.

No. 21. Subsidy Quota.

Classis Hackensack, having heard the report of its representative to the General Home Missions Board, and having learned that the quota for Subsidy is to be reduced, recommends that Synod seriously consider the advisability of retaining the $2 quota per family per year, and thus increase proportionately the subsidies granted to the subsidized churches.

Classis Hackensack,
J. R. Rozendal, S. C.
CONTENTS

REPORTS
1. Christian Seamen's Home at Hoboken ..................................... 3
2. Paterson Hebrew Mission .......................................................... 6
3. Mission Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee ............... 11
4. American Bible Society ............................................................. 13
5. Chicago Jewish Missions ............................................................ 15
6. Request for Moral and Financial Aid ......................................... 20
7. Ministers Pension and Relief ....................................................... 22
8. General Committee for Home Missions .................................... 30
9. Rules Which Govern Fund of Needy Churches ......................... 61
10. General Fund, Jewish Missions .................................................. 64
11. Lord's Day Alliance .................................................................. 66
12. Fraternal Delegates to Synod of the Netherlands ..................... 69
13. Back to God Hour Committee ................................................... 73
14. United Youth Committee .......................................................... 78
15. Immigration Committee ............................................................. 80
16. Ecumenity and Interchurch Correspondence ............................. 87
17. Synodical Tract Committee ......................................................... 93
18. Netherlands Rehabilitation Committee ..................................... 95
19. Publication Committee ............................................................... 97
20. First Ecumenical Synod ............................................................ 105
21. Divorce Report ........................................................................ 110
22. Board of Missions ..................................................................... 118
23. South America and Ceylon ......................................................... 139
24. Calvin College and Seminary ..................................................... 146
25. Kromminga Investigation Committee ....................................... 159
26. Canadian Treasurer .................................................................. 161
27. Status of Ministers with Non-ecclesiastical Institutions ............ 163
28. Church Help Committee ............................................................ 169
Addenda to Reports ........................................................................ 173

COMMUNICATION
Christian School Promotion ......................................................... 174

OVERTURES
1. Catechetical Instructions ............................................................. 175
2. Junior College ........................................................................... 175
3. Transfer to Another Classis ......................................................... 176
4. Mailing of the Banner and De Wachter .................................... 176
—185—
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Publication of Overtures</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Meeting of Boards</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Investment of Moneys by the Various Boards</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ministers Salary Plan</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Home Mission Churches</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Reprinting of Dutch Psalm Tunes</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Proposed Change in Church Order</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lay Members of Board of Trustees</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Woman Ecclesiastical Suffrage</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lay Missionary Funds</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Article 70 of Church Order</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Proposed Change of Meeting of Synod</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Reappointment of Radio Minister</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Subsidy for Mountain Lake Church</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Woman Suffrage</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Time of Board Meetings</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Subsidy Quota</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>