

*C. Borsius*

# AGENDA

## Synod Christian Reformed Church

To convene June 10, 1953  
at Grand Rapids, Mich.

REPORTS AND OVERTURES

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

## P R E F A C E

The Agenda for the Synod of 1953 contains the reports of standing and study committees appointed by previous Synods, overtures of Classes and Consistories.

On *Tuesday evening, June 9, at 7:45 o'clock*, D. V., a special Prayer Service for Synod will be held in the Neland Avenue Christian Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This church is located at 940 Neland Avenue, in the southeast section of the city of Grand Rapids. The Pastor of the Convening church will preach the sermon and lead in special prayer.

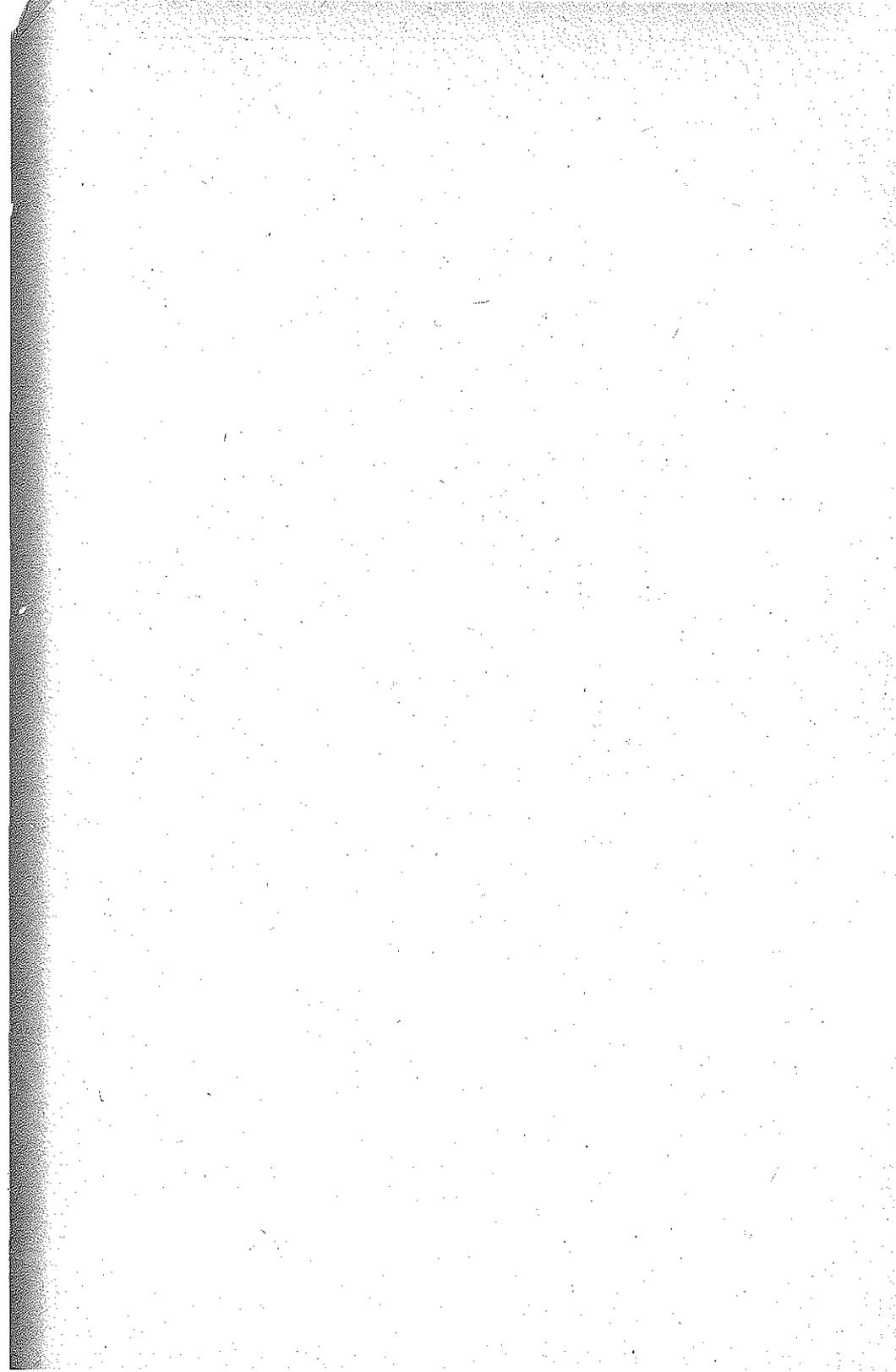
On *Wednesday morning, June 10, at 9:00 a.m.*, the delegates to Synod will meet in the auditorium of the main building of Calvin College. Rev. R. J. Danhof, Th.D., will formally open the first session of Synod with an appropriate address, lead in devotions and serve as chairman until Synod is duly constituted.

On the preceding *Sunday, June 7*, our pastors and congregations are urgently requested to remember the forthcoming sessions of Synod in their intercessory prayers.

R. J. DANHOF, TH.D.  
*Stated Clerk*

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

P. S. Delegates to Synod are kindly requested to bring their copy of the Agenda to Synod.



# Reports

REPORT NO. 1

## THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

ESTEEMED BRETHREN :

**T**HE Bible Society work was started by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1803, when a group of consecrated Christians in London banded together for the purpose of making God's Word available to all the nations of the earth. This year the 150th anniversary will be commemorated in many lands. Our American Bible Society was organized 137 years ago. At the present time there are 24 Bible Societies in various parts of the world, closely cooperating in this glorious task. The Word of God has been published in 1049 languages and parts of at least one book of the Bible have been published in 85 additional languages. The largest share of the work today is done by the American Bible Society. All the other countries, especially Britain, are impoverished; yet in spite of this they carry a proportionately heavier share than before. Our country is prosperous and the need of Bible translation and distribution is greater than ever before. This places upon us the special responsibility of prayerfully trying to meet this need.

It was for this purpose that about 60 representatives of more than 50 denominations met as the Advisory Council at the main office of the American Bible Society on December 2nd and 3rd, 1952. Reports were received from the workers in the various fields and plans were discussed for the coming year.

The American Bible Society operates thru a fourfold program: it aids translators of the Bible; it publishes the Bible; it distributes the Bible and it encourages the use of the Bible. This year the "Ragoli Bible" was completed after more than 35 years of effort. It is printed in the language of the Maragoli, a nation of 250,000 people in East Africa.

Translations in 31 languages have been examined. There have come from the printers ten translations, mostly for tribes in Latin America. Others are in the hands of the printers or in the process of translation.

Without this translation work which is carried on by missionaries in close cooperation with the American Bible Society, all foreign mission work would be tremendously handicapped. Our own missionaries among the Indians, in Nigeria, Japan and India get the Scriptures directly or indirectly from the Bible Society.

You can readily see what a tremendous task it is to translate and publish such Scriptures and the expense involved. No mission board of any church could do this. Here all the churches thru the American Bible Society work together and each missionary can get the Scriptures in the language he needs.

Another large field of endeavor is distribution of Scriptures among the colored people in our own country. Colporteurs have distributed half a million of Scriptures mostly in the Southern States.

Let us not forget the advancing work for the blind that is carried on. The Bible is printed in Braille and requires eighteen bulky volumes. A complete Bible costs \$60.00 to print and bind it. They are sold for twenty-five cents a volume to the blind, or they receive them as a gift if they are needy. The Braille Bible is now available in six languages.

This is only a part of the extensive work done in our own country. The work done abroad also goes forward in spite of opposition. The door in China is closed. But during the last few years Scriptures have been printed and stored in China for such an emergency. No reliable information can get through at present. But native workers are still trying to carry on. However, Bible distribution is carried on in Hong-kong, and Scriptures in Chinese are going from that point to Formosa and to Chinese speaking people in Southeast Asia and even in Europe and Africa.

In Latin America we see a brighter picture. Local congregations in Mexico contributed \$48,000 for Bible work among their own nation. Even in countries where we hear of persecution of the Protestant churches the Bible distribution goes on. In many Latin countries the people ask for and buy not only a New Testament, but demand whole Bibles.

The work done in Bible lands, as Palestine, Egypt, Syria, made good progress. More than 300,000 Scriptures, mostly in Arabic, Armenian and Turkish, were distributed. This is a difficult field; much hostility is encountered.

The work in the Far East, outside of China, is very promising. More than one million Scriptures have gone to Formosa, not only to the Chinese soldiers, but also to the Aborigines in the mountains.

The story from Japan speaks of an amazing progress. In 1951 3,372,000 volumes were distributed, and in the years 1949-1952 it has reached more than ten millions. This work was carried on by churches, bookstores and colporteurs. These men on their triangle-carts carry the Scriptures to every part of the country.

Korea is the land of sorrow and misery; but also of opportunity for mission work. The chaplains ask for Scriptures in nine languages for the forces fighting for freedom. For the Korean army and civil popula-

tion more than 700,000 volumes were sent; and for the Chinese prisoners another 50,000.

This is a picture of the world wide work of our American Bible Society. When the budget was presented, the money that is available for the new year does not cover emergency projects for necessary extension work in Hongkong, Formosa, Korea, Japan and Burma. It also showed that the gifts received from our Christian Reformed Church in the first ten months of 1952 were thirty percent less than those given in 1951 in the same period.

The need for more Scriptures, the Bread of Life, is evident from the following figures:

The American Bible Society printed and distributed in 1949, 8,815,000; in 1950, 10,028,000 and in 1951, 12,332,000 volumes. And many calls come in for still more. Besides, many of our men in the army and navy ask for complete Bibles instead of New Testaments. Every true believer will rejoice in this.

May I kindly request Synod to recommend this cause to all of our churches in the United States for increased moral and financial support.

Respectfully submitted,  
HESSEL BOUMA

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

**A**FTER the report of the meeting of the American Bible Society of December 2nd and 3rd had been sent in, there appeared in *The Banner* of January 2nd, an article on the Revised Standard version of the Bible. In this article the writer gave the following advice: "To re-examine the question whether you should continue to support the American Bible Society — originally organized to print the Bible without note or comment — which will now begin to circulate the 1952 Bible on a wide scale." This statement is misleading and your delegate has received letters from members of our church asking for information. I am sure that you will not take it amiss that I try to correct any misunderstanding in respect to this matter, and make this a belated part of my report.

It is not true that the American Bible Society "will begin to circulate the 1952 Bible on a wide scale." The constitution of the Bible Society allows at present to print only the following versions: the King James version of 1611, the Revised version of 1885, the American Standard Revised Version of 1901, and the New Testament of the Revised Standard Version issued in 1946. Not any of these New Testaments of 1946 have been published by the American Bible Society, but at the request of some missionaries, the Gospels and the

book of Acts have been published in the small, three cent, paper covered edition for distribution among the illiterate people in some southern States. No Bibles of the Revised Standard Version can be printed by the American Bible Society. No New Testaments have been printed because of copyright restrictions.

The American Bible Society does not favor any particular version. The King James version will continue to be published by the Bible Society, and, as the secretary of the American Bible Society expressed it: "It is now and will remain undoubtedly our most widely circulated English edition as it has been through all the years. Moreover any person or church making a donation to the American Bible Society has a right to designate the particular version for which the gift shall be used; and this is carefully observed."

Other voices have been heard advising our people to discontinue the support of the American Bible Society and give it to the smaller organizations as the Home Bible League and the Gideon organization. Such persons do not understand the unique place and task of the American Bible Society, together with the British, the Netherlands and other Bible Societies. These organizations, representing all the Protestant churches engaged in worldwide mission work, supply the missionaries with the word of God in the languages of all the nations of the earth. The whole Bible or parts of it have been translated in more than 1,000 languages, but there are still about a thousand more in which not even a small part of Scripture has been translated nor published.

This tremendous task can be done only by the united efforts of the churches, and I am sure that our church will not withhold its support from this necessary and glorious mission enterprise. The smaller Bible organizations when they distribute Scriptures in foreign languages, obtain these directly or indirectly from the American Bible Society.

If more information is needed, a representative of the American Bible Society will be glad to give Synod or its committee full information.

Respectfully submitted,

HESSEL BOUMA.

## REPORT NO. 2

### THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

**T**HE Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission herewith submits its report of its activities in the year 1952 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 forementioned Classes.

During the past year five (5) of the Board members have been replaced by others. Rev. B. H. Spalink, Dr. O. Holtrop, Mr. Richard Meyer, S. E. Greydanus and Mr. A. Atema. They have been replaced by Rev. Thomas Van Eerden, Dr. John E. Meeter, Mr. Elmer Heerema, Mr. Albert De Vries and Mr. U. Stonehouse respectively. However, beings that it practically resulted in an entire new board and that the remaining members of the Board, except one, had only served a short time. Mr. S. E. Greydanus, having served as Secretary for 6 years, was asked to serve another year as Secretary and upon his acquiescence was appointed delegate at large subject to the approval of Classes Hudson and Hackensack. The Board herewith expresses its appreciation for the faithful services rendered by the retiring Board members.

The Board is now constituted as follows: Rev. E. Joling, President; Rev. T. Van Eerden, Vice President; Mr. S. E. Greydanus, Secretary; Mr. Elmer Heerema, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Albert De Vries, Treasurer; Rev. S. Van Dyken; Dr. J. E. Meeter; Mr. J. De Leeuw and Mr. U. Stonehouse.

Thee Board having extended through its Calling Church, the Third Christian Reformed Church of Paterson, N. J., five calls to Ministers in the Christian Reformed Church finally, with the approval of the Synodical Examiners, extended a call to Rev. David B. Muir, a graduate of Calvin College and Westminster Seminary and now a Minister in the United Presbyterian Church of Gibson, Iowa. With thanks to our God the Board is happy to report that Rev. Muir has accepted the call, "to come over and help us," subject to the Colloquium Doctum to be conducted by the Classis Hackensack and the Synodical Examiners, D. V. March 17, 1953.

The Mission Workers are as follows: Superintendent Elect, Rev. David B. Muir; Miss Martha Rosendal, Nurse and full time worker; Miss Wilhelmina Tuit, full time worker; Dr. Peter G. Berkhout, Phy-

sician. During the vacancy the Minister Board Members each in turn took charge of the Saturday evening Gospel meetings for a month.

The Board had purchased the home of our former Superintendent, Rev. Rosendal, for a parsonage. However, as previously reported on account of adverse criticism same has been disposed of in the past year with approval of Classes.

Being that Rev. Muir has accepted the call the Board took steps at once to provide a home for him and his family. The Building Committee of the Board was directed to investigate various possibilities and finally three properties were listed by the Committee for the Board's inspection. The Board as a whole together with Rev. Muir inspected all three and after a thorough discussion decided to purchase a property in Wyckoff, N. J.

The plot is 100 ft. by 150 ft., the dwelling is a modern 6 room dwelling with bath and extra lavatory and spacious basement and automatic heat. The cost being \$19,000.00, however, there is no garage. The estimated cost to build a 2 car garage is about \$2000.00. The Board respectfully ask for your approval of this action.

The Board respectfully recommends that the Paterson Hebrew Mission Board be placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis instead of two Classes as at present. The two Classes meet at different times. One Classis meets three times per year the other Classis meets only twice per year. Sometimes there is an elapse of two months or more between meetings of the two Classes to which the same matters are submitted for approval. Because of this, the possibility exists that one Classis approves a matter and that after two or more months the other Classis does not approve the same matter. This would create an awkward position for the Board. Being under the jurisdiction of one Classis a much closer and direct co-operation could be arranged for mutual satisfaction and efficiency and with possible advantage to this Kingdom Work.

The activities of the Mission are centered and go out from the Mission Building, # 253 Hamilton Ave., Paterson, N. J. For a detail report of the activities of the Mission kindly note the attached report of the Lady Workers.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. Albert De Vries, for the year 1952 is attached to this report, same has been properly audited as required.

Also attached is the Proposed Budget for the year 1954.

Trusting that this report will give you a general oversight of the work and activities of the Paterson Hebrew Mission for the year 1952.

In conclusion the Board herewith expresses its appreciation to the Mission workers and Physician for their devotion for this important Kingdom Work and their difficult labor that they perform in bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people.

May we ask for your continued support—moral and financial—and above all, your continued prayers and especially for the Superintendent Elect as he will commence his labor for Jewish Mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
S. E. GREYDANUS, *Secretary*

Approved at a meeting of the Board,  
held January 6, 1953.

**WORKERS' REPORT OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION  
FOR THE YEAR 1952**

*To the Synod*

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

In the absence of a superintendent we humbly submit our report of the work at the Paterson Hebrew Mission.

We have been privileged to bring the Gospel to many Jewish people in this area by means of Gospel meetings, classes for women and children, medical clinic, and visitation in the homes (especially in apartment houses where most of the Jewish people live).

Gospel meetings are held regularly on Saturday evenings with an average attendance of 12 Jewish adults, almost all of them women. Most of these women have been coming to the Mission for many years. Again and again they have heard the Gospel. One of them claims to believe in Christ, but fears baptism because of persecution. Some of them might be called inquirers, still eager to hear the Gospel, but puzzled as to whether or not to believe it. Others seem hardened against the Gospel even though they continue to come. Since we do not have a superintendent, those of our Board members who are ministers of the Word have brought the message at our Gospel meetings, taking their turns for a period of a month at a time. The following have served in this capacity: Rev. E. Joling, Rev. S. Van Dyken, Rev. J. Meeter, and Rev. T. Van Eerden.

Classes for women are held on Monday and Tuesday evenings, and on Wednesday afternoons. The Monday evening class, taught by Miss Martha Rozendal, is the oldest class, and was held already for many years when the Mission was located on North Main Street. Before the Bible lesson is taught, a half hour is spent in sewing towels, pillow cases, etc., which the women may keep after sewing them. The average attendance at this class is eight women.

The Wednesday afternoon class is conducted much like that of Monday evening. Miss Rozendal takes care of the sewing period, and the second undersigned teaches the Bible.

We have endeavored to begin a new class for younger married women on Tuesday evenings this year. Many Jewish friends and acquaint-

ances were contacted with this intent, but to date only two women have enrolled, and of late only one of them has been coming since the other one has begun to work evenings. We do not offer any sewing or other form of recreation at this meeting but confine ourselves to the teaching of the Word and singing of hymns. Our Bible discussions have been encouraging; many questions are asked on the part of the Jewish women. Mrs. J. Tuit also attends the class in order to help create interest. The second undersigned teaches.

Classes for children are held twice a week, on Tuesdays for the Junior girls, and on Fridays for Grade School children. Some of our difficulties with the children are that they are kept occupied with Hebrew School, dancing lessons, and many social activities in the Y. W. & M. H. A. Also, most parents object to the children coming to a Mission where they will be taught about the Christ. At present we have nine children on roll. The second undersigned takes care of the children's work.

The Medical Clinic is open on Tuesday afternoons and evenings. Dr. Berkhout takes care of the patients with the help of Miss Rozendal as nurse. A Gospel message is given to the patients by Miss Rozendal before the doctor comes. The average number of patients per week this year was nine.

Once a month on Thursday evening a special meeting is held, to which Jewish people are invited and also a delegation from one of our churches, each church taking a turn to send visitors. A Gospel message is delivered, usually by the visiting pastor, and musical selections are given, after which a social time is spent over a cup of coffee. The average attendance this year was 14, about the same as at our Gospel Meetings.

During the course of the year 562 visits were made in the homes of the Jewish people, 1010 tracts were distributed, 73 Gospels, 8 N. Testaments, and 2 Bibles. There are many open doors where we may bring the Word.

Four of our Jewish friends passed away this year. All of them heard the Gospel often. One of them, Mrs. Rose Jacobs, came to the Mission regularly.

Our yearly picnic was held in July at Terrace Lake. A Hebrew Christian, Rev. S. Parker, from the American Board of Missions to the Jews, was the speaker. Some of the people were quite impressed by his message.

The Hebrew Christian Alliance Conference was held in Dayton, Ohio, this year. Miss Rozendal attended as delegate.

We have had the opportunity again this year to present the work of the Mission in some of our churches and societies.

We are exceedingly grateful to our God for the privilege of witnessing for Him in the Paterson area again this year. However, we are becoming more and more of the opinion that it is time for us as a church to expand the work of Jewish Missions, not just to limit ourselves to one small district. We earnestly request you to give this matter your prayerful consideration. Questions such as these trouble us: How long should we remain in a district where there are no apparent converts? Would not Paul the Apostle have moved on long ago? What would the Lord have us to do? Is our church sincerely interested in the work of Jewish Missions? If so, let us awake and spread the Gospel far and wide, and not just sit back and say, "We have two Jewish Missions: one in Paterson and one in Chicago." Maranatha.

The following is a list of statistics regarding meetings, etc.

|  | Number of Meetings | Total Attendance |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Saturday Gospel Meetings.....  | 46                 | 532              |
| Special Meetings .....   | 9                  | 128              |
| Clinic Gospel Meetings   |                    |                  |
| Afternoons .....   | 49                 | 357              |
| Evenings .....   | 34                 | 62               |
| Ladies' Bible and Sewing Classes                                       |                    |                  |
| Monday Evenings .....  | 40                 | 321              |
| Wednesday Afternoons .....   | 38                 | 158              |
| Younger Ladies' Bible Class .....                                      | 19                 | 24               |
| Children's Bible Class (Sewing or<br>other recreation included in each |                    |                  |
| Grade School .....   | 19                 | 93               |
| High School .....  | 34                 | 50               |
| Daily Vac. Bible School.....   | 9                  | 39               |
| English Classes .....  | 71                 | 173              |
| One private English Pupil.....   | 30                 | 30               |

Visits 562, tracts distributed 1,010, Gospels 73, New Testaments 8, Bibles 2.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTHA ROZENDAL  
WILHELMINA TUFT

**REPORT OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD**  
**TOTAL ASSETS OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1952**

|                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash in Bank .....                    | \$ 8,240.92        |
| U. S. Government Bonds .....          | 6,000.00           |
| Savings Account .....                 | 8,899.59           |
| Furniture and Equipment .....         | 2,000.00           |
| Building at No. 253 Hamilton Ave..... | 7,000.00           |
| Deposit on Parsonage .....            | 2,000.00           |
| <b>Total Assets .....</b>             | <b>\$34,140.51</b> |

The Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission,

S. E. GREYDANUS, *Secretary*

**PATERSON HEBREW MISSION**  
**Financial Report for the Year of 1952**

Balance, January 1, 1952 ..... \$ 2,400.23

**RECEIPTS:**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Income from General Fund.....                   | \$13,846.66 |
| Offerings .....                                 | 83.47       |
| Donations .....                                 | 95.46       |
| Insurance—Third Church<br>(Miss Rozendal) ..... | 175.00      |
| Sale of Parsonage .....                         | 11,237.00   |
| Rent .....                                      | 60.00       |
| Clinic .....                                    | 96.55       |

Total Income ..... 25,594.14

\$27,994.37

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Salaries, Net .....                          | \$4,257.64 |
| Withholding Tax .....                        | 547.60     |
| Physician's Salary .....                     | 900.00     |
| Compensation to Speakers .....               | 486.00     |
| Janitorial Work .....                        | 365.85     |
| Auto Expense .....                           | 313.88     |
| Repairs .....                                | 138.20     |
| Telephone .....                              | 123.06     |
| Insurance .....                              | 206.39     |
| Taxes .....                                  | 48.00      |
| Gas and Electric .....                       | 53.76      |
| Mission Supplies .....                       | 219.91     |
| Treasurer's Bond .....                       | 33.75      |
| Water .....                                  | 10.48      |
| Printing .....                               | 12.50      |
| Medical Care, Miss Rozendal (Accident) ..... | 350.00     |
| Painting .....                               | 354.00     |
| Medical Supplies .....                       | 89.22      |
| Fuel .....                                   | 191.42     |
| Travel Expense .....                         | 235.39     |
| Miscellaneous .....                          | 79.90      |
| Transferred to Savings Account.....          | 10,737.00  |

Total Disbursements ..... \$19,753.45

Balance December 31, 1952..... \$ 8,240.92

Government Bonds helds in Safe Deposit Box at Haledon  
National Bank ..... \$ 6,000.00

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance, January 1, 1952.....        | \$ 80.80  |
| Transferred from Check Account ..... | 10,737.00 |
| Interest Received .....              | 81.79     |

Total ..... \$10,899.59

Deposit on Parsonage ..... 2,000.00

\$ 8,899.59

Respectfully submitted,  
**ALBERT DE VRIES, Treasurer**

## REPORT OF THE PATERSON HEBREW MISSION BOARD

### Proposed Budget for 1954

|  |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Superintendent, Salary .....                         | \$ 3,600.00 |             |
| Children Allowance .....                             | 525.00      |             |
| Martha Rosendal, Salary .....                        | 2,750.00    |             |
| Wilhelmina Tuit, Salary .....                        | 2,750.00    |             |
| Dr. Peter G. Berkhout .....                          | 900.00      |             |
| Janitor's Service .....                              | 450.00      |             |
|  |             | \$10,975.00 |
| Auto Depreciation .....                              |             | 600.00      |
| Auto Maintenance including Insurance and License.... |             | 500.00      |
| Fuel .....   | 400.00      |             |
| Gas, Light, Water, Telephone.....                    | 250.00      |             |
| Supplies for Mission Work.....                       | 300.00      |             |
| Repairs and Maintenance .....                        | 1,000.00    |             |
| Insurance .....                                      | 200.00      |             |
| Medical Supplies and Expenses.....                   | 150.00      |             |
| Miscellaneous .....                                  | 150.00      |             |
| Equipment .....                                      | 100.00      |             |
|  |             | 2,550.00    |
|  |             | \$14,625.00 |

### ESTIMATED INCOME

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund .....      | \$14,125.00 |
| Offerings .....         | 200.00      |
| Donations .....         | 150.00      |
| Interest on Bonds ..... | 150.00      |
|                         | \$14,625.00 |

The Paterson Hebrew Mission Board respectfully request a quota of 40 cents per family for the year 1954.

## REPORT NO. 3

### THE SEAMEN'S HOME

RESPECTED BRETHERN:

The present membership of this committee is the same as last year with exception there being one new member to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gerhardus Bos, who was called to higher service by His Lord. Membership of the Committee presently include Rev. T. Van Eerden, President; Adrian M. Visbeen, Secretary; and Frank Dykstra, appointees of Classis Hudson. Rev. John Holwerda, Peter Damsma, Treasurer and C. P. Van Genderen as representatives of Classis Hackensack.

Your board meets in regular session each month, together with Mr. Dahm, General Manager and Rev. Oussoren, the Spiritual Advisor. At these sessions regular reports of the personnel are received and reviewed, as well as conducting the regular business administration of the home. There have been many special and committee meetings in addition.

From the Business Manager's annual report we glean the following highlights; almost 1000 immigrants have been assisted in one way or another. These arrived on 29 more ships in port than in the previous year. All who asked are given help with the first consideration given to those of the household of faith. A total of 350 overnight guests were accommodated. Most of these are immigrants who must lay over for a day or so enroute. This number is up considerably because of the greater influx of immigrants. Special emphasis was laid on the spiritual care of the seamen. By the spoken Word and visual aid at 76 meetings 2426 men and women were reached. Considerably more were ministered to than in the previous year.

Dr. Oussoren our spiritual advisor, still divides his time between our institution and that of the Hoboken Church. Because of the growth and increase of the work in both places the brother is kept busy and pressed for time. He covers much of the entire New York port area calling on sick seamen in various hospitals. The personnel manager of the Holland American Line calls directly for such a need. He conducts regular meetings at the home giving brief messages whenever ships are in port. Much emphasis is laid on personal work.

A part time worker last summer was had in the person of Mr. Dick Bouma, a seminarian. This proved very helpful to the personnel. The Committee again requests Synod's consideration to provide such a worker this summer. This request will be made through the regular channels.

There are many problems with which the Board must wrestle such as personnel, resident guests and financial. We are however able to handle these in stride.

The possibilities of work in this area of God's Kingdom is only limited by our vision and the human limitations of our personnel. We are striving for the goal of a full time worker for which our new budget makes provision.

In this connection we are looking into certain physical improvements of the property. This will provide for a chapel, a consutation room and better guest rooms. Here we will be limited by finances. The building with which we must begin is old and quite obsolete. Thru the proper channels the Committee seeks to be relieved of the building at 310 Hudson Street, housing the Hoboken congregation. Our mandate is to operate the Seamen's Home and the funds are received for this purpose. Accordingly we should not be obliged to spend any part of these funds for the maintenance of this building.

Submitted herewith is a financial report and a proposed budget which we trust Synod will see fit to approve for the continuation of this phase of Kingdom work. Request is also made that Synod recommend the offerings and the prayers of the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

*Seamen's and Immigrants' Comm.*  
ADRIAN M. VISBEEN, *Secretary.*

**Financial Report, January 1, 1952, to December 31, 1952**

|   |                      |             |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Balance, January 1, 1952                          |                      | Nil         |
|   | <b>RECEIPTS</b>      |             |
| Eastern Home Mission Board.....                   |                      | \$10,177.46 |
| Various Classes .....                             |                      | 8,060.30    |
| Churches direct .....                             |                      | 199.88      |
| Societies .....                                   |                      | 48.16       |
| Individuals .....                                 |                      | 293.26      |
| Holland America Line .....                        |                      | 1,000.00    |
| Investments .....                                 |                      | 506.00      |
| Seamen's Home Operations .....                    |                      | 2,104.53    |
| Refund Seminarian D. C. Bouma.....                |                      | 15.00       |
| Refund Executive Comm. Home Mission .....         |                      | 331.15      |
| (One-half of salary, board and traveling expense) |                      |             |
| (Seminarian D. C. Bouma)                          |                      |             |
| Total Receipts .....                              |                      | \$22,735.74 |
|   | <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b> |             |
| Salaries .....                                    |                      | \$ 7,301.56 |
| Rent and traveling expense — workers.....         |                      | 720.00      |
| Bonus to workers for 1951.....                    |                      | 300.00      |
| Allowance to Mr. and Mrs. C. Fisher *.....        |                      | 1,300.00    |
| Prospect Park National Bank .....                 |                      | 5,000.00    |
| 5 Series G Bonds of \$1,000.00 each               |                      |             |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Rent, Safe Deposit Box .....                             | 4.50               |
| Fuel .....   | 1,012.00           |
| Light and Water .....                                    | 633.85             |
| Insurance .....  | 297.76             |
| Home Maintenance and Repair.....                         | 1,074.84           |
| Filing Cabinet—Treasurer .....                           | 47.31              |
| Auditing Expense .....                                   | 10.00              |
| Committee Expense .....                                  | 190.05             |
| Stationary, Printing, etc. ....                          | 156.01             |
| Advertising—Banner and Wachter .....                     | 170.00             |
| Gratuities .....   | 195.00             |
| Settlement—Johanna A. Fritsch Claim .....                | 225.00             |
| Refund—donation .....                                    | 5.26               |
| Salary, board and traveling, Seminarian D. C. Bouma..... | 662.30             |
| <b>Total Disbursements .....</b>                         | <b>\$19,305.44</b> |
| <b>Total Receipts .....</b>                              | <b>\$22,735.74</b> |
| <b>Total Disbursements .....</b>                         | <b>19,305.44</b>   |

Balance, December 31, 1952 ..... \$ 3,430.30

Respectfully submitted,

PETER DAMSMA, *Treasurer*

\* In order to bring this allowance in line with the payment of salaries it was necessary to pay \$100.00 additional this year.

Audited and found to be in order. Peter R. Steenland. 1-17-53

### PROPOSED BUDGET

| SALARIES  | Present            | Proposed           |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | 1953               | 1954               |
| Manager (including house rent and car expense)....  | \$ 3,900.00        | \$ 4,020.00        |
| Custodian (plus free rent and heat).....  | 2,500.00           | 2,500.00           |
| Part time Spiritual work rendered by the<br>Pastor of Hoboken Church, including<br>auto and other expense ..... | 1,600.00           | 4,000.00           |
| Maintenance and repair .....  | 1,000.00           | 1,150.00           |
| Fuel .....  | 850.00             | 950.00             |
| Gas, electric and water .....   | 550.00             | 625.00             |
| Insurance .....   | 300.00             | 350.00             |
| Allowance, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fisher.....  | 1,200.00           | 1,200.00           |
| Alterations .....   | 00.00              | 2,000.00           |
| Miscellaneous .....   | 500.00             | 500.00             |
| <b>Total .....</b>  | <b>\$11,065.00</b> | <b>\$17,295.00</b> |
| <b>ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>   |                    |                    |
| Interest on \$12,500.00 Government Bonds at 2½ %.....   | \$                 | 312.50             |
| Dividends 80 shares Little Miami R. R. stock.....   |                    | 344.00             |
| Income from Home.....   |                    | 2,000.00           |
| Donations from Individuals and Societies.....   |                    | 1,600.00           |
| Collections from Churches .....   |                    | 13,038.50          |
| <b>Total .....</b>  |                    | <b>\$17,295.00</b> |

ADRIAN M. VISBEEN, *Secretary*

P.S. Synod of 1942 decided to recommend the Seamen's Home for an offering per year, so that funds received from the Van Agthoven Estate may be kept intact, if possible, in the Endowment Fund, Act 1942, page 20.

## REPORT NO. 4

### THE FORM FOR ERASURE OF MEMBERS BY BAPTISM

#### I. MANDATE

**T**HE Synod of 1948 (cf. Acts of Synod of 1948, pp. 35 ff.) adopted our committee's recommendation that there should be a special form for the excommunication of members by baptism and instructed our committee to draft such a form. It further indorsed our proposal that the present disciplinary procedure for delinquent baptized members should be reviewed and asked our committee to suggest a new mode of procedure.

A proposed form as well as rule for procedure were submitted to the Synod of 1950. This Synod, however, did not accept our proposed form nor did it discuss our proposed change of procedure. Instead, it gave us a new mandate, namely, "to rewrite it (the form) keeping in mind the following matters:

1. "Synod believes the covenant doctrine should be simply enunciated.
2. "The distinction between erasure and excommunication should be clearly marked.
3. "The form to be read should be clear and brief.
4. "The matter should be offered to the church at large for discussion. (Acts of Synod, 1950, p. 40)

Our committee believes that the form herewith submitted answers the requirements of points 1 and 3 above. We believe it sets forth the covenant doctrine as simply as that can be done in a brief form. It is as brief as is compatible with a form of such great moment; and, we hope, it is clear to all who hear it.

As to point 2, it is the opinion of our committee that the distinction between "erasure" and "excommunication" should be submitted as a special recommendation to Synod since its incorporation into a form would tend to make the form too academic and cumbersome. Our recommendation with regard to this point is therefore submitted under "II B" of this report.

With reference to point 4, our committee is making plans to have the proposed form published in *The Banner* and *De Wachter* well in advance of the meeting of the Synod of 1953.

#### II. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYNOD

##### A. The Proposed Form.

We recommend to Synod that the following form be used in our churches for the excommunication of delinquent baptized members:

It is known to you that we have more than once acquainted you with the grievous sin of a non-confessing member of our church, N. N., and our painful duty of excommunicating him/her unless he/she repent of his/her sin.

It was his/her blessed privilege and solemn duty, having come to years of understanding, to honor his/her God and to enjoy Him by walking in the way of the covenant which God raised up with him and sealed in holy baptism. His/her sin reveals that he/she has deliberately spurned the covenantal privileges and obligations. He/she has repeatedly turned a deaf ear to the loving admonitions extended to him/her by those over him/her in the Lord and by other members of the church.

To our great sorrow we can find no evidence of change for the better on his/her part. Faithfulness to God and our Lord Jesus Christ requires that we bear with him/her no longer, lest the purity of the church be endangered and God's holy name be blasphemed. Therefore, we, whom the Lord has set over his church at this place, being assembled with you in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, declare that we excommunicate N. N. from the church of the Lord, and that so long as he/she persists obstinately and impenitently in his/her sins, he/she is excluded from the fellowship of Christ, having forfeited all the spiritual blessings and benefits which God bestows on his church.

Let us in love that hopeth all things pray God that He may mercifully give him/her conversion unto salvation.

Let every one, particularly you who have reached the age of understanding, take warning by this and similar examples to fear the Lord. Let him diligently take heed to himself if he thinks he stands, lest he fall. Let him remain steadfast unto the end in true fellowship with the Father, and his Son Jesus Christ together with all believing Christians. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." (Mark 14:38).

Since it is God who works in us both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13), let us call upon his holy name with confession of sins, and with earnest supplication for our former member.

#### PRAYER

O righteous God, merciful Father, before Thy high majesty we blame ourselves for our sins, and acknowledge that we have justly deserved the sorrow and pain caused us by the excommunication of this our former fellow-member. If thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, we all would deserve to be banished from Thy presence on account of our great transgressions. O Lord, be gracious unto us for Christ's sake. Forgive us our trespasses for we heartily repent of them. Work

in our hearts an ever increasing measure of sorrow for them, that we, fearing Thy judgment which Thou bringest upon the wayward, may endeavor to please Thee. Grant that we may avoid all pollution of the world and of those who are excluded from the communion of the church in order that we may not make ourselves partakers of their sins. May he/she who is excommunicated become ashamed of his/her sins. Since Thou desirest not the death of the sinner, but that he may repent and live, and since the bosom of the church is always open for those who return, kindle Thou, therefore, in our hearts a godly zeal that we with good Christian admonitions and example may seek to bring back this excommunicated person together with all those who through unbelief and recklessness of life go astray. Add Thy blessing to our admonitions that we may thereby have reason to rejoice again in them for whom we must now mourn, and that thus Thy Holy Name may be praised through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

B. The distinction between "erasure" and "excommunication."

We recommend that Synod adopt the following distinction between "erasure" and "excommunication":

1. That the term "erasure" (royeeren in Dutch, rayeren in French) be used in administrative sense for the removal of a name from the books of the church because of death, excommunication, change of membership, resignation, or departure without a contactual address.
2. That the term "excommunication" be used in a disciplinary sense for the exclusion from the fellowship of the church, the body of Christ, by Divine authority invested in the church whether the person excommunicated is a non-confessing or a confessing member.

*Explanatory Notes:*

1. At present the term "erasure" is employed for the excommunication of delinquent baptized members. This is done to give a certain distinction between the excommunication of a non-confessing and a confessing member without defining what that distinction is.
2. Our recommendation advises that the term "erasure" be used in an administrative sense only, and that the term "excommunication" be used for all exclusions from the church as the result of disciplinary action.
3. The more inclusive use of the term "excommunication" is recommended to emphasize the seriousness of this act also for non-confessing members.
4. If the seriousness of excommunication of non-confessing members is realized, our church will be faithful with all Christian patience in persuading our delinquents to be true to the blessed covenant of grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C. We recommend that Synod adopt the following mode of disciplinary procedure for non-confessing members and thereby declare that the mode now in use be declared void. (cf. Schaver's *Church Order*, 1937, p. 90).

The procedure in the discipline and excommunication of baptized members shall consist of three announcements to the congregation. The first announcement shall be made to the congregation without mentioning the name of the erring member. The second announcement shall mention the name after the advice of classis has been obtained. The third announcement shall be a notification to the congregation that until the present moment all arduous and patient labors spent upon the erring member of our church seem futile, and that in case said member shows no signs of repentance his excommunication will take place at the designated time. Each announcement is to be accompanied with an urgent exhortation to the congregation to pray fervently for the erring member.

#### REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE NEW PROCEDURE

1. In bringing the disciplinary procedure for non-confessing members more in line with that for confessing members, the proposed change stresses the seriousness of all discipline and excommunications.

2. The procedure now in vogue does not allow sufficient time for "lay" discipline and admonition. The proposed procedure gives friends and fellow members adequate opportunity to share in the church's admonitions, and may in God's grace be instrumental in the conversion of a sinner.

3. The distinction between the excommunication of a non-confessing member and of a confessing member is not so great that it calls for two quite dissimilar methods of procedure.

REV. O. BREEN

DR. E. Y. MONSMA

DR. J. T. HOOGSTRA, *Secretary*

## REPORT NO. 5

### "CREATION AND EVOLUTION"

*To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, 1953.*

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

**Y**OUR Committee on "Creation and Evolution" wishes to thank you for the confidence you have placed in us by appointing us to this Committee to advise you in regard to the "Decisions" of the Ecumenical Synod of the Reformed Churches held in Amsterdam in 1949.

A Committee was appointed by the First Ecumenical Synod of Reformed Churches, held in Grand Rapids, 1946, to serve the next Reformed Ecumenical Synod of 1949 with advice regarding the problem of "Creation and Evolution." This Synod adopted the following three guiding principles:

1. "The historical character of the revelation in Genesis 1 and 2 must be maintained without compromise. These two chapters offer no data to justify a symbolical or visionary interpretation or to treat them as a meaningful myth.

2. The true, completely trustworthy description by God of his work of creation is given to us in a humanly intelligible form, so that, although it does not constitute an adequate (i.e., full, exhaustive) representation of this divine act, it is sufficient for us to acknowledge and glorify him as our Creator.

3. In maintaining the historical character of Genesis 1 and 2 the Church rejects all evolutionary teaching which either rules out God entirely, or conceives of God as dependent upon the process of a so-called creative evolution, or allows for him to enter into the process only incidentally. The human form of revelation should prompt the Church to proceed with modesty and caution, and to refrain from making various kinds of pronouncements in the field of natural science."

This same Synod of 1949 asked the Synods of the participating Reformed Churches to study these three guiding principles earnestly. For that reason the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church of 1951 appointed your Committee for the study of these "decisions."

Your Committee advises Synod to accept these decisions. Through correspondence we have been informed that the Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa of 1952 has adopted these guiding principles. We have also tried to find out what the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands decided to do, but we have not been favored with any information.

Even though your Committee advises the adoption of the "decisions" we wish to add the following provisos and declarations:

1. Your Committee wishes our people to understand that these "decisions" are not to be put on par with our Forms of Unity; for example, the Articles of the Belgic Confession. They are merely guiding principles and directives. Nor are they on par with the infallible *ex cathedra* utterances of the Catholic Church. The "decisions" should be taken seriously; but we should not consider the person a heretic who deviates from them in the slightest degree.

2. The "decisions" speak of the "historical character" of Genesis 1 and 2. We consider that this terminology requires further elucidation. There are many differences among theologians in regard to the connotation of these words and also about the historical meaning of the words of Genesis 1 and 2.

3. Your Committee unreservedly condemns the mechanistic and interpretation type of evolution so rampant today and accepted by many scholars and scientists. We should gratefully accept the facts they give us but not their interpretations.

4. We wish to emphasize the difficulty of the problem of Creation and Evolution. On the one hand, Reformed theologians are constantly modifying their stand and re-evaluating their interpretation of Scripture, particularly of Genesis 1 and 2. In fact, we have been informed that material has been published or is ready to be published of such a nature that the whole subject of Creation and Evolution may have to be considered afresh. On the other hand, new discoveries are constantly being made in the field of natural science which make it necessary to alter our point of view; for example, in regard to the age of the earth and the length of the days of creation. Think but of the radio-active elements and the presence of Carbon 14.

Theologians and scientists, particularly Christian natural scientists, should make contributions to the solution of this problem. Should they not agree in their conclusions, they may have to suspend their judgment. History has proved very often that truth is the daughter of time.

Respectfully submitted,

DR. JOHN DE VRIES, *Chairman*

DR. PETER G. BERKHOUT, *Secretary*

REV. JOHN GRIFFIOEN

## REPORT NO. 6

### CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION

*To the Synod of 1953.*

DEAR BRETHREN:—

**T**O give Synod first of all an idea of the work done at Nathanael Institute this past year, we hereby reproduce the report of the Rev. J. R. Rozendal for the year 1952. The Staff consists of the Rev. John R. Rozendal, Superintendent; Miss Edith Vander Meulen, full-time Bible teacher; assisted part-time by Mrs. S. Karsen and Miss Minnie Goosens. Everett Van Reken, M.D., conducts a medical clinic three times a week. Mrs. E. Walsh, R.N., serves as Nurse, part-time. Ralph Swierenga, Stewart Vander Woude and Raymond Rozendal assist part-time with the Boys Gym Classes, while Miss Kingma assists Miss Vander Meulen with the Girls Gym classes one evening a week.

Our activities consist of preaching, teaching, personal work and medical help for the Jewish people. The Jewish people who attend the Clinic on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and on Wednesday evenings attend a gospel meeting before the clinic is held. We conduct Bible Classes in connection with all our activities. We feel that our primary purpose is to bring the gospel to those who enter the Mission.

In July we held a Daily Vacation Bible School for three weeks. A total of 42 Jewish children were enrolled. The total attendance for the first week was 135, for the second week 115, and for the third week 148. All these were Jewish children.

Our annual picnic was held at Palos Park. Twenty-seven adult Jews and 35 children attended.

We now give a report on the number of meetings and the total attendance at these meetings during 1952:

At 42 Gospel services on Saturday evenings a total of 263 Jews attended. 141 Gospel meetings were held before the Clinics at which a total of 724 Jews attended. 972 patients were given medical help at the Clinic. At the Girls' sewing and Bible Classes, held on Tuesday and Friday afternoons the total attendance was 1,477 at 80 meetings. Gym Classes and Bible were held for High School girls on Thursday evenings. At 24 meetings a total of 199 attended. The kindergarten meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 A.M. till noon. Miss E. Vander Meulen has charge of this class. At 76 meetings a total of 684 Jewish children attended. The parents bring

them and call for them after the class. The senior Girls' Club meets on Thursday afternoon, twice a month. At 22 meetings a total of 225 attended. One of their projects was the making of dolls for our Indian Mission children at Rehoboth. Also on Thursday afternoons the Junior Girls' Club meets. Mrs. S. Karsen has charge of this class. At 8 meetings a total of 50 were present. Ladies Bible classes were held on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. In the afternoon at 42 meetings a total of 417 Jewish ladies attended. In the evening at 43 meetings a total of 505 Jewish mothers attended. Bible classes were held for grammar school boys on Friday afternoons. At 39 meetings a total of 300 Jewish boys attended. On Monday evenings we have Bible classes and Gym for College boys. At 36 meetings a total of 275 Jewish young men attended. On Wednesday evenings we have Bible Classes and Gym for High School boys. At 28 meetings a total of 248 Jewish boys attended. These classes were conducted by the Superintendent.

A total of 332 visits were made to the Jews in their homes and shops. On the whole we are received kindly by the Jewish people. Occasionally we meet some who will have nothing to do with the gospel.

Our Christmas program for the younger children was held on Monday evening, December 22, at the Mission. The Jewish children presented the entire program, consisting of recitations, songs and dialogues about the birth of Jesus Christ. The Ladies Bible Class also sang Christmas songs. A total of 33 numbers were presented on the program: 46 Jewish children and 55 adults, many of them parents of the children, attended. On Tuesday evening, December 23, we held our Christmas service for the Young People of High School and College age. 38 Jewish young people attended. And so we have labored throughout the year, preaching and teaching the Gospel to many Jews, both young and old. May the Holy Spirit apply this Word to their hearts so that they may accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

We are grateful to the Rev. Rozendal for furnishing us with the above information.

In regard to Mr. Huisjen, our field missionary, we can report that he has been working mainly in Grand Rapids to activate and guide Jewish Mission work by the churches there. He has also made preliminary visits to several Jewish families in Kalamazoo, Mich., with a view to more permanent work later on in cooperation with the churches there. Muskegon, Michigan, is also on his list for a preliminary survey and subsequent follow-up work. Since it is difficult for the Chicago Jewish Mission Board to supervise work in other communities, we requested last year's Synod to place the work of our Field Missionary under the General Home Missions Committee. Synod referred our Overture, endorsed by Classis Chicago North, to the

Study Committee for re-alignment of Missions and Church Extension. We trust that when this committee reports, our Overture will have the full attention of Synod.

A special word of appreciation is due at this time to Mr. George Ottenhoff who for more than a quarter of a century has so ably and faithfully served our church as Treasurer of the Chicago Jewish Mission Board. He has been a tower of strength in good times and in times of depression and discouragement. More than once he has helped out with his personal funds in order that salaries, etc., might be paid on time. As he retires at this time, we wish for him many more years of usefulness and happiness in the service of the Lord.

At present your Board consists of the following members: Rev. E. L. Haan, President; Rev. G. Zylstra; Rev. A. De Kruyter; Rev. H. J. Triezenberg, Secretary; Mr. Peter Euwema, Treasurer; Mr. Geo. De Boer. The financial report of our Treasurer as well as the report of the Auditor and the proposed Budget for 1954 as approved by Classis Chicago North will be attached to this report. Speaking of finances, we can report that our position at this time is much more favorable than it has been for some time. This is mainly due to the fact that the sale of the Jansma estate was finally completed and brought into our treasury the sum of \$11,822.34 on November 11, 1952. Of this money we have invested \$10,500.00 (ten thousand, five hundred dollars) in the Tri-city Savings and Loans Association, with the approval of Classis. We hope that Synod will see that it is good financial policy to keep a sizeable reserve to serve as cushion against possible future depression and financial scarcity. We are still trying to obtain a full-time nurse and therefore renew our request, indorsed by Classis Chicago North, for a quota of 75 cents per family for our Chicago Jewish Mission work.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Nathanael Institute  
and Chicago Jewish Mission

HENRY J. TRIEZENBERG, *Secretary*

P.S. Classis Chicago North, in its session of January 21, 1953, approved this report and directed the Stated Clerk to send it on to Synod.

H. J. Triezenberg, S.C.

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**From January 1st, 1952, to December 31st, 1952**

**RECEIPTS**

Operating:—

|                                      |           |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Balance on hand January 1, 1952..... |           | \$ 547.00 |
| Synodical Treasurer .....            | 23,020.00 |           |
| Donations and collections .....      | 863.26    |           |

|   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Medical Department .....                | 2,008.99    | 25,892.25   |
| Total Operating Income .....            |             | \$26,439.25 |
| Non-Operating:                          |             |             |
| Withholding tax on employees .....      | \$ 1,234.25 |             |
| Social Security .....                   | 44.61       |             |
| Loan from Christmas Fund.....           | 750.00      |             |
| Jansma Estate and Sale of Property..... | 11,822.34   |             |
| Miscellaneous Income .....              | 3.05        | 13,854.25   |
| TOTAL.....                              |             | \$40,293.50 |

#### DISBURSEMENTS

|  |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Operating:                                 |             |             |
| Salaries .....                             | \$15,808.58 |             |
| Huisjen, Rent Allowance.....               | 600.00      |             |
| Huisjen, Auto Allowance.....               | 300.00      |             |
| Vander Meulen, Rent Allowance.....         | 349.20      |             |
| Rozendal, Auto Allowance .....             | 300.00      |             |
| License .....                              | 36.00       |             |
| Phone .....                                | 136.22      |             |
| Gas and Electric.....                      | 217.80      |             |
| Medicine for Clinic.....                   | 803.64      |             |
| Building Repair.....                       | 448.14      |             |
| Cleaning .....                             | 52.28       |             |
| Fuel .....                                 | 779.75      |             |
| Printing and <i>Shepherd's Voice</i> ..... | 1,050.44    |             |
| Class Material.....                        | 267.59      |             |
| Insurance Premium .....                    | 287.03      |             |
| Postage .....                              | 141.66      |             |
| Traveling Expense .....                    | 86.85       |             |
| Janitor Supplies.....                      | 94.70       |             |
| Water Tax .....                            | 18.81       |             |
| Interest .....                             | 170.00      |             |
| Miscellaneous .....                        | 7.65        |             |
|  |             | \$21,961.90 |

|                                      |           |             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Non-Operating:                       |           |             |
| Withholding Tax on Employees.....    | 1,247.70  |             |
| Real Estate Tax.....                 | 234.40    |             |
| Loan Repaid .....                    | 3,750.00  |             |
| Jansma Estate Fees and Costs.....    | 665.00    |             |
| Cash from Jansma Estate Investe..... | 10,500.00 | 16,397.10   |
| Total Disbursements.....             |           | \$38,359.00 |

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Total Receipts .....      | \$40,293.50 |
| Total Disbursements ..... | 38,359.00   |
| Balance on hand.....      | \$ 1,934.50 |

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### ASSETS

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Cash on hand.....                                     | \$ 1,934.50 |
| Deposited in Tri-City Savings & Loan Association..... | 10,500.00   |
| Total.....  | \$12,434.50 |

Institutional Building: "Nathanael Institute"  
 Parsonage for Minister and family  
 Both clear of indebtedness.

LIABILITIES: None

January 6th, 1953.

Chicago Jewish Mission of the  
 Christian Reformed Church.

This is to certify that I have this day examined the books of the Treasurer for the Nathanael Institute of the Christian Reformed Church. My examination reveals that the records are in excellent condition and that the book balance as of December 31st, 1952, in the amount of \$1,934.50 coincides with the bank balance. My audit also reveals that a deposit has been made with the Tri-City Savings and Loan Association in the amount of \$10,500.00.

Humbly submitted,  
 GEORGE DE BOER.

### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1954

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Pastor's Salary .....                                  | \$ 3,600.00 |
| Pastor's Car Allowance.....                            | 400.00      |
| Pastor's Child Allowance.....                          | 350.00      |
| Field Worker's Salary.....                             | 3,300.00    |
| Field Worker's Car Allowance.....                      | 400.00      |
| Field Worker's Rent Allowance.....                     | 700.00      |
| Lady Worker's Salary.....                              | 2,600.00    |
| Lady Worker's Rent Allowance.....                      | 500.00      |
| Doctor's Salary .....                                  | 2,500.00    |
| Nurse's Salary \$1.75 per hour (estimated).....        | 1,500.00    |
| Office Clerk's Salary \$1.25 per hour (estimated)..... | 600.00      |
| Janitor's Salary .....                                 | 2,250.00    |
| Part-time Workers .....                                | 1,000.00    |
| Gas, Electric and Fuel.....                            | 1,100.00    |
| Insurance and License.....                             | 400.00      |
| Repairing and Decorating.....                          | 500.00      |
| Medical Supplies and Medicine.....                     | 800.00      |
| Traveling Expense .....                                | 100.00      |
| Class and Janitor Supplies.....                        | 350.00      |
| Printing and <i>Shepherd's Voice</i> .....             | 1,500.00    |
| Phone .....  | 150.00      |
| Postage .....  | 150.00      |
| General Office Expense.....                            | 300.00      |
| Miscellaneous .....                                    | 150.00      |
| Total.....   | \$25,200.00 |

## REPORT NO. 7

### WHAT CONSTITUTES A FAMILY?

*To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church  
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The committee appointed to answer the overture of Classis Hackensack, "To clarify the decision of the Synod of 1928 regarding What Constitutes a Family," herewith presents its report:

A—The first reason given in the overture of Hackensack for this request for clarification is that "The statement under point 2 (Church Order on this subject), 'A family wherein husband or wife by confession of faith, belongs to the congregation,' is subject to different interpretations." Hence, "If a young couple is married and has no children, and only one of the couple belongs to the Church, does this constitute a family?"

In response to this question your committee deems the statement of our Church Order sufficiently clear to answer this. We believe that the conception of a family underlying the rules of the Church Order is that "A family is a living unit consisting of a husband and wife; a parent or parents together with a child or children." Accordingly, a most natural interpretation of point 2 in our Church Order is that this does constitute a family. Moreover, the thought that a natural family should also be counted an ecclesiastical family where at least one is a confessing member receives Scriptural sanction in I Cor. 7:14, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; else were your children unclean, but now they are holy." Though it is true that the question explicitly states that the young couple has no children, the apostle supports his contention concerning the husband-wife relationship by showing its effect upon the children that are or will be born.

Moreover, the objection of the overture that according to this arrangement, "It would be possible to have one family counted in two churches at the same time," would be a rare exception. At least the possibility of having a family counted in two Christian Reformed churches at the same time is very remote. Conceivably it would consist of newly-wedded couples who have not agreed as to which church they will attend. However, this is generally of such a temporary nature which will or should be corrected as soon as possible that a consistory should use its own discretion.

B—A second reason given for this request for clarification is that point 3, "A family wherein a widow is the acting head," also could stand clarification. For instance, "Does a widow without children constitute a family, or is she an individual?" Our response is that the most evident interpretation of the statement in the Church Order is that where there is no family (a living unit of two or more), the widow is to be regarded as an individual.

A related question asked in the overture, "Does a widow with a son or daughter who has made confession of faith constitute a family, or are they two individuals?" We respond that it is the evident interpretation of the Church Order that as long as they continue to live together in a family relationship of mother and son or mother and daughter, they are to be regarded as a family.

*C—Recommendations:*

1—Though we agree most heartily with the overture that "There should be uniformity of practice among our churches with respect to these matters, since our denominational quotas are established on the basis of this count," your committee recommends that Synod answer Classis Hackensack that the existing rules are sufficiently clear and there is no present need for changing these regulations.

2—In view of a possible lack of uniformity in "understanding or practice" your committee recommends that Synod include an auxiliary question in the rules for Church Visiting, in Part I under question 16 to read, "Have you counted your families according to the present Synodical rules as found in the Church Order?"

Humbly Submitted,

REV. JOHN GUICHELAAR

REV. GEORGE HOLWERDA

R. POOL

**THE CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE**

*To the Synod of 1953.*

**ESTEEMED BRETHEN:**

In submitting this annual report to your honorable body your Chaplain Committee is apprehensive that our Christian Reformed Church has fallen short and failed to meet its due share of a common responsibility and to discharge its proper proportion of a united task placed upon the churches of the United States of America today.

What then, is the situation as we must face it today?

Our country is in war, both hot and cold. Thousands upon thousands of its sons and some of its daughters as well, are being called and recalled into military service. Shall we deny, or ignore the fact, that this creates a vast need for faithful, spiritual care by devoted Ministers of the Word and Shepherds of the flock of Christ? Other Protestant denominations, which in point of doctrinal soundness and close adherence to the Truth as contained in Holy Scriptures we may esteem less highly than ourselves, have surpassed us in answering the challenge of the Chaplaincy.

The toll of the dead and dying, the disabled, the prisoners of war and the missing is mounting week by week. Our own homes, churches and communities are contributing their members, mostly in the critical days of their youth, to face the perils and the temptations in training camps, battlefields, in zones of occupations and in enemy prison compounds. Of necessity our nation and our people are involved in large scale mobilization and armament operations which requires man-power as well as material.

While all this is coming to pass, our Christian Reformed Church, so alive and active in other Church and Kingdom work, has *not met its quota for the Chaplaincy!*

*Procurement.*

The major responsibility for providing the armed forces with an adequate number of qualified chaplains rests with the churches by whom they are trained and ordained, and to which they continue to belong while in the service of the chaplaincy. This is an important principle recognized by our government and by the three departments of our National Defense. All three however, the Army, Navy and Air Force, are ready to assist the churches at any point in their procurement programs and efforts. They set the standards for applications and commissions as to age-limits and quotas; ministerial status and qualifi-

cations, etc. The churches are asked to do their part by providing the personnel from their own ministerial ranks. It is understandable that where the churches fail to fill the need, there the Chief of Chaplains Offices are constrained to enter the field of procurement with measures of their own. Or they make shifts in quota-assignments whereby deficiencies in denominational quotas are given to other denominations able and willing to provide additional chaplains above their quotas. Such substitution might well be "in kind," spiritually speaking, but it might also mean the commissioning of another Unitarian Chaplain in the place of a Christian Reformed, while the former now has a total of ten in the four services, while we have only two—one in the Army, one in the Veteran Administration, and none in the Navy and the Air Force. How does that proportion appear in the sight of our God?

Without encumbering this report with separate figures for each department, variable as they are under fluctuating needs, we present only the Personnel Status and Requirements of the Army for the Calendar Year 1953:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| 1) Gains in 1952.....                        | 239  |
| 2) Active Duty:                              |      |
| Authorized (approximately) .....             | 1600 |
| On Active Duty January 1.....                | 1413 |
| Shortage .....                               | 187  |
| 3) National Guard, U. S.:                    |      |
| Authorized .....                             | 531  |
| Assigned .....                               | 285  |
| Shortage .....                               | 246  |
| 4) Chaplains on Short Tour Duty.....         | 45   |
| 5) Auxiliary Chaplains .....                 | 64   |
| 6) Anticipated Requirements for 1953:        |      |
| Anticipated Losses for 1953.....             | 201  |
| Shortage .....                               | 187  |
| Total anticipated requirements for 1953..... | 388  |
| (149 more than gains last year).             |      |

In the event of a global war and total mobilization many more chaplains would be required by all three departments of our National Defense.

In determining the quota for each denomination the Army takes as a basis the church population in the United States which is computed at 105,344,109. This total divided by the number of authorized chaplains (in this case 1600), results in a ratio of one chaplain to each 65,480 church members. This authorizes an equitable number of chaplains for all denominations based on the numerical strength of their constituency and presumably the number of their constituency in the Army.

In view of the difficulty in procuring the authorized number of chaplains (there are more denominations that fall short than there are that exceed present quotas), special plans and programs are being put into operation for providing sound and systematic procurement of

qualified chaplains for active duty, and for reserved. The policy envisions preparatory training and prior commitment by prospective applicants for the chaplaincy while still in the Seminary. Each of the three departments has its own program, at least for the present. The denominational indorsing agencies have expressed the wish that they be unified into one basic uniform program for the good of all.

Your Committee is making personal contacts with our Seminarians to interest those whom it deems qualified for the chaplaincy. Previous pastoral experience is no longer a requirement. A conditional ecclesiastical certification by the denominational indorsing agency is necessary. The candidate for this probationary Chaplains' Program of the Department of the Army must agree to participate in limited, active duty for summer training, for which pay and allowance is given; upon graduation and ordination to accept a commission as Second Lieutenant, to serve a minimum period of two full years, if the Army requires his service. In our report to the Synod of 1952, we made mention of a number of prospects. We were hopeful that by the time Synod met we would have at least one in the Navy and one in the Air Force besides our two Chaplains in the Army (Chaplain Dick J. Oostenink) and in the Veteran Administration (Chaplain Elton J. Holtrop). However, missionary service in the Foreign Field claimed the one and a pastorage in the United States the other. It is not for us to judge in such matters which involve a number of factors and principally a prayerful consideration with deep searchings of heart to know and to do the will of God.

We do esteem the chaplaincy worthy of more special consideration and recognition of priority rating than it has been accorded since the end of War II and the new Korean War. The Chaplaincy, though a specialized ministry, largely among young men, is in very deed a part of the great mission field of the world, and of the harvest concerning which our Lord has said that it is white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few. It is also embraced in Christ's comprehensive mission mandate and is thereby essentially on a par with Foreign and Home Missions. It offers great opportunities for extensive and intensive evangelism through preaching the Gospel and personal counseling; for tending and feeding the flock of Christ in critical years of widespread, dangerous dispersion; for conserving the future of the church and for building and sustaining the morale of those who are called to leave their homes in defense of their, and our, country.

The shortage of ministers in most churches, the many and manifold opportunities to serve in the regular ministry, in the mission fields, and other branches of specialized ministry, have doubtless caused many who are eligible and qualified for the chaplaincy to pass it up. Do the churches, and do the ministers appreciate that we still have a government which welcomes and desires a chaplaincy? That a field is pre-

sented of vast scope and stupendous need for which the government provides the salary, moving expenses, housing, Chapel and equipment, and the churches are requested to provide only the men to occupy the field? Whose is the responsibility if that field is left partly unmanned or unoccupied? As large classes are coming from our Seminary, we are hopeful that for our Christian Reformed Church the situation will change. We are expecting to procure additions of at least two or three for the chaplaincy out of the next class of graduates.

*Chaplain Dick J. Oostenink, Jr.* has completed his rotation assignment to shore-duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was given another assignment for overseas duty, this time to Germany. His family, recently blessed with an addition, will follow him, D. V., by the time that Synod meets, or in late summer. Chaplain Oostenink had a large order and carried a heavy day-by-day and weekly schedule due to frequent turn-over at Fort Dix as a training center, and to the shortage of chaplains at the post. He has kept his contacts with our churches in the East by preaching in the pulpits and helping to supply Home Mission Stations in Philadelphia and Wanamassa on occasions. He has also shown his Korean War pictures in many of our churches. We bespeak the prayers of our churches for him and his family.

*Chaplain Elton J. Holtrop* is serving with a commendable zeal and devotion in ministering to over a thousand Protestant patients at the large Veterans Administration Hospital at Battle Creek, Michigan. Besides regular Sunday preaching services which are carried by Radio to the shut-ins, and a Sunday afternoon Bible Class, he conducts morning devotions on week days and makes innumerable bedside and group calls. The spiritual warmth of his personality, radiating Christ, the Healer and Saviour, as well as his discerning tact in dealing with needy souls, make him eminently fitted for this service of mercy and love. He and Mrs. Holtrop maintain close contact with our Church through active membership in the local Christian Reformed Church and supply services in vacant churches as time permits. They have also given part of their furlough-time in visiting our Servicemen in Camps. They too deserve a place in our denominational interest and prayers.

#### *The General Commission.*

This Commission on Chaplains, representing 32 Protestant Denominations, continues in its forty-fifth year to promote the interests of the Chaplaincy in close liaison and co-operation with the Chief of Chaplains' Corps. The three Chiefs are honorary and advisory members of the Commission. They either meet in person, or through report by their representatives at the semi-annual meeting with the Commission in April, and the annual meeting in October. This

mutual tie-up and conference between Protestant denominational representatives and the Military Chaplaincy heads is of benefit to both in promoting the moral and spiritual welfare of those in the service, and of the Chaplains themselves as well. It also gives more leverage in securing action in Congress, or on Departmental and Cabinet level, in furthering the chaplaincy.

The Commission publishes "THE LINK," a monthly Servicemen and womens' Magazine, which is distributed free and more specifically designed for use by the "UNITED PROTESTANT FELLOWSHIP." The U P F is informally organized, replacing the "Christian Servicemen's League" of the Second World War. Total edition of "THE LINK" is now about 110,000 copies per month. It constitutes the main item in the budget of the Commission.

For chaplains the Commission is publishing another monthly magazine, "THE CHAPLAIN" which is sent to Chaplains and subscribers with a mailing list of about a tenth of that of The Link. The Director of the Commission has acted as Editor of both papers with the aid of editorial associates and a secretarial staff. At the October meeting of the General Commission the Director, Thomas A. Rymer, after seven and a half years of wholehearted and devoted service, tendered his resignation which was regretfully accepted. To date his successor has not been appointed and Mr. Rymer has consented to continue in office in the interim.

As in former years some 60 Preaching Missions were conducted in various military installations throughout the country during the months of January, February and March. A number of denominational representatives conducted Chaplains' Retreats and Visitation overseas and in our own country. Dr. Stewart M. Robinson, Chairman of the General Commission, made an extensive personal visitation and inspection tour in behalf of the Commission. From his report on his visit around the world, we cull a few excerpts:

"Our military chaplains constitute the most important body of clergy in the nation's life. They are so numerous that they make up a large body of men, numerically. Their parishes are formed out of men and women, mostly young, together with children, mostly small, who are a most important element in the body—social, politic and spiritual. One million of these young people move into and out from uniformed national service annually.

"Also, the lives they live are filled with special stresses and tensions which call forth the need of God, in home and neighborhood, on duty, and in danger and ennui.

"The ministry they encounter will thus introduce them to religion, and the kind of pastoral care they receive will become the yard-stick for all future experiences, for weal or woe.

"This summer I saw the greater part of that portion of our armed forces' chaplains who are overseas, in the Army, Navy and Air Force. We ought

to be proud of them. We ought to serve their interest and pray for their welfare and usefulness.

"In combat they have continued the high tradition of steadfastness which often marked our chaplains. Behind the lines they are faced with an elaborate pastoral responsibility fully comparable to that of the most highly organized civilian churches and parishes. Thanks to the vision of the government, chapel facilities with all the proper appurtenances are rising around the world. It is a visible illustration of the place of religion in our national thinking, and the way we are willing to spend for its support. This spending is some of the best we do. Like our colonial forefathers, we do not go wrong in building a church in the center of the community. This building program is going forward. I should like to see it hastened even more strenuously."

On the matter of chaplaincy supply, Dr. Robinson, a Presbyterian and himself a Chaplain who served in the first world war, has this to say:

"More chaplains are needed because the departments will gladly make room for more places, as the churches can find men to fill them. The real problem is to find the men. The fact is, the civilian requirements of our country make it difficult to spare more than a certain quota, and more than that quota is really needed. The seminaries must take the chaplaincy into consideration more seriously. Some pay only lip-service to the need. Young clergymen who by virtue of their calling escape the draft by law will find the beginning of their pastoral work extremely embarrassing among their contemporaries who go into the service, and among the parents of young men the age of these young clergy, who listen to their words and wonder why their sons have to go while these healthy youngsters can stay at home. Two or three years in the chaplaincy is the best post-graduate school there is for practically useful and sympathetic ministry, especially to youth.

"The current ROTC program for ministerial students is an excellent step in the right direction. Under it, equipped with a basic commission, the unordained clerical student can have field experience when not attending classes, and become oriented in the chaplaincy before he comes to the gate of its service."

#### *Finances.*

The Total Estimated Expenditures adopted by the Commission as its Budget for the year 1953 is \$118,875.00. The formula for determining quotas is the ratio of the number of chaplains of each denomination on active duty as of July 1 of the previous year to the total number of chaplains. The amount of the quota per chaplain for this year is \$70.00, i.e. \$140.00 for our denomination. Your Committee has again refunded the interest on bonds to the Washington, D. C. Christian Reformed Church to be used in connection with their services in providing a spiritual home to our servicemen within and in the vicinity of the Capitol City.

The Treasurer will append his financial report duly audited. No additional offerings for the CHAPLAIN FUND by our churches are needed at this time.

Your Committee will present its recommendations in regard to the six-year membership-tenure rule to the Stated Clerk of Synod by the June 1 prescribed date, D. V.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Chaplain Committee:*

HAROLD DEKKER, *Chairman*  
 JOHN M. VAN DE KIEFT, *Secretary*  
 EDWARD BOEVE, *Treasurer*  
 HENRY R. VAN TIL  
 FREDERICK W. VAN HOUTEN

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to your request, I have examined the books of your Treasurer, Rev. E. Boeve, for the fiscal year February 21, 1952, to February 28, 1953.

The cash balance on hand as of February 28, 1953, has been verified with the amount shown on the bank statement, and the bonds belonging to this fund have been examined.

In my opinion the statement herewith presented represents fairly the receipts and disbursements of your fund for the fiscal year as above named.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY J. DRENTH.

CHAPLAIN FUND  
 of the  
 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
 February 21, 1952, to February 28, 1953

Balance on hand, February 21, 1952.....\$1,029.69

RECEIPTS

Christian Reformed Church Contributions:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Lee Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan..... | \$ 117.33 |
| Goshen, Indiana .....                   | 18.85     |
| Rehoboth, New Mexico .....              | 10.00     |
| Ripon, California .....                 | 174.88    |
| Calvin, McGain, Michigan .....          | 23.32     |
| Fremont II, Michigan .....              | 25.00     |
| Grand Haven I, Michigan .....           | 50.00     |
| Allen Ave., Muskegon, Michigan .....    | 88.08     |
| Alamosa, Colorado .....                 | 28.21     |
| Cadillac, Michigan .....                | 31.09     |
| Godwin Heights, Grand Rapids, Mich..... | 62.05     |
| Moline, Michigan .....                  | 86.15     |
| Trinity, Jenison, Michigan .....        | 42.41     |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Total Church Contributions .....                   | \$ 757.37 |
| Interests on Bonds — Washington, D.C. Church ..... | 120.00    |

Total Receipts ..... 877.37

1,907.06

DISBURSEMENTS

Traveling Expenses:

|   |        |          |
|---|--------|----------|
| Rev. E. Boeve .....                             | 30.00  |          |
| Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft .....                    | 73.40  |          |
| Rev. H. Dekker .....                            | 10.00  |          |
|   |        |          |
| Total Traveling Expenses .....                  | 113.40 |          |
| Secretarial Expense .....                       | 10.00  |          |
| Auditing Expense .....                          | 17.50  |          |
| General Commission on Chaplains .....           | 153.44 |          |
| Banner Subscriptions and Tracts .....           | 21.00  |          |
| Interest Refund — Washington, D.C. Church ..... | 240.00 |          |
|   |        |          |
| Total Disbursements .....                       |        | 555.34   |
|   |        |          |
| CASH ON HAND, FEBRUARY 28, 1953 .....           |        | 1,351.72 |

OTHER ASSETS OF THE CHAPLAIN FUND

Bonds — Christian Reformed Church Washington, D.C.

Investment \$4,000.00 — 3% Interest — Due December 1, 1964.

United States Savings Bonds — Series "F"

Investment \$2,405.00 — Maturity Value \$3,250.00

Purchased February, 1946.

## REPORT NO. 9

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

#### ESTEEMED BRETHEN :

To this organization our churches in Canada are asked to contribute rather than to the American Bible Society, as may readily be understood. Of this Bible Society there are auxiliaries throughout the Dominion, of which the New Brunswick Bible Society is the oldest, having been founded in 1819. The greater part of Ontario is the territory of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

The present organization will be 150 years old in 1954, having been founded in London for the sole purpose of encouraging "a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment." We are told that by 1804 parts of the Bible had been translated into only seventy-two languages, and the entire distribution of the Bible did not exceed 20,000 copies a year. Today the Scriptures, in whole or in part, have been translated into nearly 1100 languages and dialects and their circulation runs into many millions of copies. The British and Foreign Bible Society alone distributes over ten million copies annually. On an average, translations into ten new languages are added each year.

The Society began its service in Canada in the year of its birth, 1804, with a translation of Mark's Gospel in the language of the Mohawk Indians. Since then twenty-two versions in the languages of Canadian Indians and Eskimos have been printed, as well as one hundred and ten translations for use among non-English speaking people in Canada.

New translations are generally prepared by missionaries in the field, the Society giving its advice and guidance where needed and may even provide financial support for the translators. The completed and approved manuscript is printed and this version becomes available for all churches and missions that are interested. Bibles are sent to the missionaries free of charge with the understanding that he shall sell them at a price that seems just to him, considering the ability of the people to pay. Whatever is realized from such sale is remitted to the Bible Society and in this way approximately 40% of the cost of production is realized. It is clear why this and any other Bible Society needs financial support to carry on its program.

Besides all this, the Society supports over 1000 colporteurs, who are engaged in the distribution of the Bible, 20 of them being active in Canada. Many of the editions they distribute are "diglot" versions, containing English and some foreign tongue side by side. There is

an English-Dutch edition of the New Testament, much in use among our immigrants.

Scriptures printed in raised type have been distributed by the Society in over forty languages. Blind people who are destitute are given copies without charge and institutions for the blind receive such Bibles at a very low cost.

The British and Foreign Bible Society in Canada is controlled by a Board of which Mr. Thos. G. Rogers is the president, and the general secretary Rev. W. H. Hudspeth. The Dominion Headquarters is located at 122 Bloor St., W. Toronto. Canada is divided into thirteen districts each with its own organization.

In 1954 the sesquicentennial is to be observed with a view to which the Upper Canada Bible Society, which is virtually synonymous with Ontario, hopes to raise \$250,000 in each of the three years 1952, '53 and '54. Comparatively little has been contributed to the support of the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society by our churches thus far.

Practically all Protestant Churches support this work and can do so freely since the purpose of the Society prevents it from becoming "sectarian." It prints Bibles without comment, and we can therefore safely commend this cause to our churches.

REV. C. WITT

## SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

Macedonian calls for additional ministerial laborers constitute the outstanding feature in the reports to your Committee for South America and Ceylon. They present a challenge for the prayers and efforts of our denomination in meeting the opportunities of these developing fields of labor.

### *I. Ceylon.*

We report a cablegram from the Van Ens Missionaries, dated Nov. 22, 1952, and reading as follows: "Receiving grand reception by Colombo saints." In Colombo they were subsequently inducted into the service of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon, at a Service of Induction held at the Dutch Reformed Church of Wolvendaal, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1952, when their credentials were examined and approved.

It is customary that all or most of the ministers are transferred annually among the local congregations of the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon. But such transfer will occasion no change in the letters of call of the Reverends Van Ens, because each of these letters provides that the brother concerned is "to be loaned as minister to the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church in Ceylon." These letters of call were countersigned by your Committee, and signed respectively for the Rev. Clarence Van Ens by his calling Church, the Prospect Street Chr. Ref. Church of Passaic, New Jersey, and for Candidate John Van Ens by his calling church, the First Chr. Ref. Church of Edgerton, Minnesota. Your Committee is deeply grateful to these calling and supporting churches for their cooperation and generosity.

The brethren Van Ens are preaching from the Heidelberg Catechism every Sunday, and have been influential that the other ministers of the General Consistory do so also, with renewed faithfulness. Thus greater regularity is maintained in proclaiming the great truths of the infallible Word of God.

Furthermore, the Van Ens brothers and their wives are showing commendable zeal in a vast number of church-related activities. They are also undertaking the study of the Singhalese language, meeting twice weekly under the able leadership of the Reformed Catechist, Mr. Samuel Mendis, who is supported by the Rus family of Pella, Iowa, and is engaged in Singhalese missionary work. Our missionaries plan to promote the distribution of Christian literature of Reformed character, for which

a large gift was received from an anonymous donor. Tracts of our Back to God Hour are also used for this purpose.

The brethern Van Ens report that "the ministers who are interested in the progress of the Reformed Faith on the Island sense the need for additional ministers from the Christian Reformed Church in the near future," and they stress the "need for financing such additional ministers to Ceylon." They believe that "another Macedonian call from the Church in Ceylon" is coming and they pray that the Lord may "prepare the Chr. Ref. Church" for it. But the Chr. Ref. Church must await official action on this score from the General Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon. In the light of both the recent reports of the Reverends Van Ens and of the earlier reports of the Rev. John O. Schuring, your Committee is sympathetic toward the indicated need for additional ministers from the Chr. Ref. Church in this strategic island of the Orient.

## *II. Argentina.*

In his reports the Rev. Jerry Pott has reemphasized the official appeal of Classis Buenos Aires for additional ministerial help. In harmony with the Synodical approval in 1944 of Classis Buenos Aires' request for another ordained man, your Committee has made efforts from time to time to seek a man for this work. The man who had been preparing for this field for several years could not go last summer for reasons of health and we had a similar experience some years earlier.

But now we are again in touch with two excellent men, who possess many good qualifications for this work. One of them is a student at Calvin Seminary and the other is an ordained minister of our denomination.

In addition to these two men, there is Mr. John Samuel Boonstra, now in the second year at Calvin Seminary, a young man from the former congregation of the Rev. Jerry Pott, Tres Arroyos, Argentina, whose native tongue is Spanish and who also took the Dutch required by our Calvin pre-seminary course. He plans to serve in Classis Buenos Aires, and now receives support accordingly. Both he and Mr. Ananda Perera, a student at Calvin College, from Ceylon, are doing very well in their studies at Calvin College and Seminary.

The Rev. Jerry Pott continues to serve with zeal, consecration and blessing in the congregation of Buenos Aires, and in various home mission stations, as we would call these scattered Dutch groups in Argentina. The Rev. A. C. Sonneveldt, now over 70 years of age, also continues to serve the church of Buenos Aires and various of these Dutch groups. The Rev. J. Vander Velde, serves the congregation of Tres Arroyos, Argentina, and various Dutch groups; he is a native of Argentina, and had his seminary training at Kampen, Netherlands. The Rev. J. M. Opperman, from South Africa and subsidized by the Reformed Churches of South Africa, serves the large and scattered congregation of Chubut,

in southern Argentina. Details concerning these fields may be found in the current "Yearbook" of the Christian Reformed Church, and in prior reports to Synod. All these men have to cover many miles, but their labors are also abundantly blessed of the Lord.

### III. *Brazil.*

In the southeastern part of this nation, there are now two congregations and two ministers, belonging to Classis Buenos Aires. The Rev. Wm. V. Muller serves the congregation of recent immigrants from the Netherlands that has settled at Castrolanda, Parana, Brazil. The new congregation of 31 members in full communion and 51 baptized members seems to represent a very successful effort at colonization by people of Reformed persuasion and of Dutch stock. The Castrolanda church was organized Oct. 23, 1952.

Subject to Synodical approval, your Committee has granted the request of the congregation of Castrolanda, that the Rev. Wm. V. Muller, as minister loaned to Classis Buenos Aires, be now bound to the congregation of Castrolanda, Parana, Brazil.

Concerning the church-governmental relationship of the Rev. Wm. V. Muller, reference is hereby made to the Acts of the Synod of 1936, page 234. The correspondence of your Committee related to this matter, as well as all other correspondence, is available to Synod.

The Rev. L. Moesker, from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, serves *the now self-supporting* church at Carambehy, Parana, Brazil, which was formerly served by our Rev. Wm. V. Muller.

### IV. *Conclusion.*

When we look at the fields of Brazil, Argentina and Ceylon, we may well say, "What Hath God Wrought." Since the Dutch migration of 1889 to Argentina, definite spiritual changes for the better have occurred in both Argentina and Brazil, in the congregations of Classis Buenos Aires, through the cooperation of our Christian Reformed Churches, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands and the Reformed Churches of South Africa. Spiritual changes for the better have also occurred in Ceylon. Interested ministers and supporting churches are requested to contact any member of the Committee for the furtherance of the work in these needy fields.

Your Committee takes respectful cognizance of the rulings of Synod with regard to membership and changes in Committees and Boards. Your secretary has served longer on this Committee than any other member, for which he humbly expresses his gratitude to the Church and to the Lord. We also call the attention of Synod to the vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. Peter Jonker, who rendered invaluable service in this Committee for many years.

May the indispensable blessing of the Lord rest upon all the labors in the fields of South America and Ceylon, to the coming of His kingdom and the glory of His name.

MATTERS FOR SYNODICAL CONSIDERATION

I. The following budget for 1954, prepared by our Treasurer, Mr. John De Haan, and approved by your committee, is brought to the attention of Synod.

REV. WM. V. MULLER

|                                     |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Basic Salary .....                  | \$ 3,200.00 |             |
| Raise after 15 years .....          | 300.00      |             |
| Child's allowance .....             | 250.00      |             |
| Inflation bonus .....               | 1,800.00    |             |
| For travel in missionary work ..... | 2,000.00    |             |
| Rent of house for 9 months .....    | 990.00      |             |
| Car operational expense .....       | 1,200.00    | \$ 9,740.00 |

REV. JERRY POTT

|                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Basic Salary .....            | \$ 3,200.00 |             |
| Raise after 15 years .....    | 300.00      |             |
| Children's allowance .....    | 750.00      |             |
| Inflation bonus .....         | 1,500.00    |             |
| Car operational expense ..... | 800.00      | \$ 6,550.00 |

|   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Basic Salary missionary approved in 1944</i> ..... | \$ 3,200.00 |             |
| Inflation bonus .....                                 | 1,500.00    |             |
| Car for missionary .....                              | 2,500.00    |             |
| Car operational expense .....                         | 800.00      |             |
| Expense to send missionary .....                      | 2,400.00    | \$10,400.00 |

|  |  |             |
|--|--|-------------|
| Subsidy Tres Arroyos for Rev. J. V.d. Velde..... |  | \$ 1,000.00 |
|--|--|-------------|

REV. A. C. SONNEVELDT

|                       |             |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Subsidy .....         | \$ 1,000.00 |             |
| Inflation bonus ..... | 1,500.00    | \$ 2,500.00 |

REV. C. VAN ENS

|                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Basic Salary .....            | \$ 3,200.00 |             |
| Inflation bonus .....         | 1,500.00    |             |
| House Rent .....              | 1,500.00    |             |
| Car operational expense ..... | 900.00      | \$ 7,100.00 |

REV. J. VAN ENS

|                                   |  |             |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Same as for Rev. C. Van Ens ..... |  | \$ 7,100.00 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|

MISCELLANEOUS

|                                 |           |             |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Administration expense .....    | \$ 500.00 |             |
| Support of J. S. Boonstra ..... | 1,400.00  |             |
| Support of A. Perera .....      | 1,400.00  |             |
| Furlough and contingency .....  | 6,000.00  |             |
| Miscellaneous .....             | 300.00    | \$ 9,600.00 |

|                         |  |             |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|
| Repayment of Loan ..... |  | \$10,000.00 |
|-------------------------|--|-------------|

|                                    |  |             |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| <i>Total budget for 1954</i> ..... |  | \$63,990.00 |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|

### ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 1954

|  |           |             |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Tres Arroyos, payment on building .....    | \$ 500.00 |             |
| From Dutch Ref. Church, Ceylon .....       | 720.00    |             |
| From Netherlands for Rev. Sonneveldt ..... | 0.00      |             |
| From Classes for student support .....     | 1,000.00  |             |
| From Canadian Churches .....               | 1,000.00  |             |
| For support of the Van Ens's .....         | 2,800.00  | \$ 6,020.00 |
| To be raised by quotas .....               |           | \$57,970.00 |
| Quota per family — approximately \$1.50    |           |             |

II. Synod approve of a quota of \$1.50 per family.

III. Synod appoint a Committee to take care of the fields of South America and Ceylon.

*Committee of Synod for  
South America and Ceylon,*

REV. THOMAS YFF, *President,*  
MR. JOHN DE HAAN, *Treasurer,*  
MARTIN J. WYNGAARDEN, *Secretary,*  
REV. CHRISTIAN VAN DEN HEUVEL,  
DR. EARL STRIKWERDA.

*Gentlemen:*

We have examined the income and disbursements for the year 1952, and the bank balances as of December 31, 1952, of your Fund, and find that they are in accord with the hereby presented statement.

We have also compiled a Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1952, from the books and vouchers and which does, in my opinion, present fairly the financial position of your Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
PETER B. VANDER MEER,  
*Certified Public Accountant.*

### BALANCE SHEET OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN FUND of the CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH December 31, 1952

| ASSETS                                 |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Cash in Peoples National Bank .....    | \$14,768.65 |             |
| Cash in Citizens Industrial Bank ..... | 2.19        | \$14,770.84 |
| ADVANCES                               |             |             |
| Rev. Sonneveld .....                   | 1,000.00    |             |
| Rev. J. O. Schuring .....              | 120.00      |             |
| Rev. C. Van Ens .....                  | 1,936.60    |             |
| Rev. J. Van Ens .....                  | 3,695.15    |             |
| Total .....                            |             | 6,751.75    |
| Due to Rev. Wm. Muller .....           | 96.84       | 6,654.91    |
| Building Fund Tres Arroyos .....       |             | 1,545.12    |
| TOTAL ASSETS OF FUND: .....            |             | \$22,970.87 |

## LIABILITIES

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Due to Board of Foreign Missions .....   | \$10,000.00 |
| Reserved for residence Rev. Muller ..... | 5,000.00    |
| Reserved for Furlough Expense .....      | 6,000.00    |
| Total liabilities .....                  | \$21,000.00 |

## EQUITY

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Available Fund .....                | 1,970.87    |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY: ..... | \$22,970.87 |

This balance sheet is compiled from books and vouchers and does, in my opinion, present fairly the financial position of your fund.

Sincerely yours,

PETER B. VANDER MEER,  
*Certified Public Accountant.*

February 21, 1953  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

Jan. 1, 1953 to December 31, 1953

### INCOME

#### Classis

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Alberta .....                     | \$ 565.06   |
| California .....                  | 2,085.11    |
| Chicago — North .....             | 2,432.15    |
| Chicago — South .....             | 3,022.62    |
| Grand Rapids — East .....         | 3,435.74    |
| Grand Rapids — South .....        | 2,506.29    |
| Grand Rapids — West .....         | 3,653.13    |
| Hackensack .....                  | 1,105.04    |
| Holland .....                     | 2,648.09    |
| Hudson .....                      | 2,109.59    |
| Kalamazoo .....                   | 1,760.41    |
| Minnesota .....                   | 1,117.31    |
| Muskegon .....                    | 2,832.66    |
| Ontario .....                     | 588.20      |
| Orange City .....                 | 1,084.01    |
| Ostfriesland .....                | 560.73      |
| Pacific .....                     | 1,505.44    |
| Pella .....                       | 1,931.84    |
| Sioux Center .....                | 1,673.69    |
| Wisconsin .....                   | 879.93      |
| Zeeland .....                     | 2,462.65    |
| Total receipts from Classes ..... | \$39,959.69 |

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Missionary Unions .....           | \$ 1,813.96 |
| Donors .....                      | 969.00      |
| Societies .....                   | 125.00      |
| Sunday Schools .....              | 159.84      |
| Churches .....                    | 3,333.87    |
| Classes for Students .....        | 1,350.00    |
| Loan from Board of Missions ..... | 10,000.00   |

|  |          |             |
|--|----------|-------------|
| Interest on Government Bonds .....               | 18.69    |             |
| From Sale of Government Bonds .....              | 1,360.47 |             |
|  |          | 19,130.83   |
| Cash Income for 1952 .....                       |          | \$59,090.52 |
| Income from Tres Arroyos for Building Fund ..... |          | 500.00      |
| Income from Dutch Ref. Church of Ceylon .....    |          | 63.30       |
|  |          | \$59,653.82 |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME FOR 1952 .....</b>               |          |             |

#### DISBURSEMENTS

|  |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Rev. Wm. Muller, Salary, etc. ....   | \$10,887.25 |             |
| Rev. J. Pott, Salary, etc. ....  | 5,990.00    |             |
| Rev. Vande Velde .....   | 1,000.00    |             |
| Rev. C. Van Ens .....  | 7,961.93    |             |
| Rev. J. Van Ens .....  | 7,819.75    |             |
| Rev. A. C. Sonneveld .....   | 4,500.00    |             |
| Rev. J. O. Schuring .....  | 3,490.53    |             |
| John S. Boonstra .....   | 1,087.45    |             |
| A. Perera .....  | 832.85      |             |
| A. Elzinga, Gifts for 1951 and 1952 .....                                  | 20.00       |             |
| Stipends—Secretary and Treasurer .....                                     | 300.00      |             |
| Administration expense .....   | 133.52      |             |
| Payment of Loan—Bd. of Missions .....                                      | 2,000.00    |             |
| Van Ens—Moving, Medical Expense, Trip Grand<br>Rapids to Netherlands ..... | 2,265.17    |             |
| Books for Ceylon .....   | 688.23      |             |
| Wachters and Banners for S. A. ....  | 58.00       |             |
|  |             | \$49,034.68 |
| <b>Total Disbursement for 1952 .....</b>                                   |             |             |

#### INCOME EXCEEDS DISBURSEMENTS .....

|   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Bank balance January 1, 1952 .....      | \$ 4,151.70 | \$10,619.14 |
| Income for 1952 .....                   | 59,653.82   |             |
|   |             | 63,805.52   |
| Disbursements for 1952 .....            | 49,034.68   |             |
|   |             | \$14,770.84 |
| <b>Balance, December 31, 1952 .....</b> |             |             |

#### DETAILED SCHEDULES OF DISBURSEMENTS

##### SCHEDULE "A"

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Rev. Wm. Muller                      |             |
| Balance Due Dec. 31, 1951 .....      | \$ 1,049.92 |
| Salary, bonus, Child allowance ..... | 5,350.00    |
| House rent, 10 months .....          | 1,100.00    |
| Car operational expense .....        | 1,453.07    |
| 10 trips to M Alegre .....           | 400.50      |
| 2 trips to Rio .....                 | 571.80      |
| 2 trips to Rio and San Paulo.....    | 751.30      |
| 1 trip to Sao Paulo .....            | 262.00      |
| 1 trip to Rancharia .....            | 45.50       |
|                                      | 10,984.09   |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Less balance due him for 1952 .....               | 96.84            |
| Cash payments 1952 .....                          | \$10,887.25      |
| SCHEDULE "B"                                      |                  |
| Rev. J. Pott                                      |                  |
| Salary, bonus, allowance .....                    | \$ 5,400.00      |
| Car operational expense .....                     | 590.00           |
| Cash payments 1952 .....                          | \$ 5,990.00      |
| SCHEDULE "C"                                      |                  |
| Rev. C. Van Ens                                   |                  |
| Outfit .....                                      | \$ 700.00        |
| Ticket, etc. Netherlands to Ceylon .....          | 1,841.65         |
| Car and Insurance .....                           | 2,108.68         |
| Salary and bonus .....                            | 1,875.00         |
| Credit balance for 1953 .....                     | 6,025.33         |
| Cash payments 1952 .....                          | 1,936.60         |
| Cash payments 1952 .....                          | \$ 7,961.93      |
| SCHEDULE "D"                                      |                  |
| Rev. J. Van Ens                                   |                  |
| Outfit .....                                      | \$ 700.00        |
| Salary and bonus .....                            | 2,250.00         |
| Trip Netherlands to Ceylon .....                  | 1,174.60         |
| Credit balance for 1953 .....                     | 4,124.60         |
| Cash payments 1952 .....                          | 3,695.15         |
| Cash payments 1952 .....                          | \$ 7,819.75      |
| SCHEDULE "E"                                      |                  |
| Rev. A. C. Sonneveld                              |                  |
| Balance due for 1951 .....                        | \$ 1,000.00      |
| Due for 1952 .....                                | 2,500.00         |
| Credit balance for 1953 .....                     | 3,500.00         |
| Cash payment 1952 .....                           | 1,000.00         |
| Cash payment 1952 .....                           | \$ 4,500.00      |
| SCHEDULE "F"                                      |                  |
| Rev. J. O. Schuring                               |                  |
| Balance due Dec. 1951 .....                       | \$ 3,328.00      |
| Freight Muskegon to Kalamazoo .....               | 37.73            |
| Custom Agent Insp. Expense .....                  | 4.80             |
| Credit balance .....                              | 3,370.53         |
| Credit balance .....                              | 120.00           |
| Cash payment 1952 .....                           | \$ 3,490.53      |
| Loan from Christian Reformed Board of Missions    |                  |
| Jan. 1, 1952 — Due to Board of Missions .....     | \$ 2,000.00      |
| Dec. 24, 1952 — Loan from Board of Missions ..... | 10,000.00        |
|   | <u>12,000.00</u> |

|   |            |          |
|---|------------|----------|
| Apr. 1, 1952 Repaid to Mission Bd. .... | \$ 200.00  |          |
| May 12, 1952 Repaid to Mission Bd. .... | \$1,800.00 | 2,000.00 |

|  |  |             |
|--|--|-------------|
| December 31, 1952 Due to Board of Missions ..... |  | \$10,000.00 |
|--|--|-------------|

\* \* \*

Loan extended to Tres Arroyos for Building Fund

|  |             |        |
|--|-------------|--------|
| Jan. 1, 1952 — Balance due to S. A. Fund ..... | \$ 2,045.12 |        |
| * Paid by Tres Arroyos Church .....            |             | 500.00 |

|  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| December 31, 1952 — Balance due S. A. Fund ..... | \$ 1,545.12 |  |
|--|-------------|--|

\* Given to Rev. Vande Velde and counted as part of his salary.

REPORT NO. 11

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The following is brought to the attention of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church.

1. All bodies mentioned in Recommendation No. 1 of the Report of our committee in 1952 will be notified again except the one body which has sent in the requested material. Cf. p. 333 of Acts of 1952.

2. We have urged the Library Committee of Calvin College and Seminary to make provision for the collection, classification and storage of all materials pertaining to the history of the Christian Reformed Church and to hire additional personnel for this task, if necessary.

3. We would like to remind Synod of the coming centennial in 1957 and to urge it to appoint a committee to take the necessary measures for an early preparation.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. KROMMINGA, *Chairman*,  
HENRY J. VAN ANDEL, *Secretary*,  
GEORGE STOB,  
EDWIN MONSMA.

## REPORT NO. 12

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVIN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

#### ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

In keeping with the mandate embodied in the rules governing the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary, the Board submits a survey of its many activities and the actions of its Executive Committee since the time of the last Synod. A supplementary report covering the second semester of the current academic year will be submitted later.

#### I. ADMINISTRATION

A. *Board.* All 24 ministerial trustees together with 8 of the 9 lay member trustees were present at the regular midyear sessions of the Board held February 11-17, 1953. Morning, noon and night we labored and prayed together in the common task of administering the affairs of Calvin. The following were chosen as officers for the year:

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President.....            | The Reverend Martin Monsma     |
| Vice-president.....       | Dr. John Van Bruggen           |
| Secretary.....            | The Reverend John T. Holwerda  |
| Assistant Secretary ..... | The Reverend Jacob T. Hoogstra |

The officers are the same as before, except that a replacement was chosen for the Reverend Richard J. Frens, our former secretary, who retired last August after serving some 18 years as curator, including four years as secretary. Proper appreciation has been expressed to him for his many labors of love.

Synod's attention is called to the incorrect listing of the names of Dr. D. De Vries, Dr. J. Van Bruggen and Mr. B. Staal as alternates in Article 190, Acts 1952. All are regular delegates. Names of alternates are to be found in Article 126 of the same Acts.

B. *Executive Committee.* Twelve members of the Board of Trustees (seven ministers and five laymen) with the Reverend Gerrit Hoeksema as chairman, function as an Executive Committee which meets at least once a month and sometimes more often to administer the work of our institution between Board sessions. Close contact has been maintained with the two presidents as well as with sub-committees, namely, Finance, Education, Long Range Planning, Construction, Pension, and Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Committees. Class visits are regularly made and reports rendered.

C. *Seminary President.* The Executive Committee carried out Synod's instruction of last year (Article 193 II, C, 3, B) and designated Professor R. B. Kuiper, who previously had accepted Synod's appointment of one year for the department of Practical Theology, to

serve as Acting President. This he agreed to do in addition to a full schedule of teaching. His rich experience, forthright speech and charm has contributed much to help the Seminary through its current trials. Under his leadership the faculty is addressing itself to the work of instruction and the advance of theological learning. Together with President Spoelhof he has also initiated a program for closer cooperation between the college and seminary. Both Board and Executive Committee have profited much from his counsel. It is the mind of the Board that he should be reappointed as president for one year but that his teaching load be reduced to courses in Homiletics and Practise Preaching. President Kuiper is favorably disposed to accept such an appointment.

The rules for the office of President of the Seminary submitted to Synod of 1952 have been revised and approved by the Board. They are presented herewith for Synod's final approval. (See Appendix A)

D. *College President.* Dr. William Spoelhof, who is now in his second year as administrator, is daily demonstrating his sterling qualities of wise leadership, executive ability and Christian character. His study and counsel on college matters have been of invaluable help to the Executive Committee and the Board alike in carrying on their work. Though the Board is fully aware of his excellent teaching capacity and powers, it feels he should continue on as our college executive. In him the faculty has an ardent advocate, the Board a strong spokesman, and the Church a loyal defender of the faith. He is ably aided by the members of the faculty, more specifically by his administrative staff, namely, Dr. H. J. Ryskamp, dean; Prof. Harry Dekker, registrar; Dr. Lester De Beer, dean of men; and Miss Catherine Van Opynen, dean of women. Though the task of administration in connection with the labors of Mr. Gordon Buter, business manager, Mr. Sydney Youngsma, financial director, Prof. L. De Koster, Director of the library and the Reverend Arnold Brink, Educational Secretary is held jointly with the seminary president (since both schools are involved) the work of the college president is naturally more extensive due to the size and needs of the college. In these areas of common interests the two administrations evince a splendid cooperative spirit.

The Board recommends the reappointment of Dr. William Spoelhof as president for a four-year term.

Further, having heard the advice of the president the Board recommends the reappointment of

1. Mr. Gordon Buter as Business Manager for a four-year term
2. The Reverend Arnold Brink as Educational Secretary
3. Miss Catherine Van Opynen as Dean of Women for a four-year term.

## II. EDUCATION

### A. *Seminary*

1. *Faculty Personnel.* After Synod's action of last year, the Seminary was left with one regular professor and one professor extraordinary. It will be remembered, however, that Synod made provision for the continued operation of our seminary by making appointments for all chairs except that of Missions. Three of the appointees, Professor R. B. Kuiper, Dr. Henry Stob and Dr. John Kromminga accepted the appointments tendered them. Dr. G. Berkouwer declined the appointment given him, as did Dr. N. Stonehouse, although the latter did not do so without first consulting with the Executive Committee and giving clarification as to the difficulty that he had in accepting a one year appointment at the time. However, Professor Schultze was found willing to shoulder the responsibilities of the New Testament department. He was first asked to teach for the first semester only, and later mandated to teach the second semester as well. When the Executive Committee learned of Dr. Berkouwer's decline, emergency measures were at once taken to provide for the teaching of the necessary courses in Dogmatics. Dr. J. T. Hoogstra, Dr. William Masselink, and Prof. John Bratt of the college were found willing to share the burden of this department, each teaching three hours. Proper financial offers have been made to the Prospect Park Consistory and the R.B.I. Board for releasing Dr. J. T. Hoogstra and Dr. Wm. Masselink for the time needed to teach at our seminary.

All professors and part time teachers have signed the form of subscription.

We append a quotation from the president's report to the Board which highlights something of our needs.

"It is obvious that our Faculty is in great need of being strengthened. The present arrangement of having Dogmatics taught by three part-time Professors is unsatisfactory. Whether there is need of a separate chair of Contemporaneous Theological Thought is a question which ought to be answered. The chair of Missions is vacant and should be filled as soon as feasible. Although Prof. Schultze's health has been remarkably good during the past semester, it seems clear that he cannot be expected long to bear the burden of the entire New Testament department. To this may be added that I agree wholeheartedly with my predecessor in the chair of Practical Theology that the work in that department is such as to require two men, and I am pleased to learn that the Board of Trustees has already gone on record as favoring that forward step. To name a few specific matters in this connection, the present arrangements for *Practice Preaching* are quite inadequate for a hundred students; the course in *Church Government* should be expanded from three hours to at least four; and surely the department

of Practical Theology should offer a course in what may be called *Pastoral Psychiatry*."

2. *Student Body.* The president reported a total enrollment of 117 students in our seminary; 25 juniors, 30 middlers, and 34 seniors with 17 graduate students and 11 special students. Six of these special students were granted a change of status to that of regular students at the close of the first semester. The president reports that "The students are manifesting a laudable spirit of loyalty and cooperation. To be sure, at times they are critical of their superiors, but in view of the imperfections of both professors and students that might be expected. By and large the attitude of the students is decidedly commendable."

Some 20 seminarians petitioned for authorization to form a Dutch Study Club for the purpose of gaining greater proficiency in the use of the Dutch language and becoming better acquainted with Dutch theological works. The Executive Committee, seeing great possibilities in this venture, readily granted approval.

3. *Curricular matters.* Even though radical changes took place in our faculty, all courses needed to meet the requirements of the catalogue and the students were offered. Only four post graduate courses, however, were available for the first semester, and three for the second semester. A two-hour course in Reformed Church Music has been approved as an elective for the second semester, and arrangements were made with the college administration whereby Dr. Henry Bruinsma is being loaned to the seminary to teach this course for one semester only. As noted previously Prof. R. B. Kuiper was found willing to teach a course in Mission Principles during the second semester. A course in New Testament History has been reintroduced into the curriculum, at the suggestion of the faculty.

4. *B. D. Degree.* The Board has approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee and faculty to change the nomenclature of the first degree granted by the Seminary from Th.B. to B.D. Two reasons were given: a. The American Association of Theological Schools recommends to member seminaries that B.D. be the nomenclature for their first degree. b. The Th. B. degree has been depreciated by certain schools in recent years and consequently is not held in as high esteem in academic circles as is the B.D. degree. In this connection we may add that the President has been charged by the Board to study the requirements and possibilities of granting the Th.D. at our seminary.

5. *Scholarships and Aid.* A Seminary Student Fund has been established through the courtesy of a friend of the school in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. After careful investigation by a committee of the Faculty under direction of the Finance Committee the sum of one thousand

dollars provided by the donor was dispensed among five students this year.

Mr. Andrew Bandstra, senior in our Seminary, was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Scholarship for 1953-1954, which will permit graduate study at the Free University.

6. *Nominations.* Much thought and time was given to the matter of staffing our seminary faculty. After the recommendations of the faculty had been studied and the report of a special committee on Appointments had been rendered the Board voted to make the following recommendations:

a. That Prof. R. B. Kuiper be reappointed for another year as Acting President of the Seminary with a limited teaching load in the department of Practical Theology. The plan is that he shall continue to teach Homiletics and supervise practice preaching.

b. That Synod appoint two men for the department of Practical Theology, one to begin immediately in September 1953 for Church Government and related subjects, and the other to begin in September 1954 after a year's study, to teach Homiletics and related subjects. With our increased enrolment there is far too much work for one man in this strategic field.

Nomination for Practical Theology I (to begin in 1953 and teach Church Government, etc.): G. Gritter, M. Monsma and J. Weidenaar.

Nomination for Practical Theology II (to begin in 1954 and teach Homiletics, etc.): A. Hoekema, C. Kromminga and E. Ubels.

c. That Dr. John Kromminga be reappointed to the chair of Church History for a two-year term. In the event that Synod chooses to have a double nomination for Church History, the Board is prepared to submit an additional name.

d. That Synod appoint the Reverend Harold Dekker for a one-year lectureship in Missions. If Synod desires additional names for a nomination, the Board is prepared to submit such. Engaging a lecturer in this chair for a year will afford the Board time to make a proper recommendation for a permanent appointment.

e. That Professor Schultze be asked to continue his work in the New Testament department as professor extraordinary.

f. That Synod invite one or more men to serve as visiting lecturers in New Testament for the next year. The Board recommends Prof. J. Skilton of Westminster and Dr. Herman Ridderbos of Kampen, Netherlands. This procedure will allow the Board further opportunity to cast about for a permanent appointee.

g. That a man of maturer years be selected for a two-year term beginning September 1953 to teach Dogmatics. This will afford the Board and Synod opportunity to give further consideration to the proper staffing of this department.

The Board nominates the following for this chair:

Dr. J. Bruinooge, Dr. R. J. Danhof and Dr. H. Kuiper.

7. *Ecumenical Synod delegate.* Synod referred the appointment of a replacement for Dr. S. Volbeda, who was chosen as a delegate to the Ecumenical Synod, but who cannot serve because of ill health, to the Board for action. Dr. John Kromminga has been designated as the delegate. He was apprized of his appointment.

8. *Emeriti professors.* Though much time was spent in considering the work of our present professors and even more time giving attention to the problem of securing additional professors, the Board and Executive Committee have not forgotten our highly esteemed emeritated professors: Professor Emeritus L. Berkhof, who had been hospitalized for a time, Dr. S. Volbeda, who suffers much pain, and Dr. C. Bouma whose days are as nights. Frequently their afflictions were brought to the throne of grace in prayer at the sessions of the Board and Executive Committee. We remember them as men God gave to speak His precious word in our ears.

## B. *College*

### 1. *Faculty*

a. We added seven members to the full-time teaching staff of the college this past year. They are: Instructors George Harper, Arthur J. Otten, Calvin Andre, and Assistants David Tuuk, Bastiaan Van Elderen, Ann Janssen and Robert Otten. The president reports that they appear to have made a good adjustment to college teaching. Each displays an admirable diligence in his or her work and a dedication to the job which needs doing at Calvin College. He further reported: "There are now 48 persons teaching a full schedule of 12-15 hours, 6 faculty members teaching a reduced schedule along with administrative duties, and 9 part-time assistants. The latter two teacher-groups teach a combined load of 79 credit hours, thus performing the work of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  full-time teachers.

"Using 53.5 as the number of teachers who have a full teaching schedule, and 1191 as the number of students enrolled, we arrive at a faculty-student ratio of 1 faculty member to 22.2 students. A year ago we reported a 1-23 ratio. A 1-15 ratio is deemed desirable, and appears to be the goal set by most colleges of the size and caliber of Calvin College."

b. All full-time assistants and full-time instructors newly added to the staff have signed the Form of subscription.

c. The problem of staff expansion continues to receive attention. The president in his report pointed up our problem in a short paragraph:

"We have not been able to find desirable candidates for vacancies in Music and Physical Education (for women). The problem of find-

ing a teacher for Nutrition, or Dietetics, (Nurses' Training) remains perennially acute. Likewise, there exists a real need for staff expansion in the Sociology, Economics, and Psychology departments. These represent immediate needs. Within one year and a half, four of our present staff members are scheduled for retirement. Replacements for them will not be easy to find."

d. Two faculty members, Dr. Van Zyl and Prof. H. Van Anandel are scheduled for retirement in June, 1953. Both have given to Calvin College long years of service marked by diligent and consecrated effort. The Board decided to give a testimonial dinner at its May meeting in their honor.

The Board has also established a policy at the president's suggestions of giving recognition to those members of our teaching staff who complete twenty-five years of service. It is planned in keeping with this decision to make the testimonial dinner in May the occasion for special recognition of faculty members who have completed 25 years of service or more, but who have not had such special recognition before.

Those to be honored are:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Dr. H. H. Meeter.....     | 25 years in May 1951  |
| Prof. S. Swets.....       | 30 years in February 1953   |
| Dr. H. Van Zyl.....       | 30 years in May 1953  |
| Dr. P. Hoekstra.....      | 35 years in May 1953; also secretary<br>of the faculty for 23 years |
| Dr. H. Ryskamp.....       | 35 years in May 1953  |
| Dr. R. Stob.....          | 35 years in May 1952  |
| Prof. H. Van Anandel..... | 38 years in May 1953  |
| Prof. J. Van Haitsma..... | 44 years in May 1953  |

Professor T. Dirkse was honored last year with an invitation to serve in the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, an offer which he was led to decline. Professor Donald Bouma in September 1952 was granted his doctorate in sociology at the University of Michigan. Due note has been taken of these honors by the Board and its instruments.

e. Mr. Walter Lagerwey under appointment subject to a final interview is at present in the Netherlands pursuing his studies in preparation for teaching in the Dutch department beginning September 1953.

Mr. John Vanden Berg is on leave of absence for the entire school year. He is making excellent progress toward satisfying requirements for a Ph.D. degree.

f. A fuller report will be given later on the problem of integration as suggested by Synod last year. At this time we may report that a laudable effort was put forth by our college administration in inaugurating a convocation of the two Faculties and Board members at Camp Geneva early in September of 1952 at which the following subjects were discussed: Teacher Appraisal, Seminary-College interrela-

tionships, the Christian and Art and Teaching Philosophy at Calvin College.

g. The Board has approved a revised regulation covering grants to faculty members for summer study (see Appendix B).

## 2. *Student Body*

Although the college administration had expected to hit the bottom of the enrolment cycle in 1952-1953, Calvin's enrolment trend has already reversed itself. Some 1191 students were enrolled in September, 21 more than the year before. Barring abnormal conditions, this trend should continue with the big increases coming in 1958-1960. Students enrolled in the pre-seminary course total about 12%, a percentage that has been fairly constant over the last six years. At present students preparing for the ministry and for Christian education comprise 60% of the student body. Currently we have some 42 Canadian students, 3 Netherlands students and 3 from Asia. The administration notes that there is a growing interest on the part of foreign students who desire to come to Calvin. Since this involves securing sponsors for them, and granting a measure of financial aid, the Board is giving thought to the matter and may have some concrete suggestions to make to Synod in its next report.

The president reports that in general the student body has displayed an admirable spirit of co-operation and loyalty this year. He believes we have one of the finest groups we have yet had at Calvin. The students manifest a sincere desire to live up to the ideals established for the college. Their extra-curricular activities are being exceptionally well managed. Moreover, the Social and Religious Committee and the Dean of Students have frequently voiced their praise for the type of activity for which the students seek prior permission. A fuller report of the Dean of Students and the Dean of Women is available if desired.

## 3. *Curriculum*

The following courses previously approved were activated in the Physics department this past September. Electronic Measurement, Electronics, Optics, Heat and Mechanics. Approval has been voted for one year for a course called Christian Evidences. Further, approval was given to the following new courses: Contemporary Dutch Philosophy, History of Social Thought, Cultural Anthropology, Piano Pedagogy and Greek drama. The administration announced that Pre-occupational therapy, Pre-Home Economics, and Pre-agriculture courses of study are now available at Calvin.

A special Conference on Sacred Music is planned for next summer, August 19-27 "to enable church musicians and ministers to gain inspiration and knowledge in the promotion of the general music program of the Church." Brochures describing the institute are available for Synod's perusal.

#### 4. *Scholarships*

As in former years, scholarships were again given to recommended high school graduates; ten full and five half scholarships were awarded graduates of Christian High Schools; and four full and five half scholarships given to public high school graduates. Remission of tuition was granted to one foreign student. Through the kindness of the Keeler Brass Co. of Grand Rapids, fifteen scholarships of \$150.00 each have been made available; five to be awarded in each of the next three years. These scholarships are to be granted by the faculty to men students, preferably residents of Michigan, who have completed at least one year at Calvin College. Eligibility is to be determined on the basis of positive evidence of earnestness of purpose, scholastic ability and financial need.

#### 5. *Appointments*

Much time was spent by the Board in interviewing new appointees and faculty members who are recommended for reappointment with life tenure, as well as reviewing the qualifications of those recommended for promotion and/or extended tenure. Approval for the following actions is recommended:

- a. Dr. Cornelius Jaarsma was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Professor in Education in charge of directed teaching in secondary schools
- b. Dr. John Daling was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Professor in Psychology
- c. Dr. John Timmerman was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Professor in English
- d. Dr. Evan Runner was reappointed for a two-year term as Associate Professor in Philosophy
- e. James De Jonge was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Associate Professor in Music
- f. Henry Bengelink was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Assistant Professor in Biology
- g. Miss Gertrude Slingerland was reappointed with indefinite tenure as Assistant Professor in English
- h. Melvin Berghuis was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Speech
- i. John Vanden Berg was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Economics
- j. Henry Ippel was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Political Science and History
- k. Lester De Koster was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor of Speech and as Library Director
- l. Miss Helen Van Laar was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in Education

m. Miss Shirley Balk was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in Music

n. Miss Ann Janssen was reappointed for a two year term as Instructor in English and Speech

o. Mr. David Tuuk was reappointed for a two year term as Assistant Coach

p. Mr. Barney Steen was appointed for a two year term as Assistant Professor in Physical Education (this was already approved last year subject to an interview). See Acts 1952.

q. Dr. John Van Bruggen was appointed for a two year term as Associate Professor in Education in charge of directed teaching in primary schools.

#### 6. *Correction of an error*

In the regulations governing appointments, promotions and salaries approved by Synod (1950 page 259) the maximum salary for an instructor now reads \$3500.00. In the original copy which was approved this reads \$3700.00 and should so appear in our records. Synod is asked to make the necessary correction in its records.

### III. OPERATION OF INSTITUTION

A. *Library.* Authorization has been given for an important change in card indexing and book classification from the Dewey system to the Library of Congress method. The cost when spread over a number of years will not increase the library budget, but will bring big dividends in increased teaching effectiveness, it is claimed. The older method is far less comprehensive in scope.

Under the direction of the two presidents a redefining of administrative policy in the library was found desirable and met with the Board's full approval.

Two significant additions have been made to our library. Mr. Leopold L. Cayvan, a friend of the school added some 800 recordings, valued at approximately \$3464.36, to the Cayvan Collection of Musical Recordings. This was acknowledged with gratitude. Dr. S. Volbeda at retirement made available to the Library a large part of his collection of books, pamphlets and papers, and this kindness on his part likewise was acknowledged with thanks.

B. *Commons.* The shack which for the past few years served so well in our emergency as a science building is gone and in its place now stands the commodious Commons Building, which will supply in the dining and social needs of the student body. Synod too will appreciate this structure and its facilities. Proper ceremonies took place at the time of the cornerstone laying and the official opening late in February. Rules and regulations for the use of the Commons by students and in general have been approved. An arrangement has been made whereby the Alumni Association of Calvin has been granted office

space and the right to operate a concession under the business manager's supervision with the hope that subsidy for the Alumni Association will eventually no longer be needful as heretofore and they assume the responsibility of staffing the Commons second floor office.

### C. *Needs of Today Campaign.*

1. After much searching the Executive Committee secured a well qualified business man for the position of financial secretary of our institution in the person of Mr. Sydney Youngsma. He was found ready and willing to begin just at the strategic moment when the Campaign was about to begin. He has done good work and the Board recommends his reappointment for two years as Financial Secretary.

2. The Finance Committee invited the following men to serve as an advisory committee to lay the groundwork of Calvin's Needs of Today Campaign: P. Andriese (West coast); B. Vellenga (Chicago); G. Andreas (Iowa); G. Kamp (Cleveland); P. Turkstra (Canada); J. Hamersma (East coast); J. Vander Heide and J. Van't Hof (Grand Rapids); W. Boer and B. Staal (Holland); Prof. H. Schultze (seminary); president Spoelhof and Buter (College); and Syd Youngsma (Calvin financial secretary).

This committee in turn organized the broader Campaign Committee. Proper appreciation has been expressed to this Committee and its many aides for the monumental task performed by them so well.

3. An appropriation of \$30,800.00 was authorized for the two million dollar campaign, the same amount expended in the former campaign for one-half the amount. Due to rising costs and special equipment purchased an additional \$13,000.00 was authorized. The purchase of an addressograph and an office accounting machine used in the campaign have more than paid for themselves and will be of continued value to the school.

4. At last reports approximately one and a quarter million dollars had been pledged; one-fourth of this amount being in cash. Because of the excellent response to offer of envelopes the Campaign Committee is quite hopeful of attaining the goal of the Campaign in the five year period as planned. At the suggestion of the Campaign Committee the Board has approved the following recommendations in an endeavor to reach the two million dollar goal.

"1. The Board of Trustees provide the curators with exact figures of the participation of their classis to date together with the participation of the individual churches of that classis for a report to the spring session.

"2. The Board of Trustees express itself as favoring exerting additional efforts to reach our desired goal through collections, contributions, through the general budget or such other methods as would be

appropriate to the churches which have not attained their anticipated amounts and that the Financial Secretary shall, with the advice of the curator, contact these churches and in consultation with minister and consistory devise further plans.

"3. The Board of Trustees urges Synod that it express its deep appreciation of the liberal response to the Calvin campaign. The Board expresses its confidence that gifts will continue to flow in, from various parts of the church and that the desired goal of two million dollars will be reached before the five year period is ended."

In view of the much work that yet remains to be done in connection with the campaign in following up promising leads and do that which of necessity could not be finished at the time of the campaign, approval was given for the forming of a follow-up campaign committee.

5. In response to specific requests made to the Board for the use of the excellent mailing list used in the Campaign, a policy has been established permitting use of the mailing list by Synodically approved causes and Christian Education projects, provided Consistory approval has been first secured. The Business Office will address mailing material at a nominal cost. The facilities are available to all our Consistories for letters addressed to their own constituency at no cost. Regular use will keep the mailing list up to date.

#### D. *Expansion.*

Already last year attention was called to the imperative need for office expansion in the Administration Building and plans for such indicated. Due to budget limitations contemplated plans for alterations were temporarily dropped. Now more than ever something must be done to alleviate the situation particularly in the seminary building, where both faculty and students have been working under tremendous handicaps due to the monopolizing of seminary facilities. The Board has voted approval for the making of plans and letting of contracts to remodel space in the Administration Building for office expansion.

Progress may also be reported in the girls' dormitory project as approved by Synod as far back as 1946. Mr. James Haveman has been engaged as an architect. Snyder and McLean have been engaged for the mechanical planning of the dormitories. The Board has instructed its Construction Committee to consider specified open shop contractors in securing bids for the construction of the dormitories; in its investigations it has learned that some half dozen can be bonded for \$200,000.00 (or more), approximately the cost of erecting one dormitory.

E. The Pension Committee is currently studying the matter of pensions for administrative personnel. Discussions have been held with the employees; plans have been presented to them; at present at the request of the employees further study is being made of the possibili-

ties of combining the former non-faculty employees pension plan (with modifications) with social security.

#### IV. *Miscellaneous.*

The Board of Trustees is most grateful for the contribution that the Calvin Foundation Inc. is making to the advance of Calvinistic study. Previously we have noted but we may note again that they are minded to make available the initial sum of \$5,000.00 to the faculties of Calvin College and Seminary for the prosecution of a study and the production of a "Calvin Report" on Christian Higher Education. Both faculties have pledged their cooperation. More recently the Foundation has informed us they have made arrangements to bring Dr. J. Waterink of the Vrije Universiteit to our campus sometime in 1954 for a series of lectures and seminars and the teaching of a few special courses at Calvin wholly without any expense to our school. Approval was granted for the proposed teaching of courses in both the College and Seminary.

Many other matters have been dealt with in the course of our meetings, but we shall not burden Synod with an account of every detail. We have sought to be found faithful as stewards, bearing in mind that we are accountable not alone to Synod, but to our Exalted King Jesus Christ. Our great joy will be that He establish the work of our hands.

May the Spirit of God endow and direct every member of Synod in all deliberations and decisions.

Humbly submitted,

*Board of Trustees of  
Calvin College and Seminary  
JOHN T. HÖLWERDA, Secretary.*

## THE PRESIDENCY OF CALVIN SEMINARY OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

### Appendix A

#### I. QUALIFICATIONS

The president shall be a man of unquestionable theological stature, academically well prepared, endowed with organizational aptitudes, sterling in character and wise. He must be humble, a lover of men who can enter sympathetically into the situation of others, particularly students and professors. He must be able to give leadership first of all in Calvin Seminary, but also in the church.

#### II. HIS OFFICE

##### *Personal Duties*

The president of the seminary shall be the chief executive officer with full executive powers. All instructional and office personnel of the seminary shall be responsible to him, and he to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee. His duties, *inter alia*, shall be:

1. It shall be the specific task of the president to study and to plan theological education and its integration in our seminary, and present his findings and recommendations to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee for Board approval.

2. The president shall be expected to teach but he shall be given sufficient relief from the regular teaching load to be able to conduct the duties of his office.

3. The president shall preside at every official public meeting of the seminary; he shall preside at the commencement exercises of the seminary in case the seminary should choose to hold its own exercises, and shall address the graduates and present them their diplomas; and he shall plan the proper observance of chapel exercises.

#### *Relation of the President to the Faculty*

1. The president shall be the president of the seminary faculty, and shall preside at its meetings.

2. The president shall have authority to appoint all committees of the faculty. He shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

3. It shall be the duty of the president to visit the classes periodically, to know what is being taught, and to report to the Board on the pedagogical competency and theological soundness and acumen of the professors. He shall consult with the professors, and may give professional advice.

4. While the president in preparing his recommendations to the Board or the Executive Committee shall ordinarily consult with faculty members and faculty committees, it is understood that in the making of recommendations the final responsibility rests with the president.

5. Disputes among faculty members that cannot be resolved between them amicably shall be brought to the president for disposition. If a member remains dissatisfied he may appeal to the Board or the Executive Committee, having first, however, given due notice to the president.

#### *Relation of the President to the Student Body*

1. In student-professor difficulties a student first of all shall approach the professor involved. Should he fail to receive satisfaction the student may appeal to the president. The president has final authority in the matter, and not the faculty.

2. Should a student or a professor feel constrained to appeal to higher authority said appeal shall be made only upon advance notice to the president.

3. It shall be the duty of the president to supervise organizations. The president has final authority, short of the right to appeal to the Board on the part of the members, in the event of difference of opinion on matters of consequence.

4. It shall be the duty of the president to serve as counsellor to the students, especially those who are assigned to him by the Board, and who enter the seminary upon probation.

5. The president shall have authority to summon students for counselling, and in case of reasonable surmise of difficulty shall be expected to do so.

#### *Relation of the President to the Board/Executive Committee*

1. The president shall be responsible to the Board of Trustees or its Executive Committee, and shall be expected to present significant seminary matters regularly.

2. The president shall make his reports to the Board of Trustees at its regular meetings.

3. In his report to the Board the president shall survey the field covered by the respective professors, the emphasis given, and the results in student accomplishments.

*Relation of the President to the Church*

1. The president shall represent the seminary in administrative matters, at synods, and shall have the privilege of the floor on all matters pertaining to the seminary.

2. The president shall acquaint our churches with the ideals, purposes, accomplishments and needs of the seminary.

*Relation of the President to the President of the College*

The president of the seminary shall keep in touch with the president of Calvin College in order that the unity of the institutions may be continued, and that together they may promote the educational ideals implicit in our faith and history.

## Appendix B

### SPECIAL ALLOWANCES

*Grants to Faculty Members for Summer Study*

"The Board of Trustees will grant an allowance of \$75.00 to any faculty member of rank of instructor or above who attends a summer session at a graduate or professional school. Residence of a minimum of six weeks or its equivalent in terms of semester hours of credit as certified by the Dean of the Graduate School, is necessary to qualify for this grant. In the event that a faculty member spends less than six weeks or its equivalent he will receive reduction in the grant directly proportionate to the weeks spent or credit earned. Seventy-five dollars is the maximum grant for summer study.

"In order to determine the availability of such financial aid, which will be conditioned in part by the number who apply, application should be made with the President a month prior to the end of the school year. It is also necessary that each person who receives the award report to the President immediately after the summer school session. As a general rule no more than five faculty members per year will be permitted to receive this allowance."

## THE AMERICAN HOME BIBLE LEAGUE

DEAR BRETHREN:

The American Home Bible League has again experienced a most wonderful year. It was privileged to continue placing Bibles not only in the Bibleless homes of America but in the homes of many foreign countries as well.

Many new avenues have opened up and new challenges accepted. It is quite impossible in this brief report to relate to you all the work that has been done and all of the events that have taken place during the year. Much of this information has been made available to you through the "Sower," official publication of the League.

I would like to mention a few outstanding events of the year. First, the official beginning of the Ceylon Home Bible League on September 21, 1952 in the Prospect Street Christian Reformed Church of Passaic, New Jersey with the dedication of 1,000 Bibles. This initial allotment is being distributed under the direction of our own Reverends John and Clarence Van Ens to many former members of the Dutch Reformed Church who have drifted away due to liberalism.

Another opportunity which presented itself was the placement of several hundred Bibles in our Federal and State prisons. These institutions in the Mid-West area alone contain approximately 150,000 inmates.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-two has been a banner year for both Bible distribution and finances. More Bibles were distributed in the United States than in any other previous year. In Japan Bible distribution reached 65,541. In India 69,066 Scriptures were placed. The work of Bible distribution has been started in Africa on our own mission field and on the east coast of Africa by the Swedish Covenant Mission. Distribution of Scriptures in Canada also has been most extensive. In addition to all this, the work has been carried on in Mexico, South America, the Philippines, Greece and Turkey and now requests are coming in for Scriptures for China and Hawaii.

In regard to finances, the Board was able to meet its budget of \$100,000.00. Certainly God's blessing was evident in this respect. The World Bank program has brought in much money for Scripture distribution. A detailed financial statement for the year will be submitted to Synod by the League office.

It was my privilege to attend many of the Board meetings. We were again inspired by the reports given and by the tremendous challenge for all of us to be "Sowers of the Word."

We urgently request that Synod again recommend this cause to our churches for their prayers and gifts.

Respectfully submitted,  
G. VANDE WERKEN

## REPORT NO. 14

### THE BACK TO GOD HOUR

#### ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

It is time for your Committee to give an account of its activities carried on in your behalf. We trust that the delegates to Synod will peruse these pages, and that all the office-bearers of our church will take cognizance of these lines, in order that all may be conversant with our radio ministry, and render to God hearty thanksgiving for His unmerited favors.

Our Mandate is found in the Acts of Synod of 1952, Article 90 and the Committee appointed is found on page 112.

#### I. ADMINISTRATION

##### A. *Radio Committee:*

At the first meeting our President welcomed the new members appointed by Synod, namely, Rev. W. Kok, Rev. J. Zandstra, Mr. J. Hamstra, and J. H. Fles. We greatly miss Rev. Henry Baker and Mr. Jacob De Jager, who served on the committee since the inception of our denominational radio ministry, along with Rev. John Ehlers and Mr. Peter Damsma who served several years. The new members have taken an active interest and we know that they will enjoy their labors. Rev. D. H. Walters was chosen to serve as President; the Rev. William Kok as Vice-President; Rev. Edward B. Pekelder as Secretary; and our efficient Treasurer, Mr. Lambert Bere was re-elected to serve. Your committee is indebted to the Consistory of the Auburn Park church for using its church facilities for our meetings.

##### B. *The Radio Office:*

We have informed Synod in our last reports about the serious lack of office space for our ever-growing radio ministry. We have considered various possibilities, such as erecting our own building, or have someone erect an office building for us to rent. However, we are grateful to report that we are now located in a building on the corner of 109th Street and Michigan Avenue in Roseland, Chicago 28, Illinois. This is the building that was discussed at last Synod. It has been quite a job to get the remodeling done at reasonable prices and within a reasonable amount of time. The office occupies 2,500 square feet, and we believe it is an excellent solution to our problem. The money spent on our investment is a good one, for eventually the building will belong to our church, if present negotiations with the owner can be satisfactorily completed.

### C. *The Radio Stations.*

Mutual Broadcasting Company has over 500 stations. Each Lord's Day we use but 300 of these stations. This is partly due to the fact that our Budget does not allow us to carry additional stations. At the beginning of this season we decided: first, with increased receipts to take advantage of the opportunities that come to us over Mutual; second, to take on stations outside of the network, and strive to assist our Home Missionaries who are laboring in certain localities. Thus e.g. it was decided to sign a contract with Station WJLK at Asbury Park, New Jersey at the request of Missionary Paul Holtrop. WKRC at Cincinnati, Ohio was added to our list since November 1. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Springfield Illinois were also added.

As far as our Canadian field is concerned we are able to report that at present we are broadcasting over four stations in Canada, and we hope to be successful in adding others, especially in Alberta, in the near future.

### D. *The Radio Minister.*

The Rev. Peter Eldersveld entered upon his seventh year as our Radio Minister. On Sunday, September 7, he returned to the air with a stirring message based on Psalm 96:10, "Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth." We are grateful unto God for this talented radio preacher whose messages have stirred hearts, strengthened the weak, comforted the sorrowing, instructed the ignorant, and pleaded with men and women to return unto God. Our Secretary has furnished the Banner column with his Back to God Hour Flashes and you have some idea of the mail responses. People of all walks of life listen regularly to our broadcast. Undenominationalists, Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, and thousands who do not attend any church have written in telling of blessings received. Our program is in many ways unique. People appreciate this distinctiveness. We believe that much of this is due to our gifted radio minister and the messages he brings. In December, 1952, he received a challenging call extended by the LaGrave Avenue congregation of Grand Rapids, but was led to decline it and remain with the radio ministry.

We take this opportunity sincerely to thank the Rev. Harold Dekker, Minister of Radio Evangelism, who again substituted for our radio pastor during the months of July and August.

### E. *The Radio Choir.*

We believe that our Choir is indispensable to our radio broadcast. Our Choir adds dignity to our program and we know that hundreds are spiritually benefited by the songs which they render from week to week. Their appearance at various Rallies is greatly appreciated by your Committee as well as by those who attend. We are happy to re-

port to Synod that the Consistory of the Calvin church decided to begin its morning service a half-hour later so that we may use the College Chapel for our regular Sunday morning broadcast. The quality of this organ and the acoustics of the Auditorium are in every way superior to those of the Seminary building. We are grateful for this change.

## II. RESPONSE TO OUR PROGRAM.

### A. *Radio Mail.*

During 1952 our office counted 62,284 pieces of mail received from every State of the Union, every province in Canada. Our Secretary often quotes the figures and we note with gratitude the large number of responses which we receive from states where none of our congregations are found. In view of the early morning hour of our broadcast we cannot say that television has created serious competition as yet, although many other radio programs have lost part of their audience through the introduction of television. On our permanent mailing list we now find 12,000 names, many of which are ministers of the Word and other leaders. We know that many a pulpit excerpts from our radio minister's messages will be found.

### B. *Follow-up Work:*

1. *Minister of Radio Evangelism.* In harmony with Synod's decision the Rev. Harold Dekker, engaged by the General Committee for Home Missions, has continued to spend some of his time in behalf of the Radio work. We are especially indebted unto him for his active interest in stimulating others to become engaged in local radio evangelism. Bulletins are sent out to all our ministers containing suggestions and ideas. As a result in many of our smaller communities hundreds of our members are engaged in inviting the unchurched to our radio broadcasts, to our Sunday Schools and our church services. May we quote one paragraph from Bulletin No. 7, "Radio evangelism is being carried on most vigorously and effectively in the small, isolated churches and on the home mission frontiers. It is ironical that our "strongest" churches, that is strongest in numbers, in finance, in tradition and prestige, are usually the weakest in radio evangelism. Those who are the best equipped are frequently the least active. Many of you in young, small, struggling churches and mission groups are setting the pace for the denomination. Our congratulations and humble thanks to you. We are doing our best to make your example contagious to some of our seemingly indifferent big-sister churches."

2. Report of Rev. Dekker — "Follow-up work has once again been conducted according to the three-point program adopted by Synod.

a) *Public meetings and Rallies* — Each year more listeners are reached in this way. In several communities these rallies have become

a regular event. One of the most significant developments during the past year was moving our annual New York City Rally into Carnegie Hall. This distinguished auditorium was filled with 2,500 eager people — both New Yorkers and members of our nearby churches. In the course of time these Rallies should be expanded into preaching missions for longer periods.

b) *Use of the mail* — Significant steps have been taken to expand this phase. *The Listeners' Digest* is planned. It is to be a quarterly compilation of articles selected from various Reformed periodicals, selected with a view to serving the general interests of our radio listeners better than any one magazine can do. This venture is also self-supporting. In cooperation with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church we are also introducing a series of pamphlets on doctrinal themes to meet the growing demand of our listeners. Our own church does not publish these longer doctrinal tracts. A third effort to make the Reformed faith known by the printed page is the distribution of lists of recommended books — for the home, the pastor, the Sunday School teacher, the student, etc.

c) *Personal contact* — Gradually our churches are taking a larger and more vigorous part in this direct contact with listeners. Many large canvasses have been organized. Once again a few Seminary students were used during the summer for this work. The work has been consolidated somewhat at the new home mission fields opened through radio evangelism. No new fields could be opened, however, because most of those where work has been started are as yet un-manned. Consequently many promising opportunities must be passed by.

### 3. *Family Altar.*

Our monthly mailing list of families reading this devotional booklet is near 68,000. It continues to grow gradually week by week, and we are grateful for the wonderful response it receives. God is using it to establish and maintain regular family worship in thousands of homes.

## III. FINANCES

A. We are attaching the Treasurer's Report for the Fiscal year 1952. It will be observed that our churches have just about paid their quotas for 1952. The amounts received from extra offerings and from our church societies during the past year augments the quotas. We are grateful to God who has inclined the hearts of hundreds outside our church to contribute liberally during the past year. The amount received from this source is greater than ever before. No doubt sending our Radio Bulletin into some 115,000 homes is directly responsible for this increase. During 1952 increased support was received for our Family Altar. In addition we have continued to receive the financial

support of our Young Calvinist Youth Radio Fund, as well as from individual churches which undertake the cost of local broadcasts. Space will not permit us to acknowledge all these donors by name, but we want Synod to appreciate with us the fact that this support makes it possible for us to keep our request for quota at a much lower figure than our annual budget would require.

B. A complete report of our Treasurer, properly audited by the Wynn M. Wagner Company of Chicago, will be presented to the Synodical Budget Committee.

C. We will forward a Supplementary Treasurer's Report, covering the period from January 1, 1953 to June 1, 1953 D.V. when Synod convenes.

#### IV. TELEVISION

Since our experiment in television was not yet completed at the time of this writing, we will present a supplementary report on it when Synod convenes.

#### V. MATTERS REQUIRING SYNODICAL ACTION

All of these matters — including expressions of gratitude, proposed budget and quota, recommendations regarding television, and appointments to this Committee — will be presented in our Supplementary Report, which will be on hand when Synod convenes.

Wishing you God's choicest blessings in all your deliberations and decisions, and trusting that the Spirit of all wisdom guide you in these and in all other matters,

Humbly submitted,

D. H. WALTERS, *President*  
 W. KOK, *Vice-president*  
 E. B. PEKELDER, *Secretary*  
 L. BERE, *Treasurer*  
 J. VAN'T HOF  
 G. POSTMA

H. HOVING  
 C. J. DEN DULK  
 R. O. DE GROOT  
 J. HAMSTRA  
 J. ZANDSTRA  
 J. FLES

#### BACK TO GOD HOUR

Financial Report December 31, 1951 to December 31, 1952

##### RECEIPTS:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Synodical Quotas .....                 | \$244,021.84 |
| Churches — Extra Offerings .....       | 1,195.70     |
| Organizations (includes rallies) ..... | 20,938.82    |
| Individuals .....                      | 94,280.55    |
| Other Receipts .....                   | 1,421.47     |

\$361,858.38

##### DISBURSEMENTS:

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Broadcasting:                    |              |
| Mutual Network .....             | \$196,109.70 |
| Spot Stations and Recording..... | 40,428.62    |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Salaries .....   | 27,613.17    |
| Committee Expenses:  |              |
| Travel .....   | 2,455.35     |
| Office:  |              |
| Supplies .....   | 1,448.87     |
| Equipment .....  | 1,632.85     |
| Rent .....   | 2,191.66     |
| Phone, Light and Power .....   | 1,004.96     |
| Travel .....   | 1,983.46     |
| Choir:   |              |
| Music and Equipment .....  | 1,327.14     |
| Travel .....   | 1,934.98     |
| Repairs:   |              |
| Office (New Office) .....  | 4,888.96     |
| Manse .....  | 298.98       |
| Publicity:   |              |
| Messages .....   | 15,658.54    |
| Postage .....  | 7,610.53     |
| Other Printing .....   | 4,352.27     |
| Advertising .....  | 3,395.24     |
| Books and Periodicals (for distribution) .....                             | 689.56       |
| Hall Rent .....  | 1,038.00     |
| Tax Settlement on Manse .....  | 600.00       |
| Insurance .....  | 349.33       |
| Auto Allowance .....   | 350.00       |
| Audit — no interest in 1952 .....  | 110.80       |
| Christmas Gifts .....  | 250.00       |
| Adjustments (Refunds of money received in<br>error, spurious checks) ..... | 291.73       |
| Family Altar:  |              |
| Booklets .....   | 29,996.53    |
| Postage .....  | 6,955.96     |
| Writers .....  | 1,463.24     |
| Newsletters (Printing and Postage,<br>Mailing Service) .....               | 9,599.30     |
| Total Disbursements .....  | \$366,029.73 |
| Balance December 31, 1951 .....  | \$ 5,131.51  |
| Disbursements over Receipts for 1952 .....                                 | 4,171.35     |
| Balance December 31, 1952 .....  | \$ 960.16    |

LAMBERT BERE, *Treasurer*

## MISSION PRINCIPLES STUDY COMMITTEE

### ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

This committee is pleased to bring its report to completion with the following sections:

### I. SUMMARIZED STATEMENTS

The Synod of 1952 adopted the reports of the Mission Principles Study committee on Evangelism and Medicine in "spirit and general content". In view of their length, the Synod asked the committee to summarize the material of these reports in short propositions. The committee herewith submits its compliance with this request, but feels keenly their inadequacy as they stand by themselves. For this reason the committee suggests to Synod that the propositions listed below *be understood only in the light of the already adopted reports.*

#### A. EVANGELISM

1. Evangelism is that activity of the instituted Church which concerns itself directly with the missionary proclamation of the Gospel.

2. The evangelistic task is performed by preaching and teaching, i.e., the direct oral and written transmission of the Gospel.

3. The missionary is not called to transmit his own culture to the mission field, but to proclaim the Gospel which itself has the power to vitalize all that is good and to excise all that is evil in the cultural life of the people he serves.

4. It is necessary for the missionary to know the religion, customs, and life of the people among whom he works in order to a relevant proclamation of the Gospel.

5. Since language is the door to the soul of a people, it must be mastered by the missionary, if the Gospel is to be effectively proclaimed by him.

6. The basic condition for baptism is faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. Where that is present and exemplified in life, baptism should not be unduly postponed in the interest of a high standard of doctrinal knowledge.

7. Continued nurture in the faith after baptism is as much a duty of the Church as pre-baptismal instruction.

8. The exercise of discipline is essential before, as well as after, the organization of a church.

9. The founding of congregations should take place as soon as the three marks of the Church can be maintained.

10. A church duly constituted has equal standing in dignity and law with all other churches. The sending church, recognizing this, will increasingly encourage the new church to assume her full responsibility.

11. Financial support of the younger churches by the sending church should be held to the minimum compatible with their spiritual welfare, while their self-support should be the maximum allowed by their economic situation.

12. Converts as prophets, priests, and kings under Christ, must be stimulated to witness to the faith that is in them by word and deed.

13. The training of natives for evangelistic work and the development of a native ministry is essential for the building up of an indigenous church.

14. The missionary proclamation of the Church rests for its power and effect wholly on the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### B. MEDICAL WORK

1. Medical Missions means the use of medical knowledge and skills in Christ's Name for alleviating sufferings in the Mission area to promote the Gospel.

2. As the healing ministry of Christ and the Apostles was miraculous in character, it does not furnish Scriptural validation for modern medical missions.

3. Its Biblical warrant is to be inferred from the mercy and compassion which must distinguish Christ's ambassadors who speak in His Name.

4. The Mission seeks to plant the life of love in heathendom and the ministry of medicine is well suited to express this love in the context of the evangelical witness.

5. Medical Missions aims at alleviating the sufferings in its area; at counteracting superstitions and the power of the medicine man; at making Christ known through the medical profession; at serving as a valuable and related auxiliary for proclaiming the Gospel; and at helping to break down resisting attitudes.

6. The medical department must be integrated with the total mission witness as it manifests the fullness and riches of the redeeming Christ.

7. The scope of the medical work must be governed by indigenous policies which reckon with native support and participation.

8. To be a worthy auxiliary in evangelism, the medical department must ever avoid the dangers of becoming an end in itself and of using high pressure methods of evangelism.

### C. EDUCATION

#### MAJORITY POSITION

##### *Preface*

With respect to Education, we read in the Acts of 1952, p. 65: "The advisory committee does not feel it would be wise that Synod express itself on the educational phase at this time. Our reasons are the following:

a. The study committee presents majority and minority reports which exhibit a wide divergence of opinion on the question of the place of educational missions. The basic positions are radically opposed to each other.

b. Both the majority and minority reports assert their respective convictions in phraseology which is in some cases rather extreme, which makes it undesirable for Synod to approve either in general spirit and thrust."

As an example of rather extreme language in the majority report the advisory committee gave the following: "It is proper for the Church in her work to use any means which is congenial to the Gospel." On this the committee made the following comment: "The only things excepted seemingly are things unethical, according to the examples adduced. The reiterated 'any means' seems to indicate that the emphasis is intended on this comprehensive approach rather than on the phrase 'congenial to the Gospel'".

The committee also gave a sample of rather extreme language in the minority report, but that does not concern us just now.

The committee recommended:

a. "That Synod do not declare itself on mission principles respecting education in missions at this time.

b. That the request of the study committee to be continued in order to complete its mandate be granted."

These were adopted (Acts, 1952, p. 66)

At this time the majority remarks the following:

1. In meetings of the advisory committee with representatives of the study committee, the thought was expressed that it might be well for the study committee to be given another year in order that the "rather extreme" phraseology which the advisory committee found in both reports on Education might once more be discussed and might possibly be toned down, and thus the divergence of thought might be reduced. This did not get into the decisions of Synod. However, knowing the thinking of the advisory committee, we did have some discus-

sion along that line but soon found that there was no possibility of resolving the difference in thinking. Here is a difference of conviction which Synod will have to face.

2. The advisory committee found that the statement that the Church may use "any means which is congenial to the Gospel" is rather extreme and suggested that it be modified. The majority still feels that this is substantially correct. It realizes also that the statement as it stands is open to wrong interpretation. Perhaps it would be better to say that the Church is not limited to means directly indicated in the Bible. If Synod prefers that statement, we have no objection.

3. The advisory committee remarked that the majority excepted from things congenial to the Gospel only things unethical. The implication would be that anything which is ethically acceptable would be acceptable as a means for furthering the Gospel. We do not accept that interpretation. It is even conceivable that the same means might be congenial to the Gospel in one community and not in another. The Church is to judge of that. If it will in the judgment of the Church advance the cause of the Gospel, it may be used.

4. The advisory committee spoke of "this comprehensive approach" of the majority of the study committee. We like to point out that we have never used that term. In fact, we have consciously avoided it. We are aware that this term is being used by some with a content for which we take no responsibility. We are not sponsoring what is known as "the comprehensive approach," and we would prefer that in the discussion of our position that term be avoided.

5. The advisory committee did not recommend and Synod did not ask for summary statements on Education, as were asked for on Evangelism and Medical Missions. Thinking that nevertheless Synod would like to have them, we are giving them as follows:

1. Our Lord, in the Great Commission given in Matthew 28, bidding His Church make disciples of all nations, enjoined a form of teaching, that is, imparting and explaining the contents of the Gospel.

2. Of this teaching, children, as well as adults, are proper objects.

3. The Church, being in the state of maturity, has the right to determine by which methods she can effectively do this teaching; therefore, she is not limited to methods directly given in Scripture.

4. The Apostle Paul in carrying out his mission task went beyond methods used by Jesus, in that he used new things according to circumstances of his day. It follows that the Church in going forward may do the same.

5. Instances of the foregoing in modern times are education to literacy so that people may be able to read the Bible, and the use of

hospitals. There is no precedent for these in Scripture; yet by common consent they are considered proper because they enhance the Gospel. It follows that the Church may use other means that may effectively further the Gospel.

6. "Educational Missions", as commonly understood, is the effort to teach the Gospel and its application to all phases of life to children, also by the use of schools as an aid.

7. The fact that there is no precedent in the Bible for such use of schools does not mean that they may not be so used.

8. The principle of sphere sovereignty, while in general recognized as valid, and setting off the sphere of the Church from that of other institutions in life, does not posit an absolute separation of the spheres of life. It is balanced in this case by the principle that, if conducive to the execution of her task, the Church may do things which are not ordinarily part of her calling. (Cf. Church Order Commentary, Van Dellen and Monsma, p. 94) Therefore this principle does not as such forbid the use of schools in the service of the Gospel.

9. Specific instances of the application of this principle bearing on the matter of the Church and schools are:

a. The provision in Article 21 of our Church Order that "the Consistories shall see to it that there are good Christian schools in which the parents have their children instructed according to the demands of the covenant";

b. The fact that the Christian Reformed Church to this day maintains Calvin College;

c. The fact that in our Nigerian Mission field there are parochial schools supported jointly by the Church and the parents, until the parents shall be able to assume full responsibility;

d. The provision in the Minority report that the Church may help parents who have just emerged from paganism and who desire Christian Education for their children, to establish Christian Schools (Acts of Synod, 1952, p. 224)

10. The issue is therefore whether such schools as contemplated in this connection can be and are conducive to the propagation of the Gospel.

11. Pertinent to that question, the following may be urged:

a. Such schools impress youth with the Gospel in the most impressionable years of life;

b. They afford a broad opportunity to show the application of the Gospel to every sphere of life;

c. By developing the minds they can help effectively to promote a fuller comprehension of the Gospel;

d. They provide routage for the church to be established by promoting a more intelligent membership;

e. They help to break down superstition and prejudice in given communities, and to fill resulting vacuums;

f. They establish a contact with parents and can serve to open the homes to the messengers of the Gospel;

g. They can plant the Gospel in the homes by teaching it to the children.

12. Since children are taken into such schools only with the consent of the parents, these schools do not encroach upon parental authority.

13. In the use of such schools, proper limitations must be observed:

a. The controlling thought should always be the propagation of the Gospel;

b. . . . Such schools should be established only, where in the judgment of the missionaries, that end can be served;

c. The extent of the curriculum should be determined by the needs of the community and the requirements of the local government;

d. In no case should the educational phase of a Mission in a given community overshadow the evangelistic effort.

14. Such use of schools fits properly with the concept of Christian Education.

#### MINORITY POSITION

1. This report is concerned with the *norms* by which education on the Mission field should be governed and acknowledges that existing situations may place restrictions on the full application of the norms.

2. By education, we understand Government recognized primary, secondary, and higher education.

3. Missions is the task of the Church in her institutional manifestation. Her activity in missions is therefore conditioned by the fact that the Church arises exclusively out of the redemptive work of Christ.

4. Education, on the other hand, does not arise out of redemption but out of the created order of things, as do the family, science, art, etc.

5. The preaching of the Church has meaning for all these activities but she does not herself engage in them. The Church may not therefore regard education as a task proper to herself.

6. Scripture gives no basis for the idea that educational missions should be used to "prepare" pagans for the reception of the Gospel.

7. Education roots in the natural order that God has created. Redemption brings it back to its true purpose.

8. Since the original purpose of education was not to convert the soul but rather to develop the God-fearing man for serving the God he already knows, the redeemed purpose of education cannot be different. We do not therefore believe that the work of conversion is a proper function of education.

9. Activities that are not proper to the work of the Church, as the Scripture defines her nature and functions, should not be considered proper for her to assume on the Mission field.

10. In the New Testament, preaching and teaching (see section on Evangelism) are limited to a direct transmission of the Gospel message.

11. If education is a legitimate agency for the Church to avail herself of in the work of evangelism, there is no reason in principle why other means should not similarly be adopted, such as, rural reconstruction; socio-economic counselling; recreation; and the like.

12. We do not therefore agree with the position of the Majority that whatever means are honorable may be used in the work of evangelism.

13. The limited personnel and resources of the Church should be used only in activities that are validated plainly by Scripture.

14. Education is primarily a parental responsibility. This is a universally valid principle.

15. Missionaries should therefore bring into being an educational structure that rests on a parental, that is, indigenous base.

16. When parents are willing, but unable to obey the injunction to give their children a Christian education, the Church represented on the Mission field may help them, subject to the following conditions: that the school belong to the parents; that it is truly an educational venture; that it effects a gradual withdrawal of missionary control; that its scope is determined by the economic resources of the Christian community; that its service is relevant to the needs of the community; and that it is a means for furthering the growth of the Christian community.

## II. REGULATIONS

We do not deem it within our mandate in this section to draft a complete set of regulations governing all phases of mission work in all our fields. Apart from the fact that life is constantly providing new situations requiring new regulations, this would be an unnecessary duplication of now existing regulations which have been found practicable, and are not affected by an emphasis on the indigenous approach to mission work. So we set forth only such regulations, whether new rules or amendments of the existing ones, as in our judgment are necessary to put into operation the principles arrived at in our study and accepted by the Synod.

Following the outline given in our mandate, attention is given to the following relationships:

The Church and her Board;

The Church and her Missionaries;

The Church and her duties to the Nationals;

The Church and her obligations to the native converts.

## A. THE CHURCH AND HER BOARD

1. The Board, being the agent of Synod, which has adopted principles of indigenous mission work, shall in the formulation of its policies and the execution thereof be guided and controlled by these principles.

2. The Board shall prepare and publish a Manual setting forth the policies which govern its work and the activities by which it seeks to carry out these policies, and present this Manual to Synod for approval.

3. The Board shall furnish all its members, missionaries, and new recruits with a copy of this Manual, all of whom are expected to be guided by it.

## B. THE CHURCH AND HER MISSIONARIES

### 1. *Ordained Missionaries.*

a. Ministerial candidates and pastors may volunteer for mission service to specific fields or be called thereto, by local churches in harmony with our Reformed practice.

b. Calling churches, if possible, shall make special contributions to the Board toward the salaries of these missionaries, and shall have the oversight of their doctrine and life.

c. Qualifications (as given in the Mission Order, Art. 7)

d. Before undertaking the work on a given field, the missionary (and his wife, if possible) shall be given time by the Board to:

- (1) Gain a working knowledge and use of the language of the natives with whom they expect to labor;
- (2) Become familiar with the history, customs, and national characteristics of the people in their prospective fields;
- (3) Take special courses in Mission history and principles so as to be fitly equipped for this specialized ministry and have a thorough understanding of the work expected of them.

e. Their work shall be under the direct supervision of the General Conference.

### 2. *Unordained Missionaries*

#### a. Lay Evangelists

(1) Shall be appointed by the Board as assistants to the ordained missionaries, and shall be under their direct supervision.

(2) Qualifications: special aptitude for mission service, verified by academic training and actual experience; doctrinal fitness, verified by Consistory or Board; studious character; linguistic abilities; possessing initiative, tact, and co-operative spirit.

Age and health requirements: the same as apply to ordained missionaries.

- (3) May be supported by local churches, but their salaries are paid by the Board.
- b. Medical and Educational Workers.
  - (1) Shall be appointed by the Board.
  - (2) Qualifications: in addition to the acceptable standards for their respective professions and intended areas of service, the spiritual qualities of character so needed for mission work.
  - (3) May be supported by local churches, but their salaries are paid by the Board.
  - (4) Their work is supervised by General Conference through the departmental heads.

3. All missionaries are subject to the direction of the Board, yet are not to be regarded as employees in the ordinary sense. While the Board directs the work from the home base, the missionaries are doing the actual work on the field. They are in close contact with the nationals, and are in a position to know how the indigenous church can best come into being. Therefore, a certain amount of authority must be delegated by the Board to the body of missionaries on each field, constituted as a General Conference.

#### 4. *General Conferences*

a. General Conferences shall be constituted as soon as feasible on all mission fields. The Board shall execute the Synodical mission policies and administer the work on the field through the General Conference as its field agency. The membership, organization, and activities of these Conferences shall be determined by the General Conference with the approval of the Board.

b. Vitally necessary for a united understanding of the goals, and for an effective execution of the policies, are the following stipulations in organization:

- (1) The scheduling of periodic meetings, open to all the workers on the field, for purposes of fellowship, instruction, inspiration, and discussion.
- (2) The position of an Executive Secretary who serves as the official link between the Conference and the Board; who is the Conference's official representative in dealings with governmental or native authorities; and who, with the other members of the Executive Committee, is responsible for orientating new workers, and seeing to it that adopted policies and decisions are carried out on the various posts.
- (3) The constitution of an Executive Committee, composed of the officers of General Conference, which shall give particular attention to executing the policies of the Board and the Conference on the individual posts. To that end, it shall

make annual visits to each post, exercise the proper supervision of the work and the personnel, and report its findings and recommendations to the General Conference. It shall also handle matters demanding attention and action before the next meeting of Conference.

c. The actions of General Conference in regard to the Board are recommendatory; in regard to local conferences and missionaries, its actions shall be considered binding, unless the Board rules otherwise.

In cases of complaints against decisions of Conference, any member has the right to appeal to the Board, on the condition that the proper notification is given and a copy of his appeal is submitted to General Conference. In no case shall a missionary make his complaint to his calling or supporting church.

#### 5. *Local Conferences*

a. When in the judgment of General Conference there are a sufficient number of workers at a given post, they shall be organized into a local conference. The details of organization are to be determined by General Conference.

b. All workers at a post shall be members of such local conferences.

(*Grounds:* 1. This will bring the work closer to the natives, for workers are usually closer to the people than are the heads of departments.

2. This will make all workers feel they have a vital share in the Mission program.)

c. Local conferences are responsible to General Conference and shall not report to, nor attempt to deal with, the Board.

(*Grounds:* 1. This will strengthen the authority of Gen. Conf.

2. This will unify the work on the entire field and make possible the work of the Executive Comm. of General Conference.

3. This will relieve the Board of a great mass of unnecessary detail.)

#### C. THE CHURCH AND HER DUTIES TO THE NATIONALS

1. The Church in proclaiming and promoting the Gospel shall seek to enlist the resources, talents, and capacities of the nationals for the service of the Lord.

2. The Church shall earnestly attempt to establish good rapport with the nationals by:

a. Instilling in her missionaries a sense of appreciation for the views and aspirations of the nationals;

b. Reckoning with native customs and tastes in the construction of buildings, and in the modes of living and personal habits of her missionaries;

c. Engaging the services of suitable nationals for religious duties. All help hired by the Mission shall be carefully selected, be approved by the Conference, and be paid in accordance with native standards.

3. In undertaking her preaching ministry, the Church shall see to it that:

a. The Word of God is fully proclaimed in accordance with the Reformed Confessions in the vernacular;

b. Missionaries in their Christian conduct bear witness to this Gospel;

c. Missionaries and native workers engage in regular preaching services and personal contacts wherever opportunities are available;

d. Copies of the Scriptures, tracts, and other Christian reading matter are made available and wisely distributed;

e. The necessary facilities for carrying on an energetic evangelistic program are provided.

4. In undertaking her teaching ministry, the Church shall:

a. Teach the truths of Scripture to children and adults in the vernacular, in organized classes on weekdays and Sundays;

b. Where necessary, give instruction in reading and writing to enable adults and children to study the Word of God;

c. Where deemed advisable, to establish Mission schools and require tuition fees according to the nationals' economic ability;

(NOTE: The Minority group of the committee dissents from this specific regulation.)

d. Give concentrated instruction to those anticipating Baptism;

e. Furnish appropriate study materials for these various classes which the nationals purchase.

5. In making use of medical assistance, the Church shall:

a. Authorize the establishment of dispensaries, clinics, and hospitals, only when no other adequate or desirable facilities exist, and where such will promote the Gospel. Such shall be of modest proportions, balanced with the other endeavors of the Mission, and closely related to the nationals' ability to support and maintain;

b. Require patients to pay as able toward the cost of medicines and treatments received;

c. Require co-operation between the medical and evangelistic workers in ministering to patients' spiritual, as well as physical needs, in the hospital or in out-station visits.

#### D. THE CHURCH AND HER OBLIGATIONS TO NATIVE CONVERTS

1. Natives who profess faith in Jesus Christ and evidence a reasonable understanding of the Truth by a Godly walk of life shall be baptized by the missionary.

2. The missionary shall maintain a record of all baptized converts and form them into Believers Groups. He shall labor intensively to nurture them further in the Christian faith as regular worship habits are cultivated in the home and in the religious meetings, by conducting advanced Bible classes for the parents and their children, and by stimulating their Christian witness in their community.

3. Native initiative and responsibility shall be developed as the missionary wisely confers and plans with them in achieving the goal of a self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating Church in their midst. To that end, practical projects should be undertaken, as qualified natives function in position of leadership.

4. The Mission shall see to it that native Christians are trained to become evangelists and pastors, either by itself or another satisfactory agency. Where conditions warrant, missionaries shall be engaged to give their full-time efforts to this teaching ministry.

5. The organization of these Believers Groups into a congregation shall take place when the three marks of a Church can be maintained. Elders and deacons shall be ordained, the regular ministry of the Word and sacraments shall be instituted, and the faithful exercise of discipline shall be practised.

6. The missionary shall serve this autonomous congregation with his counsel and help, but shall leave the actual government thereof to the native office-bearers.

7. Financial aid by the sending Church shall be kept at a minimum compatible with the spiritual welfare of the native Church, and with the endorsement of the General Conference.

8. A congregation so formed must be considered a Reformed Church, and is encouraged to seek union with other existing Reformed Churches.

### III. MINORITY REPORT ON REGULATIONS

(Submitted by Rev. Harry R. Boer)

The mandate under which our committee discharged its labors requires that the committee draw up regulations applying the principles we should formulate to various aspects of the missionary enterprise. It seems to me, after studying the problems posed by this requirement, that it would not be wise for Synod to adopt such regulations. I therefore reluctantly dissent from the majority on this point. My reasons are the following:

1. We already have a Mission Order of substantial length. It includes many of the items included in the proposed regulations. Other of its provisions are contradicted by some of the proposed regulations. (See Art. 2,G,(1) ; Art. 4; Art. 9)

2. Synod has already adopted statements of principles on Evangelism and Medicine. It will act on Education at this Synod. A very large part of the proposed Regulations are a restatement of the principles already set forth. Section D, for instance, "The Church and Her Duties to the Nationals" is almost in its entirety a repetition of what has been stated in the relevant parts in the section on principles dealing with Evangelism, Education, and Medicine.

3. I believe that the drawing up of general regulations is the function of the Board and, in a more limited way, of the Conferences. Principles having once been set forth, we should trust our Board and missionaries to effectuate them in concrete formulations applied to concrete situations.

4. In so intensely spiritual a work as missions, regulations should, I believe, be reduced to a minimum. The largest possible scope should be given for freedom of action within the framework of accepted principles. These principles should not in the form of general regulations be forced on anyone or on any group engaged in the missionary enterprise. It can best be judged by those in positions of authority on the field and at home when in specific instances and in specific contexts, a particular action or policy is not in accordance with principles and policies adopted by the Synod. Principles can be given time to work out, and to form more and more the missionary mind of the Church and her workers. Regulations, on the other hand, demand immediate obedience.

5. The addition of Regulations (which are binding, in the nature of the case) and a Manual (by which all Board members and missionaries "are expected to be guided") to the already existing Mission Order, Field Constitutions, Statements of Principle, Board directives, and Conference minutes, are apt to have a confusing effect.

I therefore recommend to the Synod:

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS:

1. That they be not adopted;
2. That the Board be instructed to revise for Synod's approval, after gaining advice and suggestions from the several fields, the existing Mission Order. This revision should take especial note of the statements of principle adopted by the Synod.

*Grounds:*

1. The Mission Order includes some obsolete provisions;
2. It is desirable that officially adopted policies and the means required to effectuate them be set forth in the authoritative, already existing, Mission Order.

B. WITH RESPECT TO GENERAL CONFERENCES:

That Synod adopt the proposal of the Majority which is worded as

follows: General Conferences shall be constituted, as soon as feasible, on all mission fields. The Board shall execute the Synodical mission policies and administer the work on the field through the General Conference as its field agency. The membership, organization, and activities of these Conferences shall be determined by the General Conference with the approval of the Board.

*Grounds:*

1. Each Conference needs some form of organization;
2. The Conferences themselves are best able to determine under what form of organization they can most fruitfully discharge their work;
3. The Board must have all needful authority to pass on the adequacy of such forms of organization.

HARRY R. BOER.

#### IV. THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES AND REGULATIONS TO THE INDIAN MISSION FIELD IN NEW MEXICO.

We take it that our mandate does not call for a complete set of regulations covering our Indian field. The intent is, as we see it, to state in this part of our report what specific actions are required to carry into practice the principles and regulations given above in that particular field.

Before specifying these actions, we deem it important to make two observations;

First, it is not superfluous to remind ourselves that the Church's chief instrument in undertaking mission work is the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit. To that truth all must give their consent. We do not mean to intimate that in our endeavors in that field such has been lost sight of, but it is so easily taken for granted. *There is a real danger that in trying to apply methods, we shall think more of the methods than of the Word which these methods are to promote.* Let us remember always that the Word of God, clearly, faithfully, powerfully, and believingly brought, is the only means unto salvation and unto the building of the Church. It must be backed with prayers, earnestly and continually and believingly brought before God. It needs the mighty power of the Holy Spirit to make it effective. These are truths that must be vital to all of us.

Second, we feel that a renewed emphasis on the indigenous method is in order. What this method is should by this time be clear. In our meeting with the workers on our New Mexico field in September, 1951, we put the question whether all were committed to this method. We were assured that all were, but in conversing with them, we did not get the impression that all were clear on its implications. Nor did we feel that all were enthusiastically trying to carry it out, since there appears

to be a variety of practices among them. Such situations call for the emphasis we are now making.

Pursuant to this, we offer the following recommendations:

**A. THAT OUR MISSION STAFF MAKE MORE PERSONAL AND MORE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO LEARN THE NAVAJO LANGUAGE.**

It is agreed that the language is the avenue to the soul of a people. Such is of the very essence in the indigenous approach. Our fathers showed their insight when they insisted that missionaries should learn the language of the people.

To this day, little of that has been done. Several of the workers can carry on some conversations in the native tongue; none dares to undertake to bring a message in it. In cases where natives do not understand English, the clumsy method of speaking through an interpreter has to be employed.

To be sure, there have been some accounting reasons for this failure to learn the language, such as: its difficulty, the lack of a uniform policy for instructing missionaries in Navajo, the erroneous notion that the Indians were discarding their own language in favor of English, and the disagreement which orthography to adopt.

Over against such factors, however, there are weightier considerations which demand that our missionaries make diligent efforts to gain a working use of Navajo. It is essentially necessary for personally reaching the Indian with the Gospel, and for bringing him the truths of the Bible in an intelligent fashion. Moreover, such enables them to better understand the native, as well as to give better supervision and aid to their Indian interpreters and assistants.

1. Every missionary and worker must realize that the effectiveness of his labors in influencing the Indian for good is in a large measure dependent on his ability to speak Navajo.

2. Rather than looking for solutions through Conference or Board proposals, each missionary should avail himself of the existing Navajo language helps (grammars, lexicons, etc.) and apply himself diligently.

3. Where possible, weekly classes in Navajo shall be conducted by a qualified Indian, for our white workers. General Conference shall make it its business to see to it that this is systematically and progressively advanced.

**B. THAT THE NAVAJO LANGUAGE BE MORE WIDESPREADLY USED:**

1. The study of Navajo shall be a required subject in the Rehoboth schools so that the children are equipped to read and write their own language.

2. Instructions in the Bible shall *also* be given in Navajo in classes in the schools and the chapels, as well as in the spiritual visits with patients in the Hospital.

3. More all-Navajo services must be introduced throughout the field. For the spiritual interests of the Indian pupils, one of the services in the Rehoboth church should gradually become a complete Navajo service.

4. Missionaries and workers should be encouraged to speak with the natives in their own tongue. This will bring them closer to the Indians and take away the impression that Christianity and the white man's language necessarily go together.

5. Recordings, radio, and other available facilities should be widely exploited in the native language.

6. Real efforts shall be made to have qualified Christian Indians write tracts setting forth the Reformed truths in simple, native language, and translating such of our confessions and hymns as they and General Conference deem most appropriate to native needs.

C. THAT AN ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM BE UNDERTAKEN AT ONCE, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE WYCLIFFE TRANSLATORS.

1. There is a pressing need for literacy work among the adult Indians, ere the Bible has any personal meaning for them.

2. The Wycliffe translators organization exists on the Indian field, and has on several occasions expressed its interest in undertaking this kind of teaching.

3. Certain Indians have indicated this to be a real need in our missionary efforts among their people, and have made request that we avail ourselves of this organization's proffered help.

D. THAT GREATER USE BE MADE OF THE SERVICES OF INDIANS.

1. Interpreters and native preachers must be given more responsibilities. Some of our missionaries are doing this; others are not. Naturally, discretion must be used, but the ideal must ever be to advance them into more responsible positions.

2. Native workers, wherever available, must be used in the school, the hospital, on maintenance work, everywhere. Our white personnel must make it possible to have Indians take over these functions at the earliest possible moment, and they must work to this end, and be willing to accept the risks involved.

3. The ideal of a native training school should be kept alive and steps towards its realization should be persistently made.

E. THAT AS LONG AS THE COOK TRAINING SCHOOL CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN AN AGREEABLE DOCTRINAL POSITION, WE SELECT IT AS PREFERABLE TO ALL OTHERS FOR THE EVANGELISTIC TRAINING OF SUITABLE INDIANS, AND THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE INCLUDES IN ITS BUDGET AN ITEM PROVIDING CERTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EVANGELISTIC SERVICE.

1. The Cook Training School, by reason of its proximity to the field and its all-Indian student body, offers the most desirable training environment for our Indian evangelists.

2. The present teaching staff includes some Christian Reformed missionaries and workers which assures a Reformed emphasis in the instruction given.

3. Our desire to use the services of this school necessarily obligates us to some financial support for its continued maintenance and giving needed assistance to Indian students we send there.

F. THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIVE CHURCHES BE UNDERTAKEN FORTHWITH.

1. The Board's report to the Synod of 1952 indicates that conditions exist which favor this;

2. There are places on the field which are approaching the point at which they will have adequate numbers and leadership to be organized into congregations;

3. This would be a great psychological boost to the members of such churches and their leaders.

G. THAT THE PREDOMINANT WHITE-MAN COMPLEXION OF THE CHURCH AT REHOBOTH BE ALTERED TO CONFORM TO THE NATIVE CHURCH TYPE.

1. The indigenous method does not envision a permanent stay of a white membership in a church organization;

2. Such churches constitute a direct hindrance to the development of a native leadership in the church;

3. The white workers should be willing to accept possible hardships such might entail for them, so that native Christians may advance.

H. THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO ORDAIN QUALIFIED INDIANS TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

1. There are a number of interpreters and native preachers who are rather mature, who have the confidence of the missionaries, and who are eager to have a more direct role in the evangelization of their people.

2. Some, if not all, of them have had sufficient training to serve as pastors to their people.

3. The native Churches to be organized will be needing pastors.

4. This will greatly enhance their prestige among their people, and be a great inspiration to the native Christians.

5. This will hasten the day when the white missionaries can hand over leadership responsibilities to Indians.

I. THAT THE MEDICAL WORK BE CONTINUED ALONG THESE LINES:

1. The policy of having the Indians make substantial payments for their medical care be continued and progressively applied;

2. The present capacity and facilities of the hospital be maintained, except where State standards demand adjustments;
3. Greater attention be given to the training of Indian nurses;
4. The service be broadened by out-station clinics and visits by members of the medical staff.

J. THAT THE EDUCATIONAL WORK AT REHOBOTH BE CONTINUED AND PATTERNED ALONG THESE LINES:

1. That ways and means be devised whereby the schools shall make greater and more direct contributions to the evangelistic program of the Mission, such as the teaching of Bible in Navajo.
2. Concern must be given to make the courses of study more relevant to the needs of the Indians;
3. There be continued increases in tuition schedules;
4. That parental interest and support be fostered by the formation of school societies as advocated by the Principal

K. THAT THE WORK AT ZUNI BE GOVERNED BY THESE CONSIDERATIONS:

1. That our Mission staff make more personal and more intensive efforts to use the Zuni language in their evangelistic and educational ministries.
  - a. The same reasons as above advanced for the learning and use of the Navajo language apply here.
  - b. The study of Zuni shall be a required subject in the school so that the children are equipped to read and write their own language.
  - c. Instructions in the Bible shall *also* be given in the Zuni language in the school and in the chapel.
  - d. Increased use of the Zuni language shall be introduced in the religious services and in the evangelistic witness, as the natives are challenged by the Gospel in their own tongue.
2. That our evangelistic endeavors be given primacy and prominence with the erection of a suitable chapel; that the building be in native style, located away from the school, and that native co-operation be secured in planning and erecting it, all with a view to having the Zuni Christians progressively achieve the indigenous goals.
3. That the school, which to date has far outdistanced and overshadowed our evangelistic work, be henceforth governed by the following policies:
  - a. That it make greater and more direct contributions to the evangelistic goals of the Mission, i.e., a native Church;
  - b. That its staff be less sensitive to probable tribal reactions, as it realizes that the use of the Gospel involves a "calling out" activity;

c. That commencing September 1953, tuition rates shall be fixed at the rate of \$10.00 per pupil per year; the consequent modifications and increases being made by General Conference.

*Grounds:*

(1) General Conference has twice recommended the charging of tuition to the Zuni staff;

(2) This policy will bring the school closer to the Zunis and contribute measurably to the indigenous goals;

(3) Zuni parents can well afford to pay tuition, since their average income is reliably reported as being around \$1400 annually, which is considerably higher than that of the average Navajo family;

(4) The possible withdrawal of some students — which fears have been voiced repeatedly by our Zuni staff, because of this charging of tuition — will reveal the real secular interests of Zuni parents so doing;

(5) The withdrawal of students from such kind of families will enable the school to lose its more pronounced pagan character, and be a means to strengthen the evangelistic impact of the Mission.

L. THAT ALL FURTHER EXPANSION BE IN TERMS OF ESTABLISHING THE INDIGENOUS CHURCH AND IN FURTHERING INDIGENOUS KINGDOM ACTIVITY, WITH NO FURTHER INCREASES IN WHITE PERSONNEL AND BUILDINGS OR FINANCES FROM THE SENDING CHURCH.

(This recommendation is qualified by recommendation K-2, which deals with the possible construction of a chapel at Zuni).

1. Only such procedures will advance indigenous policies on the Indian field;

2. Our present building facilities are most adequate for undertaking a vigorous evangelistic ministry on the Indian field;

3. The present staff of 12 ordained missionaries, some 40 white workers, together with some 20 Indian employees, constitutes a sizeable working force already;

4. Already more than half of the total Mission budget is expended on this field;

5. The Synod of 1950 defined the condition of "status quo" as no further expansion of personnel and/or buildings. (Acts, Art. 127, P. 55)

M. THAT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE BE ACCORDED THE AUTHORITY AND RESPECT IT RIGHTFULLY DESERVES.

1. The Board must place the General Conference on a par with the other existing conferences in dealing with its problems, finances, and the like.

a. For the sake of the work, our missionaries must have our every confidence and trust;

b. Mere proximity to the Home office should not subject the Indian field to all sorts of controls, not imposed on the other Mission fields;

c. Funds for the field shall be expended by the General Conference through its own Treasurer.

2. The Conference must itself become aware of its functions, dignity, and authority.

a. It has oversight of all the work done on the field, the evangelistic, medical, and educational, and its decisions are binding, unless the Board rules otherwise;

b. It deals directly with local conferences and reports directly to the Board;

c. Through its Executive Secretary and Executive Committee it shall give greater impetus to the advancement of indigenous policies;

d. The Conference must strive for a greater unity of spirit and purpose among the individual missionaries;

e. The Conference serves the Board with advice respecting appointments, transfers, places of assignment, etc.

3. With this proposed setup, we urge the discontinuance of the Board's practice of sending annual "inspection committees" to the Indian field.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Synod approve the summarized statements on Evangelism;

2. That Synod approve the summarized statements on Medical Work;

3. That Synod determine which policy of education shall govern our Mission endeavors — that advocated by the Majority or by the Minority, submitted in our previous report, (Acts 1952, Supplement 7, pp. 207-225) and summarized in this report, Section I, C;

4. That Synod adopt the material in Section II (Regulations) governing the relationships of Church to Board, Missionaries, Nationals, and Native Converts;

5. That Synod adopt these recommendations respecting our New Mexico field;

a. That our Mission staff make more personal and more intensive efforts to learn the Navajo language;

b. That the Navajo language be taught in the schools, and be used to a greater extent in evangelistic endeavors;

c. That an adult literacy program be undertaken at once, in cooperation with the Wycliffe translators;

d. That greater use be made of the services of Indians in our evangelistic and other Mission activities;

e. That the Cook School be used for the training of suitable Indians for evangelistic service, and that appropriate financial support be incorporated in the Budget therefor;

f. That we proceed at once to the organization of native Churches where conditions warrant;

g. That the predominant white-man complexion of the Church at Rehoboth be altered to conform to the native church type;

h. That immediate steps be taken to ordain qualified Indians to the Gospel ministry;

i. That the medical work be continued with the existing facilities, with increases in out-station visits, care-costs payments by Indians, and training of native nurses.

j. That the educational work at Rehoboth make more positive contributions to our evangelistic program, to the needs of the Indian students, and to fostering greater participation and support by Navajo parents.

k. That the Zuni Mission staff make more personal and more intensive use of the Zuni language in their evangelistic and educational ministries;

l. That the co-operation of the Zuni Christians be enlisted in the construction of a suitable chapel for the clear evangelistic witness in their midst;

m. That the school at Zuni commence in Sept. 1953 to fix tuition rates for its pupils, and become a greater power for making an evangelical impact;

n. That all further expansion be in terms of establishing the indigenous church and in furthering indigenous Kingdom activity, with no further increases in white personnel and buildings or finances from the sending Church;

o. That the General Conference assume the position of authority and responsibility it rightfully deserves, in managing its internal affairs, and in its dealings with the Board.

We invoke the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for the members of Synod as they deliberate and decide on these important Mission matters.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. J. GRITTER, *Chairman*

REV. H. PETROELJE, *Secretary*

REV. J. VAN BRUGGEN

REV. H. R. BOER

REV. A. H. SMIT

REV. H. J. EVENHOUSE

MR. H. BRATT

*NOTE:* Mr. H. Bratt was unable to serve fully on the committee this year, due to illness.

The Committee has appointed the Chairman to represent the Majority position on Education and the Secretary to represent the Minority position.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER  
ARTICLE 70 SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM  
OR RETAINED IN THE CHURCH ORDER**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN :

I. *Original Mandate* — Mr. Peter L. Van Dyken sent an overture to the Synod of 1947 requesting "That Article 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".

The Synod of 1947 adopted the following recommendation which states our mandate: "Your Advisory Committee is not prepared to either affirm or deny the argumentation offered for the removal of Art. 70 from the Church Order. However, this committee is convinced that the removal or retention is in need of study. Hence, your committee recommends that Synod appoint a committee to investigate whether Art. 70 should be removed or retained in the Church Order. In case this study committee should decide in favor of its retention the committee be further instructed to consider a possible revision and clarification of this article to remove all ambiguity.

*Grounds:*

"1. This article of our Church Order is increasingly becoming a dead letter. It should either be removed or observed by the Churches. Either of these requires the study for which we ask.

"2. The relation of marriage to the Church is in need of study in these days when the sacredness of marriage is so sorely lost sight of."

II. *Recommendations of Our Committee in 1949.*

A. That Article 70 of our Church Order be changed to read as follows:

"The Consistories shall do all in their power to see to it that marriage on the part of those under their supervision, and the solemnization of it, shall be in keeping with the teaching and principles of Scripture".

b. That the parenthetical note "(cf. Art. 70 of the Church Order)" be dropped from the statement found at the beginning of the form for the Solemnization of Marriage.

*Ground:* There is no point to this reference if the proposed revision is adopted.

C. That if Points A and B are adopted, Synod inform our sister Churches of this revision of Art. 70.

The Synod of 1949 referred our report back to our Committee with the instruction to confer with churches having the same Church Order and especially with the Gereformeerde Kerken van Nederland and the Gereformeerde Kerk of South Africa, our sister Churches.

### III. *Reply of Sister Churches.*

a. The Reformed Church of the Netherlands replied as follows:

“De Synode besloot met volle vrijmoedigheid Uw vraag in gunstigen zin te beantwoorden. Zij deelt U mede, dat er bij haar tegen de voorgenomen wijziging van artikel 70 van de kerkorde geen enkele bedenking bestaat; dat zij integendeel zich verheugt over het feit, dat de Christian Reformed Church door het aan brengen van deze wijziging, er tegen blijkt te willen waken, dat een artikel van kerkorde zou worden tot een doode letter; en dat zij de Christian Reformed Church genade en wijsheid toebidt om, naar de nieuwe formuleering van artikel 70 der kerkorde, te waken en te blijven waken voor het Christelijk karakter van het huwelijk”.

B. Our sister Church in South Africa replied as follows:

1. “U skrywe insake Art. 70 K.O. ontvang. Ons het dit verwys na die Teologiese professore om daarop in te gaan en aan die Deputaatskap vir Korrespondensie te rapporteer, vir rapport aan e.k. Sinode”. Accordingly an answer would be sent later.

2. Later reply reads as follows: “Skrapping Art. 70 Kerkorde: Hieroor is besluit:

“(1) Aangesien 'n hersiening van die hele Kerkorde moontlik ter hand geneem sal word, kan die hersiening van Art. 70 ook in hierdie groter verband onderneem word as dit nodig mag blyk.

“(2) Intussen bly wat ons betref, die teenswoordige redaksie gehandhaaf en die Sinode stuur aan die Geref. kerk in Nederland en Chr. Geref. Kerk in die U.S.A. afskrifte van sy besluit insake die beskrywingspunt in verband met die inrigting van troudienste.”

The reply from South African continues by informing us of a proposed order of worship discussed with a view to services for the solemnization of marriage. However, no final action was taken by the Synod of South Africa on that matter. Further information given does not have a direct bearing on our problem.

### IV. *Recommendations*

A. That this entire matter now be placed in the hands of the Church Order Revision Committee for their consideration and further recommendation.

#### *Grounds:*

1. Since the appointment of the above mentioned Committee the matter under consideration has properly become a part of its task.

2. This is also in harmony with the advice given by our sister Church in South Africa.

b. Relative to the change or amendment of Article 68 of the General Rules of 1881 re the ecclesiastical confirmation of marriage as requested by Classis Hackensack and Classis Hudson (see Overtures 19 and 25, Acts of Synod 1951, pp. 455, 458 referred to our committee):

1. That this matter be held in abeyance until final action is taken with regard to Art. 70 of the Church Order.

*Grounds:*

a. The proposed revision of Art. 70 if adopted would mean that the rule in question would be obsolete.

b. The matter can safely wait since the danger pointed up by the two overtures are covered and counteracted by the 1944 decision anent the evil of mixed marriages.

2. That the above mentioned overtures be referred to the Church Order Revision Committee for their consideration and further recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

B. VAN SOMEREN

J. VANDER PLOEG

A. JABAAY

JOHN KUIPER

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON PLANNING**

**ESTEEMED BRETHERN:**

The Sunday School Planning Committee hereby reports that during the past year, as heretofore, we have followed in the main the outlines in the Uniform Bible Lesson Series prepared by the National Sunday School Association. Some slight changes that were deemed necessary were made. It may be of interest to know that the long-range plan is as follows: 1955 — 1st Quarter, Luke; 2nd, O.T.; 3rd, O.T.; 4th, Paul's Missionary Journey; 1956 — 1st, John; 2nd, O.T.; 3rd, O.T.; 4th, Christian Living; 1957 — 1st, Synoptics; 2nd, Early Church Leaders, 3rd, O.T.; 4rd, Little Known Bible Characters.

The topics to be treated in 1954 with their respective Scripture settings are:

**1st Quarter**

- Jesus Introduced and Anointed — Mark 1:1-13
- Jesus Teaching and Healing — Mark 1:21-45
- Jesus Forgiving Sins — Mark 2:1-12
- Jesus, Friend and Saviour — Mark 2:12-28
- Jesus Teaching by the Seaside — Mark 4:1-36
- Touching His Garment — Mark 5:22-43
- Disastrous Revelry — Mark 6:14-29
- Persistence Rewarded — Mark 7:24-37
- Frustrated Disciples — Mark 9:1-29
- The Cost of Discipleship — Mark 10:1-45
- Silencing His Critics — Mark 12:13-44
- The Future Foretold — Mark 13:1-37
- Jesus Betrayed — Mark 14:10-45

**2nd Quarter**

- The Trial of Jesus — Mark 14:53-72
- Jesus Takes the Sinner's Place — Mark 15:1-47
- The Risen Christ — Mark 16:1-20
- The Early Life of Moses — Exodus 1-2
- God Calls Moses — Exodus 3-4
- Moses and the Magicians — Exodus 7-10
- The Night of the Passover — Exodus 11-12
- Crossing the Red Sea — Exodus 13-14
- The Ten Commandments — Exodus 19-20
- The Golden Calf — Exodus 32:1-35
- God's Law Concerning Strong Drink — Leviticus 10:1-20
- Finding Fault with Leaders — Numbers 12:1-16

**3rd Quarter**

- The Report of the Spies — Number 13-14
- Experiences in the Wilderness — Numbers 20-21
- Balaam and Balak — Numbers 22-24
- Rahab and the Spies — Deut. 34, Joshua 1-2

The Crossing of the Jordan — Joshua 3-4  
The Fall of Jericho — Joshua 6:1-27  
Defeat at Ai — Joshua 7-8  
The Folly of Compromise — Joshua 9  
A Miracle in the Heavens — Joshua 10  
Joshua's Last Campaign — Joshua 11-12  
Caleb's Reward — Number 13-15  
The Cities of Refuge — Numbers 35  
Joshua's Final Challenge — Joshua 24

#### 4th Quarter

The Bible Which Jesus Used — Luke 4  
How Our Bible Came to Be — II Pet. 1  
The Whole Bible as God's Word — II Tim. 3  
The Books of the Law — Deut. 31-32  
The Bible, our Temperance Textbook — Ps. 119  
The Bible and God's People — Deut. 1-3  
The Bible Story of a Wise Man — Job 1-2  
The Poetry of the Bible — Psalms 22-24  
Prophecy in the Bible — Jeremiah 18  
Christ the Theme of the Bible — John 5  
The Written and the Living Word — John 1  
Why the Angels Sang — Luke 2  
The Holy Spirit and the Bible — I Cor. 2, I Thess. 2

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. BRATT, *Secretary*

## KOREAN MATERIAL RELIEF

*To the Synod of 1953.*

ESTEEMED BROTHERS:

The Grand Rapids Deacons' Conference wishes to address the following communication to your body. This is done after consultation with the Korean Spiritual Relief Committee.

About two years ago our Conference assumed responsibility for Korean Material Relief. At that time the Holland-Zeeland Conference had been mandated by Synod to care for Hungarian Relief (cf. Acts, 1950, p. 376), and suggested that our Grand Rapids Conference take responsibility for Korean Material Relief.

In 1951 we conducted a denominational clothing drive. Over 30 tons of clothing were sent to our needy Reformed brethren in Korea. This entailed an expense of over \$20,000 which our Conference raised denominationally in 1951. In 1952 we conducted a hurried drive in December in the Grand Rapids-Holland area, and 23 tons of clothing was shipped out. Tentative plans have been drawn up for sectional clothing drives throughout the denomination in the future.

Hospital needs have also claimed our attention. Every month over \$100 worth of medicines, vitamin tablets, drugs, etc. are sent to the Gospel Hospital in Pusan. For a time we sent \$500 a month for support of the doctors and nurses. Our present lack of funds prohibit this support at the present time. Enclosed find a financial statement covering the two years of our activities.

The clothing has been distributed among the Reformed churches in Korea, and we keep in constant touch with the Relief Committee of that denomination.

We now wish to make the following request of Synod:

A. *That our Grand Rapids Deacons' Conference, with its Board, be designated as the organization responsible for Korean Material Relief.*

*Grounds:*

1. Our Korean brethren, together with Rev. Sutton, have strongly recommended that all monies and goods be handled by one central organization in the United States. They have discouraged sending funds through various different channels. Our Conference would then be the central channel for distribution and would be in position for audits, reviews, etc.

2. The Korean Spiritual Relief Committee, appointed by Synod, has advised this action. They are not ready to assume the work of *material* relief at this time.

3. Our Conference, due to its two years in this work, has some knowledge of the personnel, organization, problems connected with the work.

B. *That Korean Material Relief be placed on the list of accredited causes recommended to deaconates for support.*

*Grounds:*

1. There is no doubt but that the need will continue for the coming year. These suffering brethren in Christ continue to cry for help. Their cry calls for united action in Christian mercy.

2. Such specific recognition would identify our organization and its work. There has been no end of confusion among donors and Church treasurers between our work and that of the Korean Spiritual Relief. Such identification would clarify this situation.

3. This work should be of broader scope than a local conference. This presents an opportunity for denominational cooperation, and general compassion and mercy beyond any local bounds.

4. At present we have no proper way of approaching the deacons of our Churches for help in the financing of clothing drives, seeking funds for medicines, hospital supplies, etc. Through ignorance the Conference made a request of all Consistories in 1951, and the response was excellent. But we did overstep our bounds at that time of emergency. If we would be placed on the list of accredited causes we could appeal to all our Churches for assistance in time of need.

C. *That Rev. B. Pekelder, our advisor, represent our Conference before your Committees if any further information is required.*

Humbly submitted,

G. GERRITSEN, *President*

G. GRITTER, *Secretary*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**GRAND RAPIDS DIACONAL CONFERENCE**  
**YEAR 1951**

RECEIPTS:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Balance brought forward (Spanish Relief) ..... | \$ 560.54 |
| Korean Receipts:                               |           |
| January .....                                  | none      |
| February .....                                 | 681.65    |
| March .....                                    | 454.89    |
| April .....                                    | 376.07    |
| May .....                                      | 1,130.31  |
| June .....                                     | 192.38    |
| July .....                                     | 415.00    |
| August .....                                   | 511.82    |
| September .....                                | 61.46     |
| October .....                                  | 3,676.98  |

|                                      |           |                    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| November .....                       | 3,058.11  |                    |
| December .....                       | 5,438.90  |                    |
| <b>Total Receipts</b> .....          |           | <b>\$16,558.14</b> |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>                |           |                    |
| Spanish .....                        | \$ 261.21 |                    |
| <b>Korean:</b>                       |           |                    |
| Medical supplies and food .....      | 872.80    |                    |
| Shipping expense .....               | 203.89    |                    |
| New clothing .....                   | 721.33    |                    |
| Spiritual relief .....               | 717.35    |                    |
| Hungarian relief .....               | 100.00    |                    |
| Misc. expense .....                  | 67.50     |                    |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b> .....     |           | <b>\$ 2,944.08</b> |
| Bank Balance December 31, 1951 ..... |           | <b>\$13,614.06</b> |

**YEAR 1952**

|   |             |                    |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>                        |             |                    |
| Balance brought forward .....           | \$13,614.06 |                    |
| January .....                           | 7,129.17    |                    |
| February .....                          | 781.05      |                    |
| March .....                             | 264.25      |                    |
| April .....                             | 389.86      |                    |
| May .....                               | 478.31      |                    |
| June .....                              | 1,477.32    |                    |
| July .....                              | 616.61      |                    |
| August .....                            | none        |                    |
| September .....                         | 151.71      |                    |
| October .....                           | 148.90      |                    |
| November .....                          | 239.36      |                    |
| December .....                          | 2,753.68    |                    |
| <b>Total Receipts</b> .....             |             | <b>\$28,044.28</b> |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>                   |             |                    |
| Medicine and drugs (Hospital) .....     | \$ 1,920.52 |                    |
| Rev. Floyd E. Hamilton (Hospital) ..... | 3,000.00    |                    |
| Shipping Costs .....                    | 15,218.65   |                    |
| New clothing .....                      | 2,400.35    |                    |
| Disbursed to Spiritual Relief .....     | 779.44      |                    |
| Misc. expense .....                     | 38.68       |                    |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b> .....        |             | <b>\$23,357.64</b> |
| Bank Balance December 31, 1952 .....    |             | <b>\$ 4,686.64</b> |

1952 Books audited and found to be in good order  
 by: Franklin A. De Vas  
 Peter J. Kalkman

Gilbert Van Dyke, Treas.

## KOREAN REFORMED SPIRITUAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

DEAR BRETHREN:

The undersigned committee have again been privileged during the past year to serve as the denomination's agency for the collection and distribution of funds for the spiritual relief of our Reformed brethren in Korea. We are grateful to God for the generosity of our people to this cause and the good which it appears to be doing in the midst of Korean devastation. The contributions have been such that we have been able to send \$1500.00 monthly, and thus the spiritual relief work has been put on a somewhat stable basis. These funds are used for the following stipulated causes: the Korea Theological Seminary; evangelism when conducted under the auspices of the Church; subsidizing of ministers and evangelists; religious publications and books; rebuilding of churches (to a limited extent).

By permission of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions, Rev. Robert Sutton inspected the Korean relief work on behalf of this committee before taking up his work in Japan. Due to certain irregularities which took place in Korea, there have been changes in the personnel of our contacts. Full information on this matter is available to Synod upon request. The Rev. Dwight R. Malsbary, Orthodox Presbyterian missionary, is our liaison treasurer for changing American funds into Korean. But all disbursements are made through a Central Committee composed of twelve outstanding leaders of the Korean Church. Rev. Sutton writes of them, "They are men of mature judgment, integrity, and most of all, a desire is in their hearts to make Christ's Gospel known. We can put complete confidence in their decisions and activities and support them to the utmost."

As to the reception of our aid by the Koreans, much could be said, but we will limit ourselves to one paragraph of Rev. Sutton's admirable report. He writes: "Enough can never be said to express the appreciation of the Korean people to our churches. Their expressions of gratitude were always made with much emotion and tenderness. It was most heart-warming to see the youngest to the oldest, though handicapped by the language barrier, expressing their deep admiration for the Christians in America. It is distressing that this admiration cannot be expressed in visible manner to everyone in the American Churches who so graciously contributed of their earnings. Only eternity will tell what has been expressed in the Korean language and tears for the beloved in America."

We call Synod's special attention to the fact that a financial report on material relief will be forthcoming from the Grand Rapids diocese.

According to the rule of rotation adopted by a recent Synod for committees appointed directly by Synod, some rotation will be due soon on this committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the work be continued.
2. That, as in previous years, the Korean Reformed Spiritual Relief Committee be recommended to the Churches for one or more offerings.
3. That the Committee be granted permission to allocate \$2,000.00 from the funds on hand for the publication of a commentary on the New Testament by Rev. Yune Sun Park of the Korea Theological Seminary. (Rev. Park is a graduate of Westminster Theological Seminary, mastered the Dutch language in order to make use of Dutch commentaries, is highly spoken of by all, and is warmly recommended by Dr. C. Van Til.)

We consider it our solemn privilege and duty to commend this cause warmly to Synod and the Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. HOOGSTRA, *President*

J. H. KROMMINGA, *Secretary*

E. VERMAAT, *Treasurer*

O. BREEN

A. NABER

KOREAN SPIRITUAL RELIEF

Balance on hand, March 1, 1952..... \$ 741.47

RECEIPTS

|                       |           |             |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| March, 1952 .....     | \$ 709.40 |             |
| April, 1952 .....     | 1,697.03  |             |
| May, 1952 .....       | 2,251.41  |             |
| June, 1952 .....      | 1,693.94  |             |
| July, 1952 .....      | 2,583.50  |             |
| August, 1952 .....    | 1,219.24  |             |
| September, 1952 ..... | 1,295.93  |             |
| October, 1952 .....   | 1,373.93  |             |
| November, 1952 .....  | 1,588.71  |             |
| December, 1952 .....  | 2,219.55  |             |
| January, 1953 .....   | 9,477.72  |             |
| February, 1953 .....  | 2,972.13  |             |
|                       |           | \$29,082.49 |
| Total Receipts.....   |           | \$29,823.96 |

**DISBURSEMENTS**

|                                     |           |             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Korean Orphan Fund.....             | \$ 96.66  |             |
| Korean Relief .....                 | 11,400.00 |             |
| Chaplain Oostenink .....            | 75.80     |             |
| Schreur Printers .....              | 17.65     |             |
| Rev. Robert Sutton.....             | 200.00    |             |
| Korean Material Relief.....         | 423.64    |             |
| Chr. Ref. Publishing House.....     | 37.53     |             |
| Miscellaneous .....                 | 7.60      |             |
|                                     |           | \$12,258.88 |
| Balance on hand, March 1, 1953..... |           | \$17,565.08 |

**KOREAN ORPHAN FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

|                       |             |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| March, 1952 .....     | \$ 1,270.00 |             |
| April, 1952 .....     | 740.11      |             |
| May, 1952 .....       | 125.00      |             |
| June, 1952 .....      | 480.00      |             |
| July, 1952 .....      | 100.00      |             |
| August, 1952 .....    | 0.00        |             |
| September, 1952 ..... | 5.00        |             |
| October, 1952 .....   | 0.00        |             |
| November, 1952 .....  | 207.42      |             |
| December, 1952 .....  | 120.00      |             |
| January, 1953 .....   | 239.78      |             |
| February, 1953 .....  | 175.25      |             |
|                       |             | \$ 3,462.56 |

**DISBURSEMENTS**

|                                     |  |             |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Korean Christian Relief Comm.....   |  | \$ 3,000.00 |
|                                     |  |             |
| Balance on hand, March 1, 1953..... |  | \$ 462.56   |

EDWARD VERMAAT, *Treasurer.*

I have audited the books of the Treasurer of this account from March 1, 1952 to March 1, 1953, and found them to be correct and in good order as per above financial statement.

THEODORE HOEKSEMA.

REPORT NO. 20

THE CANADIAN RELIEF FUND

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

It is with gratitude in our heart that we may report a substantial balance in our fund. The financial report shows that receipts and expenses balance one another rather well for the year 1952.

We hope that Synod will again recommend our Canadian Relief fund to the various diaconates for support. The support is still needed as the itemized expenses reveal. May we continue to extend the helping hand to those in need.

Herewith a statement of finances is presented:

RECEIPTS:

|                                  |             |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Synod Treasurer .....            | \$ 3,928.49 |             |
| Classis Chicago North .....      | 295.15      |             |
| Classis Can. Pacific .....       | 22.89       |             |
| Classis Sioux Center .....       | 94.76       |             |
| Bellflower III, California ..... | 99.35       |             |
| Chatham Diaconate .....          | 150.00      |             |
| Chr. Ref. Ch. Englw. 1 .....     | 162.13      |             |
| Chr. Ref. Wyoming Park .....     | 389.63      |             |
| Chr. Ref. Kalamazoo III .....    | 57.30       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Plymouth Heights ..... | 47.15       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Oakdale Park .....     | 124.85      |             |
| Chr. Ref. Evergreen Park .....   | 5.00        |             |
| Chr. Ref. Vesper, Misc. ....     | 53.70       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Roseland III .....     | 50.00       |             |
| Chr. Ref. South Hol. Beth. ....  | 50.00       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Godwin Heights .....   | 53.11       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Trinity Jenison .....  | 31.00       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Orange City II .....   | 136.46      |             |
| Chr. Ref. Sibley, Iowa .....     | 38.62       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Leighton, Iowa .....   | 27.09       |             |
| Chr. Ref. Sully, Iowa .....      | 125.80      |             |
| Ladies Aid—Noordeloos .....      | 10.00       |             |
| Ladies Aid—Orange City I .....   | 25.00       |             |
| Interest .....                   | 70.91       |             |
| Total Receipts .....             |             | \$ 6,048.42 |
| Balance January 1, 1952 .....    |             | 4,208.26    |
| Grand Total .....                |             | \$10,256.68 |

EXPENDITURES:

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Orangeville ..... | \$ 26.13 |
| Kitchener .....   | 72.51    |
| Lindsay .....     | 207.07   |
| Lethbridge .....  | 391.94   |
| Cobden .....      | 460.21   |
| Cornwall .....    | 134.99   |
| Renfrew .....     | 36.29    |

|                                 |          |             |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Brockville .....                | 459.38   |             |
| Kingston .....                  | 288.62   |             |
| Barrie .....                    | 51.70    |             |
| Forester Falls .....            | 90.06    |             |
| Chatham .....                   | 1,008.62 |             |
| Owen Sound .....                | 223.76   |             |
| Brampton .....                  | 190.35   |             |
| Essex .....                     | 105.15   |             |
| Martintown .....                | 9.51     |             |
| Holland Marsh .....             | 183.35   |             |
| Iroquois .....                  | 91.52    |             |
| Toronto .....                   | 117.65   |             |
| Vancouver .....                 | 176.36   |             |
| Ottawa .....                    | 79.62    |             |
| Hanbury .....                   | 3.95     |             |
| Peterboro .....                 | 35.70    |             |
| Antrim .....                    | 166.74   |             |
| Miscell, Exchange, Stamps ..... | 68.09    |             |
| Total .....                     |          | \$ 4,629.80 |
| Hospital Bills .....            |          | 1,437.79    |
| Total .....                     |          | \$ 6,067.09 |
| Balance December 31, 1952 ..... |          | \$ 4,189.59 |
| Grand Total .....               |          | \$10,256.68 |

Chatham Diaconate,  
Harm Riepman, Treas.

Audited by: A. Bisschop  
A. Koene

Treasurer for 1953: A. Bisschop, 104 Edgar Str., Chatham, Ontario,  
Canada.

## REPORT NO. 21

### GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR HOME MISSIONS

#### ESTEEMED BRETHERN:

The General Committee for Home Missions, which met on February 4 and following days of the current year, herewith submits its annual report to your honorable body for synodical review and action.

Again we can record that blessings have been granted. Efforts expended have not been in vain. At the same time the urgency of all missionary endeavor, and especially so in the Home Field, continues. Except we in accordance with the will of the Master are minded to make our "impact upon the secular world of today and win it for Christ", that same secular world will stifle the spiritual life, suppress the witness and dim the vision which must be ours. To carry out this program of witnessing, the wise distribution of men and money, the procurement of additional missionaries and finances, and the selection and opening of new fields are recurring problems. In the measure that we are one in the fellowship of the Spirit, of faith, of prayer and of purpose, may we expect to succeed.

As in recent years the membership both of the General Committee and the Executive Committee has undergone changes. This is in large part due to the rapid turnover of pastorates. For the new members on both committees a period of orientation is needed to become conversant with the several fields. This similarly is true of the recurring problems that must be considered.

Members who have faithfully served on the Executive Committee and left us in the course of the year are the Revs. M. Bolt, P. Y. De Jong, L. Voskuil, L. Van Laar, J. Kenbeek and Mr. B. Brouwer. These vacancies have been filled by the Revs. J. Guichelaar, H. Dykhousé, G. Kok, J. Schuring, R. Wildschut and Mr. F. Oldemulders.

The Executive Committee meets monthly. Meetings of the various sub-committees are scheduled according to need.

For the convenience of Synod our report is submitted under the customary following heads:

#### PART I

#### PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

| CLASSES                 | MEMBERS             | ALTERNATES             |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Alberta .....           | Rev. J. De Jong     | Rev. R. Star           |
| California .....        | Rev. J. Hollebeek   | Rev. K. DeWaal Malefyt |
| Chatham .....           | Rev. J. Rook        | Rev. J. Vande Kieft    |
| Chicago North .....     | Rev. H. Baker       |                        |
| Chicago South .....     | Rev. B. Van Someren | Rev. D. Hoitenga       |
| Eastern Ontario .....   | Rev. L. Van Laar    | Rev. H. Moes           |
| Grand Rapids East ..... | Rev. H. Dykhousé    | Rev. F. Van Houten     |

| CLASSES            | MEMBERS             | ALTERNATES            |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Grand Rapids South | Rev. J. H. Piersma  | Rev. J. A. Mulder     |
| Grand Rapids West  | Rev. E. Masselink   | Rev. B. Pekelder      |
| Hackensack         | Rev. W. Heynen      | Rev. C. Holtrop       |
| Hamilton           | Rev. A. Persenaire  | Rev. C. Spoelhof      |
| Holland            | Rev. G. Kok         | Rev. W. Hekman        |
| Hudson             | Rev. O. Holtrop     | Rev. H. Sonnema       |
| Kalamazoo          | Rev. J. Schuring    | Rev. G. H. Vande Riet |
| Minnesota North    | Rev. J. Medendorp   | Rev. W. Ackerman      |
| Minnesota South    | Rev. A. H. Selles   | Rev. H. Vanderaa      |
| Muskegon           | Rev. R. Wildschut   | Rev. D. Mellema       |
| Orange City        | Rev. G. Postna      | Rev. W. Prins         |
| Ostfriesland       | Rev. J. Olthoff     | Rev. L. Bazuin        |
| Pacific            | Rev. J. R. Van Dyke | Rev. W. Verwolf       |
| Pella              | Rev. H. Vander Kam  | Rev. S. J. De Vries   |
| Sioux Center       | Rev. W. Vande Kieft | Rev. J. C. Ribbens    |
| Wisconsin          | Rev. W. Meyer       | Rev. E. Ubels         |
| Zeeland            | Rev. J. Guichelaar  | Rev. J. Breuker       |

| MEMBERS-AT-LARGE   | ALTERNATES         | TERMS     |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Mr. W. Hofstra     | Mr. B. Smit        | 1950-1953 |
| Mr. T. Hoeksema    | Mr. R. Dykema      | 1951-1954 |
| Mr. F. Oldemulders | Mr. H. Rottschafer | 1952-1955 |

Since the term of Mr. W. Hofstra expires at this time, a member-at-large and his alternate must be elected for the term 1953-1956.

The Executive Committee presently comprises the following members: The Revs. H. Dykhouse, J. Guichelaar, G. Kok, E. Masselink, J. Piersma, J. Schuring, R. Wildschut and the Messrs. W. Hofstra, T. Hoeksema and F. Oldemulders, with the Secretary, the Rev. H. Blystra, as member ex-officio. Missionary-at-Large J. M. Vande Kieft serves on the Executive Committee in an advisory capacity.

Subsequent to the departure of the Revs. M. Bolt and L. Voskuil, the Revs. G. Kok and J. Guichelaar served respectively as President and Vice-President, and Mr. W. Hofstra discharged the duties of Treasurer.

The subcommittee for Church Extension comprises the brethren: E. Masselink, J. Piersma, J. Schuring, G. Kok and H. Blystra.

The subcommittee having charge of the Fund for Needy Churches includes the brethren: H. Dykhouse, J. Guichelaar, R. Wildschut, and H. Blystra.

To the subcommittee for finances belong the brethren: W. Hofstra, T. Hoeksema, F. Oldemulders and H. Blystra.

Moreover, our Missionary-at-Large, the Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, serves in an advisory capacity on these several committees.

The General Committee for Home Missions convened for its annual meeting on February 4, 5 and 6 of the current year. At that time the following officers were elected:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | Rev. G. Kok        |
| Vice-President | Rev. J. Guichelaar |
| Treasurer      | Mr. W. Hofstra     |

Again we were permitted free of charge the use of the convenient facilities of the Bates Street Christian Reformed Church for our monthly and annual meetings. In behalf of Synod your Committee has conveyed a letter of appreciation to the Consistory.

## PART II GENERAL INFORMATION

In compliance with our divine mandate and the instructions of Synod, we have endeavored to sound forth the witness of Christ. The impelling urgency of this message among the millions who know not God as he has revealed himself in his Word and in the Son of his love, whose hope is stayed on the gods that are vain, and who by reason of these facts are without God and without hope, is apparent to all who are conversant with the secularistic and godless trends of our age. And it is well to be mindful of the fact that an age so conditioned poses serious perils to our own Church. This situation calls for much pastoral nurture as well as the strong scriptural witness: Thus saith the Lord. To the extent that we are an active, in every realm of life a witnessing Church shall we be able to maintain ourselves.

Have we promise of success? Indeed! Provided ours is the faith voiced by other saints, a faith which confides not in its own strength but "the Man of God's own choosing."

Upon request from the proper bodies, surveys were conducted with the intent that new congregations might come to birth. The significance of this assignment, whereby the Church's witness is established in new communities, inactive members are quickened, straying sheep are reclaimed, and the lost are sought, calls for co-operative appreciation; every member an evangelist.

Our radio evangelism through follow-up work, promoted by the Rev. Harold Dekker, points to possibilities of expansion. Here too advancement is contingent upon the support of our Churches.

The denominational mission activities, in behalf of our colored neighbors, give promise of fruitful labor as doors are opened.

The missionary staff in the United States was reduced by one of its members. Missionary R. De Groot, having served in the Chicago area for slightly more than four years, was led to accept the call to Creston, Grand Rapids. We shall miss this servant in our Home Mission endeavors; the more so since in his own words relations to the Committee "have ever been most cordial". Our force was augmented by the ordinations and acceptances of the Revs. Eugene Callender and Fred Klooster; the first continuing his labors among the people of his own race, and the latter remaining in his chosen field in the city of Urbana, Illinois.

The two service-pastors, the Revs. Harry Dykstra and Albert Bratt, have devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the spiritual ministry for

our youth in military service. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mulder have nobly provided the Christian home atmosphere in the service home at Alameda, California. And Mr. and Mrs. A. Bauman have been similarly occupied in Seattle, Washington.

In our Canadian field we had to forego the faithful services of Candidate A. De Jager. He had been engaged as stated supply in Southern Alberta. However, having been ordained, and having accepted a call to Taber, he remained in that area and the Canadian work. Mr. K. G. Togtema, under the direction of Missionary Albert Smit, is assisting for one year in the Ottawa, Ontario field, Canada's capitol.

Resources from the Fund for Needy Churches were administered in accordance with the rules set by Synod.

Names of the Dispersed and Non-Resident members were filed. The assistance of our missionaries or ministers was enlisted wherever feasible to make contact, admonish, and encourage Church attendance on the part of these members.

Reflecting upon the past year, we can again record that God has abundantly blessed. Ours was the opportunity to render service unto the Lord and his saints. And thus through its representatives that privilege was accorded unto our Church. May ours be the mindedness to promote the work of missions in the Home Field devotedly, sacrificially, prayerfully. Our will here to witness and to extend that witness to new areas has its source in and is obedience unto the glorious, the holy and the redemptive will of Him whose blood-bought Church we are. To that end may the indwelling Spirit of the Lord quicken our zeal, enlarge our vision and qualify each and all until ours is the higher service in the Church Triumphant.

### PART III CHURCH EXTENSION — U.S. FIELD

As in previous years the church extension activities in the United States are presented in the order of the various districts and the particular fields where our missionaries are occupied with the closely related and frequently interrelated church extension and evangelization endeavors.

#### 1. EASTERN DISTRICT.

a. New York City, N. Y. Here the activities of Missionary Eugene Callender presently are of major interest. Evidences accumulate that as new and renewed contacts are made by our missionary, Harlem promises to be a fruitful field of kingdom labor.

Bible classes were organized and the Y.M.C.A. engaged as a meeting place. However, as to time and place appointed for these group meetings the convenience of the Y.M.C.A. and its several activities must be reckoned with constantly. Needless to say, this situation hampered the work

as well as its development. The need of a building for our exclusive use, apparent from the outset, became more urgent as time went on. Many inquiries and investigations as to sites or building facilities in Harlem were made locally. In nearly every case reported it appeared that an investment of well over the \$100,000.00 mark would be needed.

Unquestionably as an answer to repeated prayer a suitable building of brick construction "ideally situated and reasonably priced" was discovered. The building, thirty feet wide and forty feet deep, having three stories and a basement, was offered for \$20,000.00. "This price is a giveaway for New York City." The General Committee at its annual meeting authorized both purchase and remodeling. There is a possibility that acceptable living quarters for the Callenders can be had in this same building. In that event the missionary will live among the people with whom he labors; an approved method for mission work.

Yet another evangelization project has been opened in New York. Word was received from our Paterson III Consistory that it had engaged Mr. Paul Szto for a one-year period to work among the Chinese in New York City. Mr. Szto, a graduate from Westminster Seminary, is presently studying in the East toward his doctor's degree. Both he and Mrs. Szto are members in full communion of Paterson III. Having requested license to exhort in our Eastern Classes he "was thoroughly examined by the joint committee of Classes Hackensack and Hudson and completely satisfied the committee with respect to his fine scholarly mind and his commitment to the Reformed faith."

"His work in New York has been largely concentrated on students and recent alumni, of which there are some 1500-2000. This was done with the purpose of exploring the possibilities of student work and at the same time exploring the entire field of missions among the thousands of Chinese in New York City." Hence Paterson III is in the midst of missions among the Chinese, and as a Home Mission project. For that reason this work was graciously brought to the attention of the General Committee for Home Missions.

It might be added that this work is in accord with the racial approach — a mission program which addresses itself to a socially homogeneous and integrated group — as recommended by the Committee which made a study-survey of the New York field.

The General Committee upon motion commended the Paterson III Consistory and the supporting congregation for its faith and vision to initiate this evangelization project among New York's Chinese for an exploratory period of one year.

b. Monsey, N. Y. under the shepherding of Missionary D. Van Halsema, has been exceptionally blessed during the past year. The Church which had well nigh ceased to exist so that "four years ago there was but one member's name on the books" has been organized

anew. The present membership "contains the names of fourteen families, forty-two communicant members and seventy-one souls. The house of worship has been remodeled, and needed facilities added. We share with the missionary and the members a sense of deep gratitude to God. We rejoice in the renewed gospel witness heard in Monsey. The more so since "the entire region stands open to the preaching of the gospel."

c. Wanamassa, N. J. has been assured a place on our denominational map. Here Missionary Paul Holtrop has entered upon kingdom labors in this new Eastern community. The chapel, now in process of construction and nearing completion, will provide opportunity to extend the work of evangelism in the community. Here too, as in so many kingdom endeavors, the laying of first foundations has not been free from discouragements. That experience fosters a spirit of daily dependence upon the Master-Builder and the imploration: "the work of our hands establish thou it."

d. Philadelphia, Pa., is presently under the care of Missionary Paul Holtrop. This additional responsibility, as well as care for our servicemen in the area, keeps our brother exceptionally busy. In view of the distance between his two fields, the arrangement is far from ideal. With that in mind the small but active and aggressive Philadelphia membership has requested the placement of a missionary. The Eastern Home Missions Board endorsed the petition and placed same before the General Committee for Home Missions at its annual meeting. Realizing that development of this field is contingent upon the placement of a missionary, the General Committee granted the petition. It was further decided that the Eastern Home Missions Board be requested to explore the possibility of manning Philadelphia by means of financial support from our Eastern churches. Synodical approval for this action is requested.

e. Florida, though far to the south, can be included in the Eastern District. Consequent authorization by the last year's Synod, a field was opened on Florida's East Coast. Group meetings were begun on December 7, 1952. The objective is to locate in Lake Worth, a city of plus 12,000 inhabitants. Presently meetings are held in Delray Beach, nine miles south of Lake Worth, since no facilities were available in the latter place.

In this connection it may be well to correct an impression which apparently has arisen in the minds of some — the impression, namely, that this is service rendered by our Church to winter vacationers in Florida. Such is not the intent. The purpose rather is to establish our Church in the southland for those of our members who already have or must take up permanent residence there; and further by means of our gospel witness to evangelize and gather in others.

## 2. MICHIGAN.

Though the Michigan District is the first assignment of Missionary J. G. Van Dyke, he has also been called upon to assist elsewhere.

In the early months of 1952 he bestowed further care upon youthful congregations in whose organization he had a part during the previous year. Moreover Alger Park (Grand Rapids) was given attention. Other fields were initially surveyed to determine Church extension possibilities. Presently the brother is devoting his time to the Lugers Crossing area, to the west of Holland, where there is promise of a future Church.

Further, Missionary Van Dyke was directed to spend a few months in the exacting Salt Lake City field.

## 3. CHICAGO-MILWAUKEE.

a. Bellwood, Illinois, though having joined the category of calling Churches until now has been unable to procure its own pastor. Consequently Missionary Renze De Groot continued to care for this youthful flock. The congregation, which is the fruit of both evangelization and Church extension, is determined to forge ahead. A parsonage has been built. A sizeable budget has been adopted. In view of the departure of Rev. De Groot to Creston, Grand Rapids, it is all the more urgent that Bellwood may ere long be gladdened with an acceptance.

b. Wheaton, Illinois, having sought and being granted permission to call its own pastor, is now served by Dr. J. E. Luchies. At the same time Mr. Luchies continues to carry his teaching assignment at Wheaton College.

c. Evergreen Park, Illinois. Since from various Chicago communities our people moved to the Evergreen Park area, the need of a second congregation became apparent. Upon request Missionary De Groot was authorized to assist in obtaining this objective. There is every indication that here ere long a flourishing second Church will be added to our denominational family.

Moreover, due to population shifts, other suburban communities to the south of Chicago give promise both for evangelization and Church extension.

d. Milwaukee, Wisconsin rejoices in the labors of Missionary Edward Boer. The exemplary perseverance of our brethren and sisters there against great odds is being rewarded. Recently the missionary could report: "Milwaukee has reached a very significant goal! First services in our new Church were held on January 18, a day which will long be remembered. A drive for \$1800.00 was conducted the following week and the goal was more than achieved since we raised some \$2300.00 in cash and pledges. This gives some indication of the enthusiasm of our people . . . The Churches of Classis Wisconsin are seeking to raise \$5,000.00 for the Church furnishings. We are deeply grate-

ful for the loyal support of our neighboring Churches. Credit is due to the Home Missions Committee of the Classis! . . . The new Church is opening up a broad field for mission endeavor. Many contacts have been made already, and we feel that the work is a great challenge."

e. MADISON, the capitol and university city of Wisconsin, has a few of our families. This field was brought to the attention of the Home Missions Committee of Classis Wisconsin and the Executive Committee. Exploratory surveys are being made and meetings held. Subsequently we hope to determine if and when this field should be permanently occupied.

#### 4. MIDWEST DISTRICT.

a. Des Moines, Iowa is making normal progress. During the past year seven families and four individuals were added to the congregation, which now has twenty-two families. Some of these members have come to us from other affiliations. In the case of one, first contact was established through the Back to God Hour messages.

The devoted Missionary John C. Medendorp and the membership are grateful for the completion of their chapel. Theirs is now a place of worship which they can call their own. Moreover they can now make an outreach with the gospel to the unchurched in the community, and invite them to the chapel rather than the Adventist school in which meetings were held until recently.

b. Lemars, Iowa rejoices in the labors of Missionary Peter Honderd. A gradual growth is discernable. The Lord is blessing the work. Reluctance on the part of some to leave the more distant and larger Church for the closer by and smaller group is a retarding factor. Yet from time to time there are new families that affiliate, which is ever a source of encouragement to the faithful pastor as well as the membership. Others who promise to affiliate when the group becomes more established stimulate the spirit of hope for the future. Yet a larger sense of responsibility toward the work of the Lord in their own vicinity might be instrumental in reaching that very objective the sooner.

Present meeting facilities are becoming crowded. The twin purpose, organization and a Church building of their own, is kept in mind by our Lemars' saints and their missionary-pastor.

c. Minneapolis, Minnesota "is definitely marching ahead." This does not mean phenomenal growth, though accessions are being reported. The Church for some time has enjoyed the full-time labors of Missionary Sidney Werkema. A good wholesome spirit is discernable.

In view of the contemplated transfer of the present missionary to another field, the congregation may ere long again put forth efforts to procure its own pastor. Here indeed is a field that offers promise and a great challenge to men that have caught the vision of evangelism. May the Lord soon send forth a laborer into this harvest.

We are grateful to our God that Rev. Werkema, who in the course of the year became ill with an affliction which at first appeared serious, has fully recovered. His life has been spared for the service of the Church and the care of his family.

d. Willmar, Minnesota has reached a place in the category of calling Churches. To date efforts to procure a pastor have been unsuccessful. The membership continues in prayer that before long their efforts in this direction may meet with a favorable response. It is said "that Willmar has an unlimited opportunity for Church Extension."

As a further matter of interest we quote from a recent report of the missionary: "Both Willmar and Minneapolis donated generously to the Calvin Drive. Is there any doubt that Home Missions even pay from a financial point of view in the light of these facts? The striking point is that contributions are made regularly by those who previously had no connection with our denomination."

f. Rochester, Minnesota. At the Mayo Clinic and hospitals here Rev. Anthony A. Koning, pastor of our Hollandale Church, continues his work of spiritual ministrations and consolation. A few excerpts from his latest report show the importance of this assignment.

"Looking over the past year I may say it has been a blessed year. As we make our trips to Rochester, the Clinic and the various hospitals, we find more and more occasion to speak a word to those in greatest need. There were several weeks when I had five or six patients (from our own Churches), besides a number of their relatives, to visit. It need hardly be said that the work is greatly appreciated. Time and again patients tell me to express their thanks to the Board for undertaking this work. With an appropriate word from the scriptures we try to keep their eyes on Him who is the Beginner and Finisher of our faith. People ever seem to be quite ready to open their hearts and souls. We seek then to lead them to the throne of grace. May I add, the work has been a wonderful blessing to me."

## 5. SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.

a. Tucson, Arizona has joined the ranks of calling Churches. As yet prayers by the congregation and efforts to obtain their own pastor have not been realized.

In view of its isolation it was deemed inadvisable that this flock be without the regular services of a pastor. Hence the request that Missionary Gerrit B. Boerefyn remain until such time that a minister has been procured found approval. In the meantime our consecrated brother continues to seek out the unchurched as well as his care for the membership. Presently he is instructing a class of twelve who desire to make profession of faith or wish to affiliate with our Church. To the membership of this class belong two who formerly were Roman Catholics.

b. Lakewood City, Calif. The labors of Missionary Frank De Jong in this field are being blessed. As elsewhere, discouragements to test the perseverance of the servants of the Lord are not wanting. And here the missionary is devoting his efforts to a people which does not have our background. Prayer and patience are daily requisites.

Yet when looking back over the comparatively few years in which work was done in this typically American field, there is reason for deep gratitude. The average Sunday School attendance is between 120 and 150. Special reason for joy is that the group has come to the point where they have petitioned organization. Truly the work of the Lord is never in vain whether it be done for the multitudes in Samaria or a lone traveler in the desert. For both ministrations the Master used the same evangelist Philip, and his zeal was identical in either case.

c. Alameda and San Jose, Calif. Presently fields for Church extension are being investigated in the Alameda area and in the city of San Jose. Initially the possibilities for kingdom work in both cities may be assigned for exploration to one of our seminarians.

#### 6. RADIO EVANGELISM.

Our minister for radio evangelism, the Rev. Harold Dekker, has been kept busy throughout the year with his follow-up work and related activities. During the summer months he devoted some time to broadcasting while the radio pastor, the Rev. Peter Eldersveld, was away on vacation. Moreover Mr. Dekker has been granted leave to speak on the Back to God Hour during the months of June, July and August of the current year, thereby giving our radio pastor opportunity to engage in post-graduate study during the summer. And Rev. Dekker has been authorized to extend the follow-up work by means of literature distribution.

With respect to the fields we note the following:

a. Champaign-Urbana, Illinois is now being served by Dr. Fred Klooster. The brother comes well equipped for his mission assignment in this university center. His devotion to the task has become evident.

The work, as in so many another field small in its beginning, is progressing. Attendance is increasing, having more than tripled over that of the previous year. Moreover the missionary has organized a discussion group with resident students. Meetings are held regularly at the pastor's home.

b. Albuquerque, N. M. Here services have been inaugurated. Various ministers have served this group. Among them Evangelist Miner Tanis, who was loaned for a three-month period by our Franklin Street Consistory while they generously continued to pay the brother's salary. However, to do effective work a missionary must be placed in Albuquerque; plans to obtain that objective are in the making.

c. Salt Lake City. Also in this Mormon center services are being held regularly. This field is strategic with a view to the immigrant membership, evangelism and radio responses. The more so since Holland immigrants are lured hither by Mormon sponsors. Hence, the placement of a missionary in this city, already approved by Synod, is an immediate necessity.

d. Columbus, Ohio presents promise. The few resident families are meeting in a disbanded and remodeled school house. The General Committee at its annual meeting authorized the Executive Committee to find ways and means of manning this field. Synodical approval is herewith requested.

e. Oklahoma City, Okla. Here too, as in Columbus, a few resident families meet regularly in a rented room. As yet they have not enjoyed the services of a minister, except an occasional visit by the Rev. Dekker, and, as in the case of Columbus, a summer assignment by seminarians. With respect to this field likewise the General Committee authorized its Executive Committee to find ways and means for placing a missionary in Oklahoma City. Synodical approval is herewith requested.

f. Other Fields visited by our minister for radio evangelism consequent radio responses received are: Memphis, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; Beaumont, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, El Paso and Dallas, Texas, and St. Louis, Mo. In none of these cities organized mission activities are as yet warranted.

#### 7. STUDENT SUMMER FIELD WORK.

Student pastors were engaged during the summer recess. The experience thus received and the services rendered were mutually profitable. A total of nineteen seminarians were engaged. Nine of these were given assignments in Canada. Not all of these men were able to exhort in Dutch. Services were so arranged, wherever possible, that the Sunday messages could be delivered in English, and in their visitation work they managed to get by with Yankee Dutch. Ten seminarians were given assignments in various United States fields. Favorable reports, indicative of application and interest, were received.

#### 8. MISSIONARY-AT-LARGE AND SECRETARY.

The Missionary-at-Large, the Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft, again traveled far and wide in the interest of our Home Missions program both in the States and Canada. He served several fields according to need. With respect to his often strenuous assignments, frequently taking him far from home and for protracted periods, it can be said that our esteemed brother never "wearies in well-doing".

The Secretary, the Rev. H. Blystra, with the aid of a part-time assistant, had charge of the extensive correspondence, the monthly re-

ports and the voluminous secretarial work. Moreover he took over assignments which the busy Missionary-at-Large was not able to discharge, engaged in field work especially in Canada, and with the Rev. Vande Kieft promoted the cause of Home Missions wherever opportunity was given.

#### 9. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Our congregation at Rochester, N. Y., unable to assume full responsibility for the financial load to carry out its local evangelism program, has requested aid to the extent of \$2000.00 per annum. This request has the endorsement of the Eastern Home Missions Board and the General Committee for Home Missions, and is herewith submitted to Synod for final action.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR CHURCH EXTENSION FOR 1954

|                               |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Missionary salaries .....     | \$ 58,375.00 |              |
| Missionary expenses .....     | 23,500.00    |              |
| Rent and taxes .....          | 3,500.00     |              |
| Fire insurance .....          | 500.00       |              |
| Pulpit supplies .....         | 3,000.00     |              |
| Student summer supplies ..... | 10,000.00    |              |
| Moving .....                  | 3,500.00     |              |
| Contingencies .....           | 7,840.00     |              |
| Buildings .....               | 100,000.00   |              |
| New fields .....              | 15,000.00    |              |
| Rochester, N. Y. ....         | 2,000.00     |              |
| Administrative expenses ..... | 4,600.00     |              |
| Totals .....                  |              | \$231,815.00 |
| Salary-Credits .....          | \$7,200.00   |              |
| Building Credits .....        | 4,500.00     |              |
| Refund Credits .....          | 1,375.00     |              |
| Total .....                   |              | 13,075.00    |
| Net Total .....               |              | \$218,740.00 |

To meet this budget Synod is requested to set the per-family quota for Church Extension for 1954 at \$5.50.

#### PART IV THE CANADIAN FIELD

##### A. MISSIONARIES.

The Church extension task in Canada continues to be a major assignment. Shall we regard it as an opportunity? If so, it is a kingdom opportunity as our Church has never had before in its history. We must make the best of it and not let it slip. Shall we look upon it as a burden? If so, it is a burden laid upon us by the Lord. Let us then sacrificially accept that burden in the spirit of surrender unto the Lord and in the spirit of service unto our fellow saints.

Indeed our task in Canada is both great and glorious. And the end is not yet. During the seven months from February through August of this year twenty-two boats are expected to convey their immigrant

passengers to Canada. And additional settlers may come during these and subsequent months either on other boats or by plane. If the ratio of Reformed immigrants in this migration remains as it has been in the past few years, our denominational count of souls in Canada alone during the present year may be increased by at least 4000.

It needs no great imagination to realize that this further influx will place a heavy load upon our Canadian missionaries as well as the resident pastors. Their assignments are akin to a daily emergency. No wonder that these brethren long and pray for additional manpower. They yearn for pastoral hearts touched by the Spirit of God, beckoned by this harvest of souls, and anxious to join their ranks.

Our missionaries in Canada are busy men. Time for concentrated reading and study is rare. Consistorial meetings, sometimes as many as four in one week, and other gatherings demand their evenings. A major portion of nearly every day must be devoted to visitation work, counseling and consoling. Immigrant homes have been cast in gloom by the flood disaster in their former beloved fatherland, carrying near relatives to a sad and sudden death. These look to their missionary-pastors as conveyors of divine comfort.

Again it must not be overlooked that our missionaries in Canada are blessed servants of the Lord. Theirs is a task that throbs with life. Theirs is a fruitful labor, and what harvest hand of the Master would not therein rejoice! Though at times body and mind may grow weary, the Lord does not fail his own in giving strength for the day. Of course there are problems, disappointments and discouragements, but these are more than compensated by the appreciation and affection of saintly hearts that respond to the manifold ministrations of the manifold grace of God.

Let us esteem these brethren as well as their missionary colleagues in the States and Foreign fields. Let us give expression to that esteem by generous support of the work which we as a Church have laid upon them. Let us give utterance to that esteem by our intercessory implorations before the throne of grace.

#### B. CALLING.

At the moment we have requests for the placement of four additional missionaries in the Canadian field. It is expected that soon the Maritimes, where immigrants are beginning to settle, will be added to the list of fields needing a worker. Moreover the expected immigrant influx during 1953 may require still more men as the year progresses.

Hence we petition Synod that its Committee again be authorized to call missionaries for Canada according to need.

#### C. CHURCHES.

Numerically, as well as in membership, our Churches in Canada are growing rapidly. Some years ago we had but few Churches there and not one Classis. Now we have several Churches and four Classes.

During the past year the following congregations were organized:  
 Ontario — Peterborough, Ridgetown, Lindsay, Ryckman Corners  
 (now Mount Hamilton), St. Thomas, Williamsburg, Stanford, Springdale,  
 West Toronto, Cobden — Pembroke replacing Cobden.

Saskatchewan — Saskatoon.

Alberta — Calgary, High River, Vauxhall, Smithers.

British Columbia — Courtenay-Campbell River, Chilliwack, New  
 Westminster, Duncan, Victoria, Terrace.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CANADIAN EMERGENCY FUND FOR 1954

|                               |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Missionary salaries .....     | \$ 70,275.00 |              |
| Missionary expenses .....     | 43,900.00    |              |
| Rent and taxes .....          | 3,950.00     |              |
| Fire insurance .....          | 600.00       |              |
| Pulpit supplies .....         | 5,000.00     |              |
| Student summer supplies ..... | 6,000.00     |              |
| Moving .....                  | 4,000.00     |              |
| Contingencies .....           | 6,000.00     |              |
| Buildings .....               | 50,000.00    |              |
| New fields .....              | 25,000.00    |              |
| Administrative expenses ..... | 4,600.00     |              |
| Totals .....                  |              | \$219,325.00 |
| Salary-Credits .....          | \$12,200.00  |              |
| Building Credits .....        | 725.00       |              |
| Total .....                   | \$ 12,925.00 |              |
| Net Total .....               |              | \$206,400.00 |

To meet this budget Synod is requested to set the per-family quota for  
 the Canadian Emergency Fund for 1954 at \$5.25 per family.

#### PART V

##### DISPLACED AND NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

In the course of the past year the names of 66 members were received. Of these 28 were listed as communicant and 38 as baptized members.

According to synodical instructions these names were placed on file. And when possible attempts were made to establish contact.

#### PART VI

##### YOUTH IN MILITARY SERVICE

We wish to begin this part of our report with a quotation from the inspired apostle through whom our Covenant God is speaking to us about our covenant youth in military service — “So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith.” (Ga. 6:10) Permit us here to limit “household of the faith” to our own Church. Has the time come that Synod must place special emphasis on the statement: “especially toward them that are of the household of the faith”?

Our youth in military service belong to our household of faith. Yet the fund set aside to carry on the spiritual care in behalf of these youth and to be maintained by freewill collections has gone begging. Appeals addressed to our Churches by way of The Banner and to our Consistories by way of letter did not remove the recurring substantial shortage in the Soldier's Fund until mid-January of the current year. According to indications the reserve now on hand will again be exhausted by the end of March.

Yet the General Committee at its annual meeting instructed the Executive Committee to call a service-pastor-missionary for Alaska. And we expect that shortly San Diego will come with an urgent request that a service home be opened there. In view of the large contingent of men in the San Diego area our hospitable people there find it increasingly difficult to care for our youth in their homes. Consequently the resources of our Soldier's Fund should be greatly augmented. This is a must.

Withal we are hopeful that the money will come in. We are confident that our membership being aroused, sensing the moral and spiritual importance of this soldier's work, and the deep appreciation which our lads manifest, will not fail to do good, to do good generously to the youth that belong to our household of faith.

Again as in previous years much work has been done for our own youth in military service. Our ministers near to military establishments, our hospitable homes near these areas opened to our boys, our service pastors and our service homes have performed a blessed task deserving of gratitude. That work must be continued. That work may not be curtailed. It must be expanded.

Hence we request that Synod again authorize freewill collections by our churches for our Soldier's Fund.

## PART VII

### THE FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES

#### A. INFORMATION.

1. During 1952 recipient Churches received their allotments as approved by Synod.

2. Moving expenses were granted to the following Churches: Phoenix, Arizona; Redlands II, California; Hartley, Iowa; Terra Ceia, North Carolina; Picton, Ontario; Essex, Ontario; Drayton, Ontario. The moving expenses totaled \$2189.92.

3. The schedule of payments for 1953 has been made available to the Synodical Budget Committee for perusal. In cases where a change was made in the amount of aid requested and the amount of aid granted, the recipient Church was notified in order that, if so desired, such Church might have opportunity to place its case before Synod.

To date 94 Churches have made application for this assistance from the Fund for Needy Churches for 1953. The allowances include the following items:

|                               |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Subsidy .....                 | \$108,540.00 |              |
| Minor children .....          | 10,425.00    |              |
| Mileage .....                 | 12,000.00    |              |
| Moving .....                  | 3,000.00     |              |
| Administrative expenses ..... | 4,200.00     |              |
| Total .....                   |              | \$138,165.00 |

**B. RECOMMENDATIONS.**

1. We recommend that the minimum salary to be paid the ministers by the respective Churches receiving aid from the Fund for Needy Churches for 1954 in the United States be set at \$3300.00; in Canada at \$3600.00.

2. We recommend that mileage on the field be granted subsidized Churches for payment to their pastors over and above the first 5000 miles on the field. The rates at which this mileage is to be paid are: For the United States 5c per mile; for Eastern Canada 6c per mile; for Western Canada 7c per mile.

3. We recommend that a children's allowance in the United States of \$125.00 per child, in excess of the salary allowed be granted for 1954; a similar amount to be paid in Canada, inclusive of the government child allowance if and when paid.

4. We recommend that the minimum per-family contribution toward the pastor's salary of families belonging to subsidized Churches for 1954 be set at \$60.00 in the United States; and at \$35.00 in Canada.

5. We recommend that the denominational per-family quota for 1954 for the Fund for Needy Churches be set at \$3.45. This quota is based on the allowances granted for 1953.

PART VIII.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1952.

I

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR 1952  
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND  
SCHEDULE A

RECEIPTS:

|                                |              |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Balance, January 1, 1952 ..... |              | \$ 26,866.34 |
| Treasurers of Classes .....    | \$174,061.04 |              |
| Gifts, Individual .....        | \$3,104.00   |              |
| Gifts, Societies .....         | 4,238.18     |              |
| Gifts, Churches .....          | 9,073.04     | 16,415.22    |
| Interest .....                 |              | 250.00       |
| Dividend .....                 |              | 941.92       |
| Sale of Rights .....           |              | 569.25       |
| Refunds .....                  |              | 2,373.45     |
| Legacy .....                   |              | 100.00       |

|                                  |              |                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Loan .....                       | 2,000.00     |                     |
| Sale of Buildings .....          | 17,257.69    |                     |
| Total .....                      |              | \$213,968.57        |
| Canadian Funds .....             |              | 4,287.52            |
| Total balance and receipts ..... |              | <u>\$245,122.43</u> |
| DISBURSEMENTS:                   |              |                     |
| Missionaries' salaries .....     | \$ 53,763.61 |                     |
| Missionaries' expenses .....     | 17,536.91    |                     |
| Special services .....           | 13,533.75    |                     |
| Homes and Chapels .....          | 112,189.68   |                     |
| Moving expenses .....            | 1,656.94     |                     |
| Repayment of loan .....          | 2,000.00     |                     |
| Administrative expenses .....    | 3,841.75     |                     |
| Total disbursements .....        |              | <u>\$204,522.64</u> |
| Balance, December 31, 1952 ..... |              | \$ 40,599.79        |

II  
SCHEDULE B  
INVENTORY OF SECURITIES

|   |             |                     |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| Van Arghoven Estate                               |             |                     |
| 227½ Com. shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. .... | \$ 7,621.25 |                     |
| 10 Pref. shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....  | 1,000.00    |                     |
| 16 Com. shares, Little Miami R.R. ....            | 800.00      | \$ 9,421.25         |
| 91 Com. shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....   |             | 3,048.50            |
| United States Bonds .....                         |             | 7,500.00            |
| Total .....                                       |             | <u>\$ 19,969.75</u> |

SCHEDULE C  
MISSIONARY HOMES AND CHAPELS

|                                 |           |              |                               |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Expended .....                  |           | 12/31/52     | \$483,099.21                  |
|                                 |           | 12/31/51     | <u>339,284.02</u>             |
| Total .....                     |           |              | \$ 93,815.19                  |
| Des Moines, Iowa .....          | \$ 475.00 |              |                               |
| Hawthorne, N. J. ....           | 13,806.33 |              |                               |
| Holland, Mich. ....             | 91.42     |              |                               |
| Lakewood, Calif. ....           | 5,000.00  |              |                               |
| Milwaukee, Wis. ....            | 31,795.04 |              |                               |
| Monsey, N. Y. ....              | 3,482.35  |              |                               |
| Urbana, Ill. ....               | 7,215.85  |              |                               |
| Wanamassa, N. J. ....           | 30,043.25 |              |                               |
| W. Allenhurst, N. J. ....       | 20,371.86 | \$112,281.10 | \$91.42 under<br>Adm. expense |
| Refunds, expenses and cancelled |           |              |                               |
| Tacoma, Lakeholme .....         | 13,606.18 |              |                               |
| Tacoma, Nyanza .....            | 3,301.51  |              |                               |
| Minneapolis .....               | 350.00    |              |                               |
| Tacoma, Lakehome, exp. ....     | 1,121.29  |              |                               |
| Tacoma, Nyanza, exp. ....       | 1.50      |              |                               |
| Iowa Falls, cancelled .....     | 85.43     | 18,465.91    |                               |
| Net increase .....              |           |              | <u>\$ 93,815.19</u>           |

III  
CANADIAN EMERGENCY FUND  
SCHEDULE A

RECEIPTS:

|                             |           |              |                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| Treasurers of Classes ..... |           | \$153,623.98 |                     |
| Gifts, Individual .....     | \$ 725.00 |              |                     |
| Gifts, Societies .....      | 1,800.56  |              |                     |
| Gifts, Churches .....       | 10,574.97 | 13,100.53    |                     |
| Refunds .....               |           | 7,116.36     |                     |
| Loans .....                 |           | 13,000.00    |                     |
| Sale of Buildings .....     |           | 4,959.10     |                     |
| Total .....                 |           |              | \$191,799.97        |
| Canadian Funds .....        |           |              | 13,288.18           |
| Total Receipts .....        |           |              | <u>\$205,088.15</u> |

DISBURSEMENTS:

|                                  |              |              |                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Missionaries' salaries .....     | \$ 66,606.25 |              |                     |
| Missionaries' expenses .....     | 23,061.81    |              |                     |
| Special services .....           | 21,360.26    |              |                     |
| Refund, Abbotsford .....         | 300.00       |              |                     |
| Homes and Chapels .....          | 48,565.78    |              |                     |
| Moving expenses .....            | 756.71       |              |                     |
| Repayment of loans .....         | 13,000.00    |              |                     |
| Interest .....                   | 44.99        |              |                     |
| Administrative expenses .....    | 3,841.75     |              |                     |
| Total .....                      |              | \$177,537.55 |                     |
| Canadian expenses .....          |              | 13,249.26    |                     |
| Total .....                      |              |              | \$190,786.81        |
| Operating balance, 1952 .....    |              |              | \$ 14,301.34        |
| Deficit, January 1, 1952 .....   |              |              | 36,941.12           |
| Deficit, December 31, 1952 ..... |              |              | <u>\$ 22,639.78</u> |

IV  
SCHEDULE B  
MISSIONARY HOMES AND CHAPELS

|                           |             |              |              |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Expended .....            |             | 12/31/52     | \$279,521.94 |
|                           |             | 12/31/51     | 235,664.27   |
| Total .....               |             |              | \$ 43,857.67 |
| Barrie, Ont. ....         | \$10,624.19 |              |              |
| Calgary, Alta. ....       | 15,537.25   |              |              |
| Cockrane, Ont. ....       | 6.00        |              |              |
| Cornwall, Ont. ....       | 7,265.05    |              |              |
| Emo, Ont. ....            | 1,300.00    |              |              |
| London, Ont. ....         | 1,214.04    |              |              |
| Owen Sound, Ont. ....     | 177.50      |              |              |
| Peterborough, Ont. ....   | 8,638.09    |              |              |
| Stoney Creek, Ont. ....   | 16,784.82   |              |              |
| Totals .....              |             | \$ 61,546.94 |              |
| Refunds                   |             |              |              |
| Abbotsford, B. C. ....    | 4,659.10    |              |              |
| Aylmer, Ont. ....         | 725.04      |              |              |
| St. Catherines, Ont. .... | 12,305.13   |              |              |
| Totals .....              |             | \$ 17,689.27 |              |
| Net Increase .....        |             |              | \$ 43,857.67 |

V  
**FUND FOR NEEDY CHURCHES**  
**SCHEDULE A**

RECEIPTS:

|                                  |              |                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Balance, January 1, 1952 .....   |              | \$ 33,683.61        |
| Treasurers of Classes .....      | \$ 61,015.03 |                     |
| Gifts, Societies .....           | 150.00       |                     |
| Interest .....                   | 1,165.00     |                     |
| Dividend .....                   | 705.28       |                     |
| Sales of Rights .....            | 406.60       |                     |
| Bonds redeemed .....             | 700.00       |                     |
| Refund .....                     | 110.00       |                     |
| Total .....                      |              | 64,251.91           |
| Canadian Funds .....             |              | 2,421.66            |
| Total balance and receipts ..... |              | <u>\$100,357.18</u> |

DISBURSEMENTS:

|                                  |              |                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Subsidies .....                  | \$ 81,952.59 |                     |
| Children allowances .....        | 9,246.19     |                     |
| Mileage .....                    | 3,416.27     |                     |
| Moving expenses .....            | 1,889.92     |                     |
| Administrative expenses .....    | 3,841.75     |                     |
| Total .....                      |              | \$100,346.72        |
| Canadian expenses .....          |              | 6,790.84            |
| Total .....                      |              | <u>\$107,137.56</u> |
| Deficit, December 31, 1952 ..... |              | \$ 6,780.38         |

SCHEDULE B  
**INVENTORY OF SECURITIES**

|   |             |                     |
|---|-------------|---------------------|
| 227½ Com. Shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. .... | \$ 7,621.25 |                     |
| 10 Pref. Shares, Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co. ....  | 1,000.00    |                     |
| 16 Common Shares, Little Miami RR. ....           | 800.00      |                     |
| Total .....                                       |             | \$ 9,421.25         |
| United States Bonds .....                         |             | 37,500.00           |
| Washington, D.C. Chr. Ref'd Church Bonds .....    |             | 9,300.00            |
| Total .....                                       |             | <u>\$ 56,221.25</u> |

VI  
**SOLDIER'S FUND**

RECEIPTS:

|                             |              |                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Treasurers of Classes ..... | \$ 22,397.12 |                     |
| Individuals .....           | 815.50       |                     |
| Societies .....             | 1,461.38     |                     |
| Churches .....              | 1,731.59     |                     |
| Refunds .....               | 325.60       |                     |
| Total .....                 |              | \$ 26,731.19        |
| Canadian Funds .....        |              | 65.30               |
| Total .....                 |              | <u>\$ 26,796.49</u> |

## DISBURSEMENTS:

|                                  |             |           |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Salaries .....                   | \$ 8,630.16 |           |             |
| Expenses .....                   | 19,300.92   | 27,931.08 |             |
| Operating deficit, 1952 .....    |             | 1,134.59  |             |
| Deficit, January 1, 1952 .....   |             | 2,262.13  |             |
| Deficit, December 31, 1952 ..... |             |           | \$ 3,396.72 |

**FUNDS HELD IN TRUST FOR  
GEESTELYKE VERZORGING OPVARENDEN KOOPVAARDY  
UITGAANDE VAN DE GEREFORMEERDE KERKEN IN NEDERLAND  
(Dutch Merchant Marine)**

|                                  |             |             |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Balance, January 1, 1952 .....   | \$ 1,050.00 |             |             |
| Receipts, 1952 .....             | 6,000.00    | \$ 7,050.00 |             |
| Disbursements .....              |             | 5,550.00    |             |
| Balance, December 31, 1952 ..... |             |             | \$ 1,500.00 |

**VII  
ACCOUNT, CANADIAN FUNDS**

| FROM                      | AMOUNT<br>RECEIVED | FOR<br>CH. EXT. | FOR<br>F.N.C. | FOR<br>CAN. EMR. | FOR<br>S.F. |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Treas. of                 |                    |                 |               |                  |             |
| Classes Refund, .....     | \$12,146.23        | \$4,287.52      | \$2,421.66    | \$5,308.18       | \$65.30     |
| Pulpit Sus. Refund, ..... | 7,000.00           |                 |               | 7,000.00         |             |
| Aylmer C.R.C. ....        | 726.00             |                 |               | 726.00           |             |
| Societies .....           | 89.00              |                 |               | 89.00            |             |
| Churches .....            | 165.00             |                 |               | 165.00           |             |
| Deduct amount for .....   | \$20,126.23        |                 |               |                  |             |
| Can Emerg. Bldg. Fund..\$ | 63.57              |                 |               |                  |             |
| Totals .....              | \$20,062.66        | \$4,287.52      | \$2,421.66    | \$13,288.18      | \$65.30     |

## DISBURSEMENTS:

|                               |             |            |            |             |         |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| Miscy. expense .....          | \$11,469.37 |            |            | \$11,469.37 |         |
| Subsidy and chil. allow. .... | 5,067.38    |            | 5,067.38   |             |         |
| Mileage .....                 | 1,423.46    |            | 1,423.46   |             |         |
| Moving .....                  | 810.06      |            | 300.00     | 510.06      |         |
| Special Services .....        | 171.88      |            |            | 171.88      |         |
| Buildings .....               | 1,097.95    |            |            | 1,097.95    |         |
| TOTALS .....                  | \$20,040.10 |            | \$6,790.84 | \$13,249.26 |         |
| BAL. DEC. 31, 1952 .....      | \$ 22.56    | \$4,287.52 |            | \$ 38.92    | \$65.30 |
| DEFICIT, Dec. 31, 1952 .....  |             |            | \$4,369.18 |             |         |

**CASH ACCOUNT**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Balances, December 31, 1952 in CH. EXT. .... | \$4,287.52 |
| Canadian Emergencies .....                   | 38.92      |
| Soldier's Fund .....                         | 65.30      |
| TOTAL .....                                  | \$4,391.74 |
| Deficit, December 31, 1953 in F.N.C. ....    | \$4,369.18 |
| Cash on hand, December 31, 1952 .....        | \$ 22.56   |

**VIII  
COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

|                    | AMOUNT<br>RECEIVED | FOR<br>CH. EXT. | FOR<br>F.N.C. | FOR<br>CN. EMR | FOR<br>S.F. |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| BALANCES           |                    |                 |               |                |             |
| Jan. 1, 1952 ..... | \$ 26,866.34       |                 | \$ 33,683.61  |                | \$1,050.00  |
| Receipts, 1952..   | 218,256.09         | 205,088.15      | 66,673.57     | 26,796.49      | 6,000.00    |
| TOTALS .....       | \$245,122.43       | \$205,088.15    | \$100,357.18  | \$26,796.49    | \$7,050.00  |

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

|                               |              |              |              |             |            |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1952 .....                    | \$204,522.64 | \$190,786.81 | \$107,137.56 | \$27,931.08 | \$5,550.00 |
| <b>BALANCES</b>               |              |              |              |             |            |
| Dec. 31, 1952 ....            | \$ 40,599.79 | \$ 14,301.34 |              |             | \$1,500.00 |
| Deficits, Dec. 31, 1952 ..... |              |              | 6,780.38     | 1,134.59    |            |
| Deficits, Jan. 1, 1952 .....  |              | 36,941.12    |              | 2,262.13    |            |
| Deficits, Dec. 31, 1952 ....  |              | \$ 22,639.78 | \$ 6,780.38  | \$ 3,396.72 |            |
| Balances, Dec. 31, 1952 ....  | \$ 40,599.79 |              |              |             | \$1,500.00 |

\* \* \* \* \*

**CASH ACCOUNT**

|                                       |              |              |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1952 .....      |              | \$ 22,396.70 |              |
| Receipts, 1952                        |              |              |              |
| Church Extension .....                | \$218,256.09 |              |              |
| Canadian Emergencies .....            | 205,088.15   |              |              |
| F. N. C. ....                         | 66,673.57    |              |              |
| Soldier's Fund .....                  | 26,796.49    |              |              |
| Dutch M. M. ....                      | 6,000.00     |              |              |
| Total .....                           |              | \$522,814.30 |              |
| Total Balance and Receipts .....      |              |              | \$545,211.00 |
| Dismts, 1952                          |              |              |              |
| Church Extension .....                | \$204,522.64 |              |              |
| Canadian Emergencies .....            | 190,786.81   |              |              |
| F. N. C. ....                         | 107,137.56   |              |              |
| Soldier's Fund .....                  | 27,931.08    |              |              |
| Dutch M. M. ....                      | 5,550.00     |              |              |
| Totals .....                          | \$535,928.09 |              | \$535,928.09 |
| Cash on hand, Dec. 31, 1952 .....     |              |              | \$ 9,282.91  |
| In Old Kent Bank .....                |              | \$ 9,260.35  |              |
| In Canada with Mr. Vander Vliet ..... |              | 22.56        |              |
| Total .....                           |              | \$ 9,282.91  |              |

**BALANCES**

**December 31, 1952**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Church Extension ..... | \$40,599.79 |
| Dutch M. M. ....       | 1,500.00    |
| Total .....            | \$42,099.79 |

**DEFICITS**

**December 31, 1952**

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Canadian Emergencies ..... | \$22,639.78 |
| F. N. C. ....              | 6,780.38    |
| Soldier's Fund .....       | 3,396.72    |
| Totals .....               | \$32,816.88 |

\* \* \* \* \*

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>BALANCES,</b> ..... | \$42,099.79 |
| <b>DEFICITS,</b> ..... | 32,816.88   |
| <b>CASH</b> .....      | \$ 9,282.91 |

General Committee for Home Missions of  
The Christian Reformed Church  
Gentlemen:

We have examined the accounting records and vouchers of your Mission for the year ended December 31, 1952. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

The hereby presented Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year 1952 does, in my opinion, present fairly the results of the operations of your Mission.

Very truly yours,  
PETER B. VANDER MEER, C.P.A.

PVM:NB

### SUMMARY OF MATTERS REQUIRING SYNODICAL ATTENTION

PART III — *Church Extension* — U. S. Field.

1. Missionary for Philadelphia.
2. Missionary for Columbus.
3. Missionary for Oklahoma City.
4. Rochester N. Y. aid request.
5. Quota for 1954.

PART IV — *The Canadian Field*.

1. Calling of missionaries according to need.
2. Quota for 1954.

PART VI — *Youth in Military Service*.

Offerings for 1954.

PART VII — *Fund for Needy Churches*.

Allowance recommendations.

May the God of all grace grant Synod the needed guidance in the discharge of its Kingdom deliberations and decisions.

Humbly submitted,  
The General Committee for Home  
Missions,  
H. BLYSTRA, *Secretary*

**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

**ESTEEMED BRETHREN :**

Your Publication Committee desires in this report to present in summary its activities of the past year and to call the attention of Synod to such matters as require synodical action.

The Committee was able to meet regularly and as the demands of the work required. Dr. H. H. Meeter functioned as President and the undersigned as Secretary. Mr. Herman Fles, appointed by the Synod of 1952 to membership in our committee, found it necessary to decline his appointment. The committee, therefore, appointed Mr. Adrian Vanden Bout to serve in his place and we trust this appointment will meet with the approval of Synod. The appointments of Professor Louis Berkhof, Mr. Fred Van Kleef, and the Reverend Clarence Boomsma end this year. The first two cannot be reappointed according to synodical ruling because they have served on our committee for six or more years. We present nominations for these vacancies below.

The publishing house functioned ably throughout the past year. Although the quarters are cramped and the schedule is tight, the printing plant successfully published what was required of them. Two of our writers, the Reverend Gerrit Vander Riet and Mr. Gerhardus Vos, passed away and new writers had to be found to replace them. The committee felt that the editor of *THE BANNER* deserved a complete vacation this year instead of one in which he continued to bear a good part of his work, and so arrangements were made to have guest editorial writers for four weeks. The Revs. Henry Baker, Peter Van Tuinen, Adam Persenaire, and Peter H. Eldersveld kindly consented to write these editorials. As decided by Synod, one issue of the church papers was devoted to the Calvin College Expansion Drive. In the place of the department "Principles of Mission" in *THE BANNER*, formerly written by the late Dr. J. C. De Korne, the committee decided to give the Back to God Hour this space in order to keep our people better informed regarding this denominational project.

Naturally the committee is called upon to make various decisions of policy during the year. We would call Synod's attention to three such decisions. It was decided to eliminate the classical treasurers' reports from the Yearbook. These reports take up a good deal of space in the Yearbook and in the mind of the committee serve very little purpose. Classical treasurers give annual reports to their respective classes so each congregation can check its contributions. Moreover, the statistics do not give a good picture of the giving of our people

since some congregations give directly to causes instead of giving through the classical treasurer, and as a matter of fact, many are contributing to other individual, though worthy, causes which are not reported in the Yearbook. The committee wishes to say, however, that it has received a few protests to this action and thus we call our decision to the attention of Synod. The Publication Committee also decided to devise a new advertising policy. Increasingly we have worked in the direction of eliminating secular and local advertisements from the pages of our Church papers. This is not as simple as it might seem, because our Church papers also function in a measure as a means of communication for our Christian Reformed community. Yet the committee feels that the dignity of our Church organs should not be detracted by purely secular materials. As it now stands, the committee has decided to eliminate all display advertisements that are purely of local interest and secular character. The third matter that called for action was the use of our mailing list by various synodically approved causes to make financial appeal to our readers. The committee has decided to work in the direction of eliminating the use of our lists for such purpose.

Efforts are being put forth to increase the number of readers of our Church papers in Canada among the immigrants. We feel that our publications can play a significant role in integrating these new members into the life of our denomination. Our committee solicits the support of the ministers of Canada to help us encourage the use of THE BANNER and DE WACHTER.

Under the leadership of the Reverend John H. Schaal and the Reverend Richard De Ridder our Sunday School materials have been published regularly. Two members of our committee and the two editors of our Sunday School materials were consulted by the Committee on Education regarding our Sunday School publications. Our committee concurs in the report of the Committee on Education regarding the publication of Sunday School materials. In the light of the proposed changes, decided by last year's Synod, we recommend that our present editors be retained until such time as the present two sets of Sunday School papers are merged. We further advise that Synod appoint an editor-in-chief for the new series.

Our committee has been working on the problem of expansion and will have a supplementary report for Synod presenting our recommendations and plans.

The financial situation of our establishment is good. The office employees were given a raise in keeping with the increase that the shop employees had received earlier. The committee was able to put \$10,000.00 of our cash balance in the Depreciation Reserve Fund and another \$10,000.00 in the Building Expansion Fund.

Synod should take action on the following matters:

1. *The appointment of committee members.*

We request Synod to approve the appointment of Mr. Adrian Vanden Bout to fill out the term of Mr. Herman Fles.

We present the following nominations for committee members to serve for three years:

a) In the place of Professor Berkhof: The Revs. John Mulder and Thomas Yff.

b) In the place of Mr. Fred Van Kleef: Mr. John Petersen and Mr. Raymond Van Kuiken.

c) For the place of the Reverend Boomsma: The Revs. C. Oliver Buus and Clarence Boomsma.

2. *The appointment of the Editor of the Sunday School papers.*

We recommend that Synod ask our present editors, the Revs. John Schaal and Richard De Ridder to continue until such time as the new series begins.

Synod must appoint an editor-in-chief to edit the new publications.

The committee has appointed the Secretary to be its representative at Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE BOOMSMA, *Secretary*

**FINANCIAL REPORT — JAN. 1, 1952 TO JAN. 1, 1953**

**INCOME:**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Banner Subscriptions and Advertising.....  | \$144,288.32 |
| Wachter Subscriptions and Advertising..... | 15,048.23    |
| Sunday School Papers .....                 | 62,652.31    |
| Psalter Hymnals .....                      | 21,485.52    |
| Yearbooks .....                            | 6,926.00     |
| Sermon Books, Acts, Agenda, etc.....       | 18,991.39    |
| Tracts, Interest and Miscellaneous.....    | 6,496.21     |

\$275,887.98

**PAID OUT:**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Shop and Office Wages.....                     | \$ 82,741.46 |
| Employees' Pension Expense .....               | 2,714.81     |
| Paper and Supplies .....                       | 58,319.78    |
| Ink, Engravings, Rollers, etc.....             | 13,819.66    |
| Second Class Postage, Depreciation, Taxes..... | 16,988.24    |
| Editors' Remunerations .....                   | 20,179.20    |
| Office Expenses, Insurance, Agents' Comm.....  | 13,950.30    |
| Cost of Yearbook .....                         | 4,251.59     |
| Cost of Sermon Books, Agenda, Acts.....        | 12,771.62    |
| Cost of Psalter Hymnals.....                   | 14,038.29    |

\$239,774.95

Profit .....

\$ 36,113.03

A brief analysis of the Profit and Loss

Accounts show that:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| The Banner Profit is.....                | \$ 19,881.02 |
| Sunday School Profit is.....             | 9,043.07     |
| Psalter Hymnals, Yearbook, and Misc..... | 15,322.75    |
|  | <hr/>        |
|  | \$ 44,246.84 |
| De Wachter Loss .....                    | 8,133.81     |
|  | <hr/>        |
| Balance .....                            | \$ 36,113.03 |

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS:**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Cash in Bank and on Hand.....              | \$ 8,922.72 |
| Accounts Receivable .....                  | 10,155.09   |
| Inventory, Paper and Supplies.....         | 36,487.90   |
| Bank Stock .....                           | 262.00      |
| Replacement Fund (U. S. Bonds).....        | 80,000.00   |
| Building Expansion Fund (U. S. Bonds)..... | 50,000.00   |
| Present Building and Machines.....         | 78,626.56   |

\$264,524.27

**LIABILITIES:**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Accrued Withholding Tax and Hospital Insurance Payments ..... | \$ 1,089.35 |
| Equities  |             |
| Investment Jan. 1, 1952.....                                  | 227,321.89  |
| Profit 1952 .....   | 36,113.03   |

Total .....

\$264,524.27

**PUBLICATIONS PRINTED**

|                                    | 1951   | 1952   |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| The Banner, weekly .....           | 35,800 | 37,000 |
| De Wachter, weekly .....           | 6,300  | 6,450  |
| The Instructor, weekly .....       | 30,700 | 32,000 |
| Children's Comrade, weekly .....   | 17,800 | 18,750 |
| The Key, semi-quarterly .....      | 6,300  | 6,300  |
| The Good News, weekly .....        | 4,500  | 4,800  |
| The Little Good News, weekly ..... | 3,500  | 3,900  |
| Yearbook, annually .....           | 10,000 | 10,000 |

Respectfully submitted,

G. I. BUIST

Secretary of Business Committee of Publication Committee

## THE CHURCH HELP COMMITTEE INCORPORATED

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The Committee for Church Help is happy to report on another busy year, the year 1952. It was a pleasure to grant aid from the funds entrusted to our care to so many Churches in both the U.S.A. and Canada, although they asked for much more than we could grant.

Nine Churches failed to make repayment on their loans, and three failed to make payments on the quota for this Fund. We have written these Churches in accordance with the Synodical ruling.

Due to an oversight, the Synod of 1952 made no provision for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund, with the result that classis Ontario in its meeting of Sept. 17, 1952 because of their dire need appealed to the Synodical Committee to reactivate the Canadian Emergency Building Fund. The Synodical Committee realizing the urgency of their plea requested and authorized the Church Help Committee to make a special appeal to all our Churches. We are very grateful to all who have acknowledged our plea, so that to date we have received \$107,332.29.

Even with this help it was impossible to meet the needs of Canada and rather than disappoint them, your committee decided to honor their requests as much as possible by loaning them 50% from the Canadian Emergency Building Fund and 50% from the Church Help Fund with their respective stipulations. This solution was thankfully received by the Canadian Churches. In order that no injustice be done the committee decided to continue this policy in the future.

Desiring to eliminate special drives in the future your committee suggests that the needed funds be raised by a stipulated quota. Based upon past experiences we estimate our need to be \$9.00 per family for both funds.

The committee would like to repeat its request of 1951 in regard to the term of office of our treasurer Mr. Charles R. Mulder. See Agenda 1951 Page 73 and Acts of Synod 1951 Page 66, where we read:

"The Committee requests that the term of Mr. Charles R. Mulder, Treasurer of the Committee, be extended beyond the limit established by the Synod of 1950 because it will be almost impossible to replace him under the rules governing the Committee. Synod grant this request and make an exception on the basis of the arguments given by the committee . . . Adopted".

An added reason for this request is the recent rapid turnover of the personnel of this committee, which would leave only one member in

the committee with more than one year experience. It should be considered that the full strength of the Committee is only five men and that it is responsible for the care of more than a million dollars.

The term of Rev. J. Cupido also expires according to the Synodical rule of the tenure of office. Synod is to appoint a new man in his place. Nominations will be sent in before June 1 as Synod 1952 directed.

Our treasurer, Mr. Chas. R. Mulder, is bonded for \$20,000.00 by the American Surety Company of New York, through the Des Moines, Iowa office (Acts 1948).

We herewith present our financial reports of both *the Church Help Fund* and *the Canadian Emergency Building Fund*.

### I. THE CHURCH HELP FUND

#### Bank Reconciliation

Northwestern State Bank, Orange City, Iowa  
Year 1952

|  | Schedule "A"        |
|--|---------------------|
| Bank Balance as per Statement, January 31, 1952..... | \$ 37,724.36        |
| 1951 Deposits Late .....                             | 2,100.00            |
| <b>Total</b> .....                                   | <b>\$ 39,824.36</b> |
| Less: Checks Outstanding .....                       | 19,039.42           |
| <b>Our Ledger Balance</b> .....                      | <b>\$ 20,784.94</b> |
| 1952 Receipts .....                                  | 151,444.73          |
| <b>Total</b> .....                                   | <b>\$172,229.67</b> |
| Less: 1952 Disbursements .....                       | 133,534.71          |
| <b>On Hand</b> .....                                 | <b>\$ 38,694.96</b> |
| <b>Cash</b> .....                                    | <b>\$38,694.96</b>  |
| <br>   |                     |
| Bank Balance as per Statement.....                   | \$107,579.81        |
| Deposits Late .....                                  | 4,577.25            |
| <b>Total</b> .....                                   | <b>\$112,157.06</b> |
| Less: Checks Outstanding .....                       | 73,462.10           |
| <b>Balance</b> .....                                 | <b>\$ 38,694.96</b> |
| <b>Cash</b> .....                                    | <b>\$38,694.96</b>  |

#### Schedule "B"

#### Analysis — Loans Outstanding Year 1952

| CHURCH AT                   | OUTSTANDING<br>JAN. 1, 1952 | NEW LOANS   | PAYMENTS  | OUTSTANDING<br>DEC. 31, 1952 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Abbotsford, B C., Can. .... |                             | \$ 3,500.00 |           | \$ 3,500.00                  |
| Ackley, Iowa .....          | \$ 750.00                   |             | \$ 200.00 | 550.00                       |
| Alameda, California .....   |                             | 8,000.00    |           | 8,000.00                     |
| Alamosa, Colorado .....     | 7,000.00                    |             | 350.00    | 6,650.00                     |

|   |           |          |                     |           |
|---|-----------|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Arcadia, California .....                   | 5,115.00  |          | 345.00              | 4,770.00  |
| Auburn Park, Illinois ....                  | 6,000.00  |          | 375.00              | 5,625.00  |
| Bauer, Michigan .....                       | 4,250.00  |          | 2,250.00            | 2,000.00  |
| Battle Creek, Mich. ....                    | 8,750.00  |          | 500.00              | 8,250.00  |
| Bejou, Minnesota .....                      | 2,050.00  |          |                     | 2,050.00  |
| Bellflower 2nd, Calif. ....                 | 3,900.00  |          | 300.00              | 3,600.00  |
| Bellflower 3rd, Calif. ....                 | 5,000.00  |          |                     | 5,000.00  |
| Bellwood, Illinois .....                    | 10,000.00 |          | 500.00              | 9,500.00  |
| Bemis, South Dakota .....                   | 6,800.00  |          | 400.00              | 6,400.00  |
| Boston Square,<br>Grand Rapids, Mich. ....  | 5,625.00  |          | 375.00 <sup>s</sup> | 5,250.00  |
| Bozeman, Montana .....                      | 6,000.00  |          | 400.00              | 5,600.00  |
| Brampton, Ont., Can. ....                   |           | 8,000.00 |                     | 8,000.00  |
| Cadillac, Mich. ....                        | 8,500.00  |          | 500.00              | 8,000.00  |
| Cascade, Mich. ....                         |           | 5,000.00 |                     | 5,000.00  |
| Chandler, Minnesota .....                   |           | 3,000.00 |                     | 3,000.00  |
| Chatham, Ont., Can. ....                    | 22,125.00 |          | 250.00              | 21,875.00 |
| Cincinnati, Ohio .....                      | 7,200.00  |          | 400.00              | 6,800.00  |
| Clara City, Minn. ....                      | 4,000.00  | 4,000.00 |                     | 8,000.00  |
| Cobden-Pembroke, Ont. ..                    |           | 5,000.00 |                     | 5,000.00  |
| Compton, California .....                   | 5,200.00  |          | 5,200.00            |           |
| Conrad, Montana .....                       |           | 5,000.00 |                     | 5,000.00  |
| Crookston, Minn. ....                       | 2,507.90  |          | 125.00              | 2,382.90  |
| Dearborn, Mich. ....                        | 11,400.00 |          | 650.00              | 10,750.00 |
| Decatur, Mich. ....                         | 2,326.77  |          | 202.73              | 2,124.04  |
| Delavan, Wisconsin .....                    | 7,000.00  |          | 350.00              | 6,650.00  |
| Denver 2nd, Colorado.....                   | 2,875.00  |          | 375.00              | 2,500.00  |
| Des Plaines, Illinois .....                 | 7,125.00  |          | 375.00              | 6,750.00  |
| Dorr, Michigan .....                        | 4,175.00  |          | 1,662.50            | 2,512.50  |
| Dresden, Ont., Can. ....                    |           | 5,000.00 |                     | 5,000.00  |
| East Palmyra, New York                      | 3,500.00  |          | 175.00              | 3,325.00  |
| Edmonton 1st, Alta. ....                    | 7,500.00  |          | 525.00              | 6,975.00  |
| Escalon, California .....                   | 9,125.00  |          | 500.00              | 8,625.00  |
| Everson, Washington .....                   | 7,216.92  |          | 500.00              | 6,716.92  |
| Flint, Michigan .....                       | 2,725.00  |          | 175.00              | 2,550.00  |
| Goshen, New York .....                      | 9,500.00  |          | 500.00              | 9,000.00  |
| Grand Rapids,<br>Highland Hills .....       | 7,125.00  |          | 375.00              | 6,750.00  |
| Grand Rapids, Immanuel                      | 4,250.00  |          | 250.00              | 4,000.00  |
| Grand Rapids,<br>Plymouth Heights .....     |           | 7,500.00 |                     | 7,500.00  |
| Granum, Alta., Can. ....                    | 2,500.00  |          | 125.00              | 2,375.00  |
| Hamilton, Mich. ....                        | 8,000.00  |          | 400.00              | 7,600.00  |
| Hartley, Iowa .....                         | 5,000.00  |          |                     | 5,000.00  |
| Hawarden, Iowa .....                        | 5,100.00  |          | 300.00              | 4,800.00  |
| Hoboken, N. J. ....                         | 1,250.00  | 4,000.00 | 250.00              | 5,000.00  |
| Holland Bethany, Mich. ..                   | 6,000.00  |          | 375.00              | 5,625.00  |
| Holland, Holland<br>Heights, Michigan ..... | 7,500.00  |          | 375.00              | 7,125.00  |
| Holland Marsh,<br>Ontario, Canada .....     | 3,600.00  |          | 200.00              | 3,400.00  |
| Holland, Minnesota .....                    | 2,850.00  |          | 150.00              | 2,700.00  |
| Houston, B. C., Can. ....                   | 4,250.00  |          | 250.00              | 4,000.00  |
| Iowa Falls, Iowa .....                      | 6,375.00  |          | 600.00              | 5,775.00  |
| Kingston, Ont., Can. ....                   |           | 5,000.00 |                     | 5,000.00  |

Analysis — Loans Outstanding  
Year 1952

| CHURCH AT                               | OUTSTANDING<br>JAN. 1, 1952 | NEW LOANS   | PAYMENTS  | OUTSTANDING<br>DEC. 31, 1952 |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Lacombe, Alta., Can. ....               | 11,700.00                   |             | 800.00    | 10,900.00                    |
| Langley Prairie,<br>B. C., Canada ..... |                             | 7,000.00    |           | 7,000.00                     |
| Lansing Oak Glen, Ill.....              |                             | 10,000.00   |           | 10,000.00                    |
| Lansing, Michigan .....                 | \$ 4,125.00                 |             | \$ 375.00 | \$ 3,750.00                  |
| Lethbridge, Alta, Can. ....             |                             | \$ 8,000.00 |           | 8,000.00                     |
| Lodi, New Jersey .....                  | 2,375.00                    |             | 125.00    | 2,250.00                     |
| Luverne, Minnesota .....                |                             | 10,000.00   |           | 10,000.00                    |
| Milwaukee, Wisconsin ....               | 3,000.00                    | 4,000.00    | 250.00    | 6,750.00                     |
| Mt. Vernon, Wash. ....                  | 700.00                      |             | 700.00    |                              |
| Minneapolis, Minn. ....                 | 5,950.00                    |             |           | 5,950.00                     |
| Modesto, California .....               | 5,700.00                    |             | 300.00    | 5,400.00                     |
| Monroe, Washington .....                | 9,000.00                    |             |           | 9,000.00                     |
| Morrison, Illinois .....                | 4,750.00                    |             | 250.00    | 4,500.00                     |
| Neerlandia, Alta., Can. ..              | 9,612.50                    |             | 512.50    | 9,100.00                     |
| Newton, Iowa .....                      | 2,804.00                    |             | 400.00    | 2,404.00                     |
| Newton, New Jersey.....                 | 11,125.00                   |             | 625.00    | 10,500.00                    |
| Nobleford, Alta., Can. ....             | 6,000.00                    |             | 1,000.00  | 5,000.00                     |
| Oak Lawn, Illinois .....                | 4,500.00                    |             | 250.00    | 4,250.00                     |
| Ogilvie, Minnesota .....                | 4,050.00                    | 1,000.00    | 250.00    | 4,800.00                     |
| Oskaloosa Bethel, Iowa....              | 5,700.00                    |             | 300.00    | 5,400.00                     |
| Owen Sound, Ont., Can.                  |                             | 3,000.00    |           | 3,000.00                     |
| Parchment, Mich. ....                   | 950.00                      |             | 150.00    | 800.00                       |
| Phoenix, Arizona .....                  | 10,200.00                   |             |           | 10,200.00                    |
| Pine Creek, Mich. ....                  | 6,000.00                    |             | 300.00    | 5,700.00                     |
| Pipestone, Minn. ....                   | 716.00                      |             | 190.00    | 526.00                       |
| Pitt Meadows, B.C., Can.                |                             | 9,000.00    |           | 9,000.00                     |
| Plainfield, Michigan .....              | 3,150.00                    |             | 450.00    | 2,700.00                     |
| Randolph 2nd, Wis. ....                 | 7,125.00                    |             | 375.00    | 6,750.00                     |
| Raymond, Minnesota .....                | 5,745.00                    |             | 375.00    | 5,370.00                     |
| Redlands 1st, Calif. ....               | 4,750.00                    |             | 250.00    | 4,500.00                     |
| Redlands 2nd, Calif. ....               | 4,500.00                    | 3,500.00    | 250.00    | 7,750.00                     |
| Ridgewood, N. J. ....                   | 8,500.00                    |             | 500.00    | 8,000.00                     |
| Ripon Immanuel, Calif. ..               | 9,500.00                    |             | 625.00    | 8,875.00                     |
| Rock Rapids, Iowa .....                 | 5,350.00                    |             | 1,000.00  | 4,350.00                     |
| Rock Valley Calvin, Ia....              | 10,000.00                   |             | 500.00    | 9,500.00                     |
| Saginaw, Michigan .....                 | 15,900.00                   |             | 500.00    | 15,400.00                    |
| San Diego, California ....              | 8,850.00                    |             | 550.00    | 8,300.00                     |
| Sarnia, Ont., Can. ....                 | 17,800.00                   |             |           | 17,800.00                    |
| Seattle, Washington .....               | 7,200.00                    |             | 400.00    | 6,800.00                     |
| Sibley, Iowa .....                      | 1,163.36                    |             | 621.61    | 541.75                       |
| Sioux City, Iowa .....                  | 1,060.00                    |             | 310.00    | 750.00                       |
| Sioux Falls, S. D. ....                 | 9,000.00                    |             | 500.00    | 8,500.00                     |
| Sussex, New Jersey.....                 | 3,000.00                    |             | 150.00    | 2,850.00                     |
| Strathroy, Ont., Can. ....              |                             | 3,000.00    |           | 3,000.00                     |
| Terra Ceia, N. C. ....                  | 5,800.00                    |             | 350.00    | 5,450.00                     |
| Tracy, Iowa .....                       | 1,646.10                    |             | 300.00    | 1,346.10                     |
| Tyler, Minnesota .....                  | 900.00                      |             |           | 900.00                       |
| Taber, Alta., Can. ....                 |                             | 2,750.00    |           | 2,750.00                     |
| Vancouver, B. C., Can....               | 14,498.00                   |             | 875.00    | 13,623.00                    |

|                            |              |              |              |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wallaceburg, Ont., Can...  |              | 3,000.00     |              | 3,000.00     |
| Washington, D. C. ....     | 2,650.00     |              | 200.00       | 2,450.00     |
| Wellandport, Ont., Can. .. |              | 5,000.00     |              | 5,000.00     |
| Wheaton, Illinois .....    | 10,000.00    |              | 500.00       | 9,500.00     |
| Winnipeg, Man., Can. ....  | 3,000.00     |              | 150.00       | 2,850.00     |
| Wyckoff Calvin, N. J.....  | 8,500.00     |              | 500.00       | 8,000.00     |
| Zeeland Bethel, Mich. .... | 10,000.00    |              | 500.00       | 9,500.00     |
| Total .....                | \$547,586.55 | \$132,250.00 | \$ 39,619.34 | \$640,217.21 |

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have examined the books and records of the Church Help Fund of the Christian Reformed Church and that the attached is a true statement of the receipts and disbursements for the year ended December 31, 1952, insofar as disclosed by the records.

Respectfully submitted,

CORA M. HILGER  
Public Accountant

Denominational Quotas By Classes and Other Receipts  
Year 1952

| Classes                  | 1951        | 1952         |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Alberta .....            |             | \$ 1,658.34  |
| California .....         | \$ 3,174.33 | 4,385.13     |
| Chicago North .....      | 4,461.20    | 6,402.86     |
| Chicago South .....      | 5,090.02    | 7,197.66     |
| Grand Rapids East .....  | 6,554.55    | 9,255.75     |
| Grand Rapids South ..... | 7,525.02    | 10,416.00    |
| Grand Rapids West .....  | 4,187.26    | 5,739.00     |
| Hackensack .....         | 2,048.64    | 2,748.45     |
| Holland .....            | 5,663.27    | 7,755.00     |
| Hudson .....             | 4,080.28    | 5,404.00     |
| Kalamazoo .....          | 3,291.47    | 4,467.00     |
| Minnesota .....          | 3,682.17    | 5,097.81     |
| Muskegon .....           | 5,771.25    | 7,755.44     |
| Ontario .....            | 763.28      | 2,837.58     |
| Orange City .....        | 2,635.80    | 3,581.25     |
| Ostfriesland .....       | 1,705.50    | 2,268.00     |
| Pacific .....            | 4,929.19    | 5,025.71     |
| Pella .....              | 3,989.67    | 5,390.69     |
| Sioux Center .....       | 3,584.45    | 4,717.91     |
| Wisconsin .....          | 2,391.81    | 3,156.00     |
| Zeeland .....            | 4,716.00    | 6,475.94     |
| Miscellaneous .....      |             | 89.87        |
| Total .....              | \$80,245.16 | \$111,825.39 |

The Church Help Fund  
Summary

|                                      |             |              |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Balance on Hand January 1, 1952..... |             | \$ 20,784.94 |
| Total Receipts:                      |             |              |
| Repayments "B" .....                 | \$39,619.34 |              |
| Disc. to Compton, California.....    | 200.00      | \$39,419.34  |
| Quotas "C" .....                     |             | 111,825.39   |

|   |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Canadian Emergency Building Fund,<br>sent to us in error..... | 200.00       | 151,444.73   |
| Total .....   |              | \$172,229.67 |
| Total Disbursements:  |              |              |
| New Loans .....   | \$132,250.00 |              |
| Check to Canadian Emergency Building Fund....                 | 200.00       |              |
| Administrative Expenses .....                                 | 1,084.71     | 133,534.71   |
|   |              | \$ 38,694.96 |
| Cash .....  | \$38,694.96  |              |

## II. THE CANADIAN EMERGENCY BUILDING FUND

From March 6, 1952 to March 6, 1953

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| On Hand March 6, 1952..... | \$ 98,133.14 |
| Total Receipts .....       | 107,332.29   |
| Total .....                | \$205,465.43 |

### Disbursements

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| New Loans .....                      | \$171,250.00 |
| Sent to us in error and returned to: |              |
| Oskaloosa Bethel, Iowa CRC .....     | \$385.50     |
| Gen. Home Missions Comm. ....        | 63.57        |
| Bank and Telephone Expenses .....    | 449.07       |
|                                      | 5.27         |

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
|                            | \$171,704.34 |
| On Hand March 6, 1953..... | 33,761.09    |
|                            | \$205,465.43 |

## CANADIAN EMERGENCY BUILDING FUND ANALYSIS — LOANS OUTSTANDING

As of March 6th, 1953

| CHURCH                        | CHECK       | REPAY    | AMOUNT      |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Picton, Ont., Canada .....    | \$ 2,000.00 |          | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Hamilton, Ont., Canada .....  | 10,000.00   | \$200.00 | 7,300.00    |
| Iron Springs, Alta. ....      | 15,000.00   |          | 11,250.00   |
| Granum, Alta. ....            | 10,000.00   |          | 7,500.00    |
| Jarvis, Ont. ....             | 16,000.00   |          | 12,000.00   |
| St. Catharines, Ont. ....     | 10,000.00   |          | 7,500.00    |
| Aylmer, Ont. ....             | 10,000.00   | 500.00   | 7,000.00    |
| Essex, Ont. ....              | 5,500.00    |          | 4,125.00    |
| Trenton, Ont. ....            | 16,000.00   |          | 12,000.00   |
| Toronto, Ont. ....            | 12,000.00   |          | 9,000.00    |
| Holland Marsh, Ont. ....      | 7,700.00    |          | 5,775.00    |
| Brockville, Bethel, Ont. .... | 10,000.00   |          | 7,500.00    |
| Rocky Mt. House, Alta. ....   | 10,000.00   |          | 7,500.00    |
| Peers, Alta. ....             | 10,000.00   |          | 7,500.00    |
| Woodstock, Ont. ....          | 16,000.00   |          | 12,000.00   |
| Bowmanville, Ont. ....        | 12,000.00   |          | 9,000.00    |
| Owen Sound, Ont. ....         | 13,000.00   |          | 9,750.00    |
| Second Edmonton, Alta. ....   | 16,000.00   |          | 12,000.00   |
| Winona, Ont. ....             | 13,500.00   |          | 10,125.00   |
| Strathroy, Ont. ....          | 13,000.00   |          | 9,750.00    |
| Ladner, B. C. ....            | 8,000.00    |          | 6,000.00    |

|                                    |           |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Drayton, Ont. ....                 | 16,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Red Deer, Alta., Can. ....         | 10,000.00 | 7,500.00  |
| Barrhead, Alta., Can. ....         | 6,000.00  | 4,500.00  |
| Westlock, Alta., Can. ....         | 6,000.00  | 4,500.00  |
| Abbotsford, B. C., Can. ....       | 9,000.00  | 6,750.00  |
| Third Edmonton, Alta., Can. ....   | 16,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Wyoming, Ont., Can. ....           | 6,000.00  | 4,500.00  |
| Winnipeg, Man., Can. ....          | 10,000.00 | 7,500.00  |
| Taber, Alta., Can. ....            | 12,750.00 | 9,562.50  |
| Brooks (Duchess), Alta., Can. .... | 3,000.00  | 2,250.00  |
| Clinton, Ont., Can. ....           | 4,500.00  | 3,375.00  |
| London, Ont., Can. ....            | 8,000.00  | 6,000.00  |
| Cochrane, Ont., Can. ....          | 7,500.00  | 5,625.00  |
| Telkwa-Smithers, B. C., Can. ....  | 6,000.00  | 4,500.00  |
| Second Sarnia, Ont., Can. ....     | 8,000.00  | 6,000.00  |
| Calgary, Alta., Can. ....          | 16,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Wellandport, Ont., Can. ....       | 5,000.00  | 3,750.00  |
| Cobden-Pembroke, Alta., Can. ....  | 5,000.00  | 3,750.00  |
| Dresden, Ont., Can. ....           | 5,000.00  | 3,750.00  |
| Brampton, Ont., Can. ....          | 8,000.00  | 6,000.00  |
| Wallaceburg, Ont., Can. ....       | 3,000.00  | 2,250.00  |
| Kingston, Ont., Can. ....          | 5,000.00  | 3,750.00  |
| Lethbridge, Alta., Can. ....       | 8,000.00  | 6,000.00  |

\$419,450.00    \$700.00    \$813,887.50

First column represents the amounts received. The last column the amounts to be repaid.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Church Help Committee, Inc.  
Rev. David D. Bonnema, President  
Rev. J. Cupido, Secretary  
Mr. Chas. R. Mulder, Treasurer  
Rev. A. Baker  
Mr. Sam Elgersma

P. S.: A detailed report of all receipts for the Canadian Emergency Building Fund will be available for Synod's perusal.

## THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

### ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:

Your Committee herewith presents the annual accounting of its administration of the affairs of Canadian Immigration in behalf of our Churches.

#### I PERSONNEL.

The Committee is presently constituted as follows:

|                       |                  |                     |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. P. J. Hoekstra   | Calgary, Alta.   | President           |
| Mr. J. VanderVliet    | Trenton, Ont.    | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Rev. A. Disselkoen    | Winnipeg, Man.   |                     |
| Mr. J. VanderVelden   | Vancouver, B. C. |                     |
| Rev. J. M. VandeKieft | Grand Rapids     | Missionary-at-Large |

The following appointees of Synod are serving as full-time fieldmen:  
for Ontario:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mr. J. Vellinga   | Chatham, Ont.    |
| Mr. C. Steenhof   | Toronto, Ont.    |
| Mr. L. VandenBerg | Brockville, Ont. |

for Alberta:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. B. Nieboer     | Iron Springs, Alta. |
| Mr. H. A. Wierenga | Edmonton, Alta.     |

and as part-time fieldmen:

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. R. Jongbloed   | Hamilton, Ont.         |
| Mr. J. Prins       | Beverly, Alta.         |
| Mr. A. de Jong     | New-Westminster, B. C. |
| Mr. J. VanderVliet | Trenton, Ont.          |

In the place of Mr. J. de Jong of Winnipeg, who left our service during the previous year, was assigned tentatively, subject to appointment by Synod, Mr. Tom Polet, for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan area.

In the opening up of the Maritimes field, Mr. H. J. Lam was engaged on a temporary basis. Besides securing sponsors he also meets the boats at the docks, welcomes and helps the immigrants upon arrival and distributes our literature with the able assistance of his wife.

#### II SURVEY OF THE WORK DONE IN 1952.

The work has again been prospered and blessed by the Lord as is evident from the following. At the end of the year 1951 there were in Canada 71 organized Christian Reformed congregations and 24 mission stations. Now we have 92 organized Churches and 27 mission stations, a gain of 21 Churches and 3 mission stations.

The number of placements by our fieldmen during the year 1952 was approximately 1800 families and 800 single men and women. The placement of tradesmen continues to increase as also the number of relative cases. New places opened up in previously unoccupied areas during the past year were: the Peace River district in Northern Al-

berta, Regina in Saskatchewan, Sault Ste. Marie and Ottawa in Ontario, Montreal in Quebec and the Maritime provinces.

Immigrant Reception Centers for temporary occupancy by incoming immigrants are operating satisfactorily and largely on a self-sustaining basis.

### III PROSPECTS FOR 1953.

The general flow of immigrants is expected to continue in the same measure as last year with an approximate total of 20,000. The special emergency immigration resulting from the flood disaster in the Netherlands however is expected to bring a large increase over the normal flow. According to the Toronto Star of Feb. 24, from its staff correspondent in Amsterdam, Canadian officials are quoted as having stated that 40,000 Dutch people will emigrate to Canada this year. This means that our fieldmen will have to put forth special efforts to find employment and housing. Our Committee, in conference with Mr. C. E. S. Smith, Commissioner for Immigration, has pledged to provide this for additional numbers of immigrants from the flood stricken areas. :

In connection with the increasing industrial development of Canada the demand for Dutch labor continues. Early this spring some 60 large families, whose sponsorship was a direct result of a procurement visit to the Netherlands of fieldmen B. Nieboer, are expected for the beet district of Alberta. A schedule of 4 boats per month is anticipated from March to August and several in the fall, with additional arrivals by air.

### IV APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee, in the nature of the case, is constrained to take note of the matter presented in the form of an overture by a consistory of classis Ontario East with a view to having it submitted to Synod also. It pertains to the status proper of this Committee, its composition and functioning, and its reorganization with a view to bringing it closer within the ecclesiastical orb and channels of classes and consistories.

Having studied this matter in the light of the appointment and organization of this Committee in 1946; its functioning as an agency directly responsible to Synod, since that time; and in the light of the proposed reorganization, we submit the following appraisal, endeavoring to keep it objective, having only the welfare of the cause and the promotion of the work at heart.

1. In its original composition your Committee considered itself a sub-committee of the Home Missions Committee, although Synod had not defined its status as such. When, after the organizational meeting,

held at Winnipeg, it reported to the Home Missions Committee and requested funds to operate, it was informed that the Home Missions Committee had no financial responsibility. With the endorsement of the Synodical Committee, we therefore negotiated a loan from the Synodical treasurer. At the next Synod we were definitely given the status of a denominational committee, and the Canadian Immigration Fund was established.

With respect to the constituency of the Committee's membership the first nominations were made by the delegates of the 3 Classes having the immigration in their district. This was changed in 1948 by Synod. Nominations were to be made by the local leagues or councils for immigration from which Synod made the appointments. Later, as the movement grew, the Leagues in Alberta and Ontario sought enlargement of the Committee membership from their areas. When Alberta League sought to gain additional members, Ontario immediately did likewise. Synod thereupon took the following action. See page 71 Acts of Synod 1949 which reads as follows: "Your Committee advises Synod not to appoint a new member for Winnipeg to replace the late Mr. J. J. Wyenberg, nor to appoint an additional member to the Canadian Immigration Committee for the Province of Ontario, but rather to reconstitute the Committee with one member from each of the four provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, and the Missionary-at-Large. In naming this Committee the Committee of Appointments shall consider that fieldmen employed by the Canadian Immigration Committee shall not themselves be members of that Committee. In the future, nominations for members of the Committee submitted by the respective Leagues or Locals shall likewise endeavor to observe this rule.

*Grounds:*

- a. A smaller Committee can function more efficiently when the Committee only meets annually or semi-annually and considerable of its business must needs be carried on by correspondence;
- b. The various Locals and Leagues serve to implement the work of the General Synodical Committee;
- c. The mounting costs of our Canadian Immigration work call for strict economy, and savings wherever possible;
- d. The fieldmen, as employees of the Canadian Immigration Committee, should not normally exercise supervision and control over their own work. Exceptions to this rule may be valid in case of part-time fieldman. *Adopted.* (End of quotation.)

In the light of the above historical data it is understandable that your Committee was in a quandary when it read in the Acts of Synod of 1952 (page 113): "Two new members will be proposed by the On-

tario Immigration Council" without any further explanation or reference. On the face of it, it was clearly in non-conformity with the decision of the Synod quoted above. Neither has our Committee received any further elucidation or instructions concerning this matter.

## 2. *Relationship to various bodies*

Your Committee finds it expedient to have good relations with the Immigration authorities, governments, and transportation systems as well as with the Immigration Leagues and Councils. We have frequently met with the officials in the Capital and in the provinces. We received free transportation on passes for Committee members and fieldmen. Representatives of the Committee were given free transportation by the Holland-America Line for a trip to the Netherlands to contact the various authorities and agencies there in the interest of the work. For the profit of the work these relationships must be properly maintained.

## 3. *Operational agents.*

Fieldmen are necessary for procurement of placements and the settlement of immigrants after arrival. A just analysis and due appreciation of their work should consider the special problems and difficulties encountered in this work. When, for instance, immigrants are expected in March but do not arrive until August, when they are no longer desired by their sponsors, who were clamoring for them in the spring; when large numbers of immigrants require placement at short notice; when families arrive at our ports of entry without sponsors, or with open visa, we will realize how valuable their services are. Our Committee has an enviable record with Canadian officials of placing all those for whom we are responsible.

It should also be remembered that possibilities for placements are poor in districts where economic conditions for permanent settlement of immigrants are few. In such districts there is a constant turnover of incoming and outgoing immigrants. These in general are the problems our fieldmen are dealing with.

Our fieldmen strive to maintain cooperative contacts with the local Leagues and also with the home-missionaries and ministers in their fields in order to promote immigration as a Church extension as well as a resettlement movement. The fieldmen as a rule are active in local Churches and mission stations as elders and leaders. Thus they live at the very heart of the movement. They cannot keep abreast with all the work and the ideal would be to have one fieldman for every home-missionary or minister. Hence part-time fieldmen have been engaged in every district.

Supervision of the fieldmen is exercised by the Committee members in each district, by monthly reports, by conferences at the meetings of the Committee and by close contacts.

In view of the mounting deficit the Committee last November reluctantly took action to discontinue paying for the part-time fieldmen, with a few exceptions. It was hoped that the local Leagues could find ways and means to continue this support. This was done in some instances.

Taking note of the fruits the Lord has given in Canada on the labours of the Church, the question might be asked: What if the Synod had not appointed a Committee to direct and organize this work? What, if Synod had not followed up with Home-Missionaries? What, if the classes had not interested themselves? We dare say there would have been a great dispersion and fewer Christian Reformed Churches in Canada.

After the first World War the immigration work was almost entirely left to local initiative and consequently the results were very meager. Many good families were lost to the Church. With this in mind our Church interested itself in the Canadian work even before the influx of immigrants into Canada started, and through your Committee obtained a prominent position in the Canadian Immigration scheme. The work was largely directed by the Committee of Synod, so that, as the work progressed, officials in the capital and of other Churches came to us for help and advice. The Reformed, Catholic, Canadian Reformed, Old Reformed and Old Christian Reformed Churches have all imitated our organization and followed our example.

#### 4. *The question of Reorganization of the Committee*

a. Shall this be done simply by adding a few members for larger representation? The reasons Synod gave in 1949 are still cogent.

b. This touches the matter of principle in regard to the work of the Church as institute and as organism. We do not consider the present organization a violation of the principle but an adaptation of the principle in a practical situation. As the Committee is constituted at present the Church as an organism makes the nomination and the Church as an institute makes the appointments. We would suggest that the Church as institute, through the classes also makes the nominations, from which the Synod appoints.

c. Synodical supervision with classical cooperation. The Committee considers it inadvisable to enlarge the Committee with many members, but in order to draw the Church closer to the work, and to make the work more effective, we suggest that the Committee be proportionally enlarged, giving the three classes in Ontario each a member on the Committee. The Classes in the West shall also have one each, plus one from the States, making 7 in all. We would advise that the constituency of the Committee be 3 laymen and 3 ministers, plus the member from the States.

With respect to the ruling of Synod concerning the tenure of office we have taken no action in view of the suggested basic reorganization along the lines of classical nominations upon which action will be taken by Synod.

The ruling of Synod concerning tenure would mean that there would be a complete change in the Committee excepting Mr. J. VanderVelden of Vancouver. Such a drastic change, we are convinced, would be detrimental to the cause of immigration. In view of the proposed reorganization of the Committee we have deemed it advisable to await Synod's action in this matter.

#### V. FINANCES:

Due to the expansion of the work and enlarged expenses your Committee was in great financial distress at the end of the year, operating in the red and unable to meet its obligations, but we are very thankful that during the last few weeks of 1952 our funds were strengthened again. With the new quota we hope to stay out of debt and expect to operate within the quota granted us by Synod.

The Budget for 1954 has been presented to the Budget Committee. The total amounts of receipts and expenses are expected to be respectively \$69,000.00 and \$67,300.00.

#### VI. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION:

1. That all full-time fieldmen be reappointed.
2. That Mr. T. Polet be appointed full-time fieldman for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
3. That the quota of \$1.70 per family be continued in 1954.
4. That the suggestions made by your Committee be given serious consideration.

Summarized they are:

- a. That the Committee be reorganized in such a way that the classes become the nominating bodies.
- b. That each of the Classes has equal representation in the nomination.
- c. That there shall be an equal number of ministers and laymen on the Committee, plus one from the United States, and 7 in all.
5. That Synod take due note and make proper acknowledgment of their letter of thanks to the General Synod of the "Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland".

#### *Conclusion:*

Your Committee, aware of the unsettled conditions in this war-cursed world, is nevertheless alive to the opportunities still given to promote the works of peace and to help establish homes and Churches

for those who seek a new fatherland. We covet the continued prayers and support of all our Churches and people, both in Canada and in the United States, and we commend our Synod to the special guidance of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of the King of the Church in all its deliberations and decisions.

Finally, Brethren, we are pleased to acquaint you with the contents of a letter from the Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands, sent to the Stated Clerk of Synod, which reads as follows:

“Hooggeachte Broeders en Zusters in onzen Here Jezus Christus:

De Generale Synode van de Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland, in vergadering te Rotterdam bijeen, besprak bij het rapport van haar deputaten voor de Emigratie ook het vele werk, dat door Uw Kerken is gedaan in het belang van de emigranten naar Canada.

De Generale Synode herdacht met grote dankbaarheid de grote offers, die U zich heeft willen getroosten voor de ontvangst, de geestelijke en kerkelijke verzorging van haar leden, die naar Canada vertrokken.

Het is voor onze Kerken in 't gemeen en voor de hier blijvende familie in het bijzonder een geruststelling en troost, dat onze emigranten in Canada een kerkverband vinden, dat ons geestelijk en historisch zo nauw verwant is.

De Generale Synode dankt U dan ook zeer voor Uw zorg en moeite in dezen, en, hoewel het vertrek van zoveel leden voor ons eigen Kerkverband een verlies is, hoopt de Synode toch zeer, dat zij voor Uw Kerkverband en voor de opbloei van Christus' Koninkrijk in Canada een verrijking mogen betekenen.

U voor het leven Uwer Kerken den zegen van God toewensend,

Namens de Generale Synode,  
C. VanderWoude, Scriba, Synode

Humbly submitted,

Canadian Immigration Committee  
REV. P. J. HOEKSTRA, *President*  
MR. J. VANDERVLIET, *Sec.-treasurer*  
MR. J. VANDERVELDEN  
REV. A. DISSELKOEN  
REV. J. M. VANDEKIEFT, *Missionary-at-Large*

#### AUDITOR'S REPORT

Immigration Committee For Canada  
of the Christian Reformed Church,  
TRENTON, Ontario.

As instructed by you, I have made an examination of the books and vouchers of your committee for the year ended December 31, 1952 and present herewith the undernoted financial statements with my report thereon.

- (1) Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended December 31, 1952
- (2) Bank Reconciliation Statements at December 31, 1951 and at December 31, 1952

A detailed check of receipts and disbursements was carried out and the balances on deposit with the Canadian Bank of Commerce as at December 31, 1951 and as at December 31, 1952 were confirmed.

During 1952 a loss was sustained on American funds in the amount of \$1,448.64.

Cash surplus was increased by \$8,550.96 as a result of the year's operations, increasing the cash surplus on deposit as at December 31, 1952 to \$6,511.55.

The books and records in my opinion are complete, neat and accurate, and correctly determine all receipts and disbursements as listed in the financial statements attached.

TERRANCE M. READ,  
Auditor

Dated at Trenton, Ontario  
March 14, 1953.

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE FOR CANADA  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements**

For the Year Ended December 31, 1952

**RECEIPTS:**

|                                   |             |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Donations .....                   | \$69,490.60 |             |
| Less: Loss on American Funds..... | 1,448.64    | \$68,041.96 |

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

|                                       |           |                    |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Advertising .....                     | \$ 856.31 |                    |
| Committee Meetings .....              | 316.54    |                    |
| Exchange and Bank Charges.....        | 16.94     |                    |
| Expenses Truro Reception Centre ..... | 462.14    |                    |
| Labour paid by Committee Members..... | 1,161.60  |                    |
| Miscellaneous Expenses .....          | 576.83    |                    |
| Office Supplies .....                 | 297.28    |                    |
| Postage and Excise .....              | 673.23    |                    |
| Telephone and Telegraph .....         | 3,129.23  |                    |
| Traveling Expenses .....              | 17,686.67 |                    |
| Wages .....                           | 34,314.23 | 59,491.00          |
|                                       |           | <b>\$ 8,550.96</b> |

**CASH SURPLUS:**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Net Cash on Deposit December 31, 1951..... | \$ 2,039.41        |
| Net Cash on Deposit December 31, 1952..... | \$ 6,511.55        |
|  | <b>\$ 8,550.96</b> |

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE FOR CANADA  
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**Bank Reconciliation — as at — December 31, 1951**

**BALANCE ON DEPOSIT:**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Canadian Bank of Commerce, Trenton, Ontario Branch<br>as per Bank Confirmation Certificate ..... | \$1,088.20 |
|--|------------|

ADD:

Cheques issued and not cashed as at December 31, 1951..... 951.21

NET CASH ON DEPOSIT DECEMBER 31, 1951.....\$2,039.41

Bank Reconciliation — as at — December 31, 1952

BALANCE ON DEPOSIT:

Canadian Bank of Commerce, Trenton, Ontario Branch  
as per Bank Confirmation Certificate .....\$7,030.71

LESS:

Cheques issued and not cashed as at December 31, 1952..... 519.16

NET CASH ON DEPOSIT DECEMBER 31, 1952.....\$6,511.55

**CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS**

The Christian Reformed Board of Missions has counted it a privilege to serve our denomination and very particularly the Synod in administering the foreign mission program of our Church. The mission program of our Church is varied and extensive, and the foreign mission arm of our Church life has in the past year been very much alive. We are grateful to God for the many new missionaries which have come from our Church ranks to join the mission forces on our several fields, and also grateful to the Lord that the necessary funds for the execution of the many tasks were available. The indispensable power of prayer has been evident, and the Holy Spirit has, we confidently trust, used also the labors of our missionaries to further the Kingdom of our Savior in many places.

SECTION ONE

ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

A. *Board Membership.* There has been a great deal of changing in board membership during this past year, especially due to the changing to other pastorates by some of our ministers, but also due to the new rule which limits the terms of service on our denominational boards. The membership of the board is made up of one delegate from each classis and three members-at-large. Since we have twenty-four classes the board is composed of twenty-seven delegates plus the Secretary of Missions who is a member ex-officio. The membership of the board at present is as follows:

| CLASSES                  | MEMBERS                      | ALTERNATES              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alberta .....            | Rev. John C. Verbrugge.....  | Rev. Elco H. Oostendorp |
| California .....         | Rev. Gerrit B. Boerefyn..... | Rev. Frank De Jong      |
| Chatham .....            | Rev. John Gritter.....       | Rev. Wm. D. Buursma     |
| Chicago North .....      | Rev. Martin Bolt .....       | Rev. Oliver Breen       |
| Chicago South .....      | Rev. Henry Bajema .....      | Rev. Edward Visser      |
| Eastern Ontario .....    | Rev. Albert H. Smit.....     | Rev. David Grasman      |
| Grand Rapids East .....  | Rev. F. W. Van Houten.....   | Rev. Clarence Boomsma   |
| Grand Rapids South ..... | Dr. Henry J. Kreulen.....    | Rev. George Goris       |
| Grand Rapids West.....   | Rev. Richard De Ridder.....  | Rev. Jacob D. Eppinga   |
| Hackensack .....         | Rev. Harold Bossenbroek..... | Rev. Dick Van Halsema   |
| Hamilton .....           | Rev. John M. Dykstra.....    | Rev. Andrew D. Folkema  |
| Holland .....            | Rev. John Beebe .....        | Rev. Carl Kromminga     |
| Hudson .....             | Rev. Wm. Vander Haak.....    | Rev. Arie H. Oussoren   |
| Kalamazoo .....          | Rev. Simon A. Dykstra.....   | Rev. John O. Schuring   |
| Minnesota North .....    | Rev. Simon Viss.....         | Rev. Sidney Werkema     |
| Minnesota South .....    | Rev. John Roorda .....       | Rev. Richard H. Wezeman |
| Muskegon .....           | Rev. George Vander Kooi..... | Rev. John E. Scholten   |

| CLASSES               | MEMBERS                      | ALTERNATES           |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Orange City .....     | Rev. David D. Bonnema.....   | Rev. John Masselink  |
| Ostfriesland .....    | Rev. Sidney P. Miersma.....  | Rev. Garrett Pars    |
| Pacific .....         | Rev. Paul De Koekkoek.....   | Rev. Walter Hekman   |
| Pella .....           | Rev. Menko Ouwinga.....      | Rev. Albert Veltkamp |
| Sioux Center .....    | Rev. G. Vander Plaats.....   | Rev. Carl Toeset     |
| Wisconsin .....       | Rev. William Alkema.....     | Rev. Bartel Huizenga |
| Zeeland .....         | Rev. Henry Erffmeyer.....    | Rev. Robert Evenhuis |
| Member-at-large ..... | Dr. Richard S. Wierenga..... | } Dr. Richard De Mol |
| Member-at-large ..... | Dr. Edwin Y. Monsma.....     |                      |
| Member-at-large ..... | Mr. Joseph T. Daverman.....  |                      |

In order to stagger the terms of service for our members-at-large and to preclude the retirement of more than one of these members in the same year, the board requests Synod to change the Mission Order, Article I, Section 5, which makes no mention of length of terms of service, to include "for three years," and Article II, Section 1, to read "three years" instead of "two years." To adjust the terms of service of Dr. E. Y. Monsma and Mr. J. T. Daverman to fit in with these amendments, Dr. Monsma's term shall expire in 1954 and Mr. Daverman's term in 1955.

Since the term of service of Dr. Richard S. Wierenga terminates with this session of Synod, it will be necessary to elect a replacement for him. He is not eligible for re-election since he has served more than six consecutive years. The board offers the following nomination for the consideration of Synod for this opening: Dr. Bernard Velzen and Mr. Herman Fles. Dr. Richard De Mol has served as general alternate for our members-at-large. Since his term expires but he is eligible for re-election, the board offers the following nomination for general alternate: Dr. Richard De Mol and Mr. Jerry Jonker.

Dr. Richard Wierenga will have completed nine years of service in June and carried the responsibilities of treasurer for three years. The board expressed its appreciation to Dr. Wierenga for his many years of valued service to the board and the cause of foreign missions. It was decided to also ask Synod to acknowledge Dr. Wierenga's many services for our cause.

**B. OFFICERS.** At present the officers of the board are: President, Dr. E. Y. Monsma; Vice President, Rev. Richard De Ridder; Secretary, Rev. Henry J. Evenhouse; Minute Secretary, Rev. John Beebe; Treasurer, Dr. Richard S. Wierenga; Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Joseph T. Daverman.

**C. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

1. The Executive Committee, which consists of representatives of the Michigan and Illinois classes, the members-at-large, and the Secretary of Missions, met regularly for all day sessions on the second Thursday of each month during 1952, excepting the month of December.

2. The Finance Committee, consisting of the three members-at-large and the Secretary, has served the board with a great deal of counsel in matters of finance and in preparation of financial reports. Mr. Harry Boersma has been serving as secretary of the finance committee.

3. The Recruiting Committee advised the board in all matters pertaining to appointments for mission service.

4. The Officers Committee served the board with advice from time to time on matters of policy.

5. The Promotion Committee is appointed to give special attention to the promotion of literature distribution concerning our work and the stimulation of mission interest in the Churches.

D. SECRETARY OF MISSIONS. Since the meeting of Synod in 1952, Rev. George Vander Kooi served in the office of the Secretary until Rev. Henry J. Evenhouse was able to assume his office. The present Secretary commenced his service in September. The board is very appreciative of the excellent services rendered by the Rev. Vander Kooi.

E. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF MISSIONS. At the time of the board meeting in February no assistant had yet been appointed. There were several applicants, but the board referred the entire matter to the Secretary and the executive committee for further consideration and possible decision. It is hoped that by the time Synod meets we will have been able to fill this vacancy.

F. OFFICE PERSONNEL. During the past year our office staff has done excellent work and because of the change in Secretaryship necessarily carried additional responsibilities. Mr. Harry Boersma has now completed five years of service as assistant to the treasurer and Miss Reta De Boer and Miss Julia Ensink have carried on the secretarial services.

G. REPRESENTATION AT SYNOD. In addition to the representation of the Secretary of Missions provided for by the Mission Order, the board requests Synod to permit it to be represented by Dr. E. Y. Monsma, our chairman, and Dr. R. S. Wierenga, our treasurer. Dr. Wierenga, chairman of our Organizational Chart Committee, has also been authorized by the board to represent it at Synod in matters pertaining to the organizational chart.

H. SURVEY OF FIELD PERSONNEL AND CALLING AND SUPPORTING CHURCHES. Our mission force has been considerably increased in the past year and there has also been a fine response on the part of many of our Churches which offered to become supporting Churches for our missionaries. At the present time we have several Churches ready to become supporting Churches if we can but secure the missionaries for

them. Our missionaries have carried on during the past year in loyalty and diligence and are worthy of the love and the sacrificial and prayerful support of all our Churches. We here present a list of our fields, posts, workers on the field or soon to leave for the field, and calling and/or supporting Churches:

| FIELD AND POST    | WORKER                         | CALLING AND/OR<br>SUPPORTING CHURCH                              |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>INDIAN</b>     |                                |  |
| Crown Point ..... | Rev. Jacob Van Bruggen.....    | Sixteenth St., Holland   |
| Farmington .....  | Rev. Herman J. Schripsema..... | Oakdale Park, Grand Rapids                                       |
| Gallup .....      | Rev. Donald E. Houseman.....   | Second, Kalamazoo  |
| Nahashitty .....  | Mr. Edward Henry .....         |  |
| Phoenix .....     | Rev. William Goudberg.....     | Maple Ave., Holland  |
|                   | Rev. C. G. Hayenga.....        | Bethany, Muskegon  |
| Rehoboth .....    | Mr. Edward J. Berkompas.....   |  |
|                   | Dr. Louis H. Bos.....          | Second Roseland, Chicago   |
|                   | Mr. Arthur Bosscher.....       |  |
|                   | Mr. Leonard P. Brink.....      | East Leonard, Grand Rapids                                       |
|                   | Miss Lena Bulthuis.....        | First Englewood, Chicago   |
|                   | Miss Jane Deemter .....        |  |
|                   | Miss Cornelia De Witt.....     | North St., Zeeland   |
|                   | Mr. John T. Ebbbers.....       |  |
|                   | Miss Marie Hoekstra .....      | Overisel, Mich.  |
|                   | Miss Dora Hofstra.....         | Seymour, Grand Rapids  |
|                   | Mr. William Hoekstra.....      |  |
|                   | Miss Josie Holtgeerts .....    |  |
|                   | Mr. Roland Kamps .....         |  |
|                   | Miss Clara Kollis .....        |  |
|                   | Miss Betty Kollis .....        |  |
|                   | Miss Mary Jean Kruis.....      | First, Hudsonville   |
|                   | Miss Mary Kuik .....           | Waupun, Wisconsin  |
|                   | Miss Perle Kuik .....          |  |
|                   | Miss Gertrude Oranje, R.N....  |  |
|                   | Miss Marie Peshlakai.....      |  |
|                   | Rev. Abel Poel .....           | Rehoboth, N. M.  |
|                   | Miss Renzina Stob .....        | Alger Park and Boston Sq.,<br>Gd. Rapids; Millwood,<br>Kalamazoo |
|                   | Miss Marie Vander Weide....    |  |
|                   | Miss Rena Van Doorne.....      |  |
|                   | Miss Sadie Van Dyken, R.N....  |  |
|                   | Miss Gertrude Van Haitsma..... | First, Zeeland   |
|                   | Miss Hattie Veurink .....      | Pease, Minn.   |
|                   | Mr. Theodore Visser.....       |  |
|                   | Miss Lucille Westen-           |  |
|                   | dorp, R.N. ....                | Lee St., Grand Rapids  |
|                   | Miss Sylvia Westen-            |  |
|                   | dorp, R.N. ....                | Lee St., Grand Rapids  |
|                   | Miss Evelyn Wybenga.....       |  |
|                   | Miss Mariana Wybenga.....      |  |
|                   | Rev. George Yff .....          | Sherman St., Grand Rapids  |
| San Antone .....  | Mr. Jacob Bol .....            |  |
| Shiprock .....    | Rev. F. Vander Stoep .....     | Classis Zeeland  |
|                   | Mr. Richard Kruis .....        |  |
|                   | Miss Hermina Van Dyke.....     |  |

| FIELD AND POST | WORKER                        | CALLING AND/OR SUPPORTING CHURCH      |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Toadlena       | Rev. J. C. Kobes              | First and Immanuel, Ripon, California |
|                | Miss Angie Nieuwsma           | Eastern Sunday School Association     |
| Tohatchi       | Rev. J. R. Kamps              | Drenthe, Mich.                        |
| Two Wells      | Rev. J. B. Swierenga          | Fuller Ave., Grand Rapids             |
|                | Miss Nellie Tibboel           | Second, Pella, Iowa                   |
| Zuni           | Miss Clara Bierenga           | Grace, Kalamazoo                      |
|                | Miss Helen De Lange           |                                       |
|                | Mr. Julius Den Bleyker        | Graafschap, Mich.                     |
|                | Mr. C. Kuipers                | Peoria, Iowa                          |
|                | Miss Nellie Lam               | Spring Lake, Mich.                    |
|                | Mr. Gordon Lucht              | Bethel, Paterson                      |
|                | Miss Vera Rotman              |                                       |
|                | Miss Carolyn Spoelhof         |                                       |
| FORMOSA        | Miss Lenora Vander Veer       | First, Zeeland                        |
|                | Miss Rena Vander Woude        | Third Roseland, Chicago               |
| JAPAN          | Miss Lillian Bode             | Second, Grand Haven                   |
|                | Rev. Henry Bruinooge          | Emden, Prinsburg, and Raymond, Minn.  |
| SOUTH INDIA    | Miss Magdalena Koets          | Third, Kalamazoo                      |
|                | Rev. Robert Sutton            | Prospect Park, Holland                |
|                | Rev. Richard Sytsma           | Bethel, Grand Rapids                  |
|                | Rev. Edward A. Van Baak       | Fourteenth St., Holland               |
|                | Miss Anna C. Bosch            | Spring Lake, Mich.                    |
| SUDAN          | Rev. Ralph Baker              | Seymour, Grand Rapids                 |
|                | Dr. Peter Y. De Jong          | Oakdale Park, Grand Rapids            |
|                | Mr. Arthur V. Ramiah          | Burton Hgts., Grand Rapids            |
|                | Rev. Leonard Sweetman         | Third, Paterson                       |
|                | Rev. Benjamin Ypma            | Midland Park, N. J.                   |
|                |                               |                                       |
| Baissa         | Miss Bena Kok, R.N.           | First Englewood, Chicago              |
|                | Rev. Robert Recker            | First, Orange City, Iowa              |
|                | Miss Jennie Stielstra         | Second Fremont, Mich.                 |
| Lupwe          | Dr. Joyce Branderhorst        | Ninth St., Holland                    |
|                | Dr. Roy Davis                 | Burton Hgts., Grand Rapids            |
|                | Miss Margaret Dykstra         | Burton Hgts., Grand Rapids            |
|                | Mr. Raymond Grissen           | Dennis Ave., Grand Rapids             |
|                | Mr. Gilbert Holkeboer         | Maple Ave., Holland                   |
|                | Miss Tena A. Huizenga, R.N.   | First, Wellsburg, Iowa                |
|                | Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Smith     | Ninth St., Holland                    |
| Mkar           | Miss Anita Vissia, R.N.       | Midland Park, N. J.                   |
|                | Miss Evelyn Vredevoogd        | Godwin Hgts., Grand Rapids            |
|                | Miss Aleda Vander Vaart, R.N. | Munster, Indiana                      |
| Sevav          | Mr. Donald Van Reken          | Second, Englewood, Chicago            |
|                | Rev. Gerard Terpstra          | Alpine Ave., Grand Rapids             |
| Berg           | Miss Betty Vanden Berg        | First, Kalamazoo                      |
|                | Miss Geraldine Vanden Berg    |                                       |
|                |                               |                                       |

| FIELD AND POST | WORKER                     | CALLING AND/OR<br>SUPPORTING CHURCH |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wukari .....   | Rev. Peter Dekker .....    | Fuller Ave., Grand Rapids           |
| Zaki Biam      | Rev. Peter Ipema .....     | First, Rock Valley, Iowa            |
|                | Mr. Frederick Volkema..... | First, Denver, Colo.                |

The following workers are employed on our Indian field, although not under the direct (contract) appointment of our board:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Crown Point ..... | Mr. Ben Henry<br>Mr. Jack Toledo   |
| Farmington .....  | Mr. Chee Anderson  |
| Gallup .....      | Mr. Stewart Barton   |
| Red Rock .....    | Mr. John Redhouse  |
| Rehoboth .....    | Miss Lena Benally<br>Miss Nettie Damon<br>Miss Alice Denetdele<br>Miss Irene Denetdele<br>Mr. Tullie James<br>Miss Elizabeth Manuelito<br>Mrs. Dora Peshlakai<br>Mr. John Talley<br>Miss Molly Talley<br>Miss Margaret Tibboel<br>Mrs. Adrian Van Iwaarden |
| San Antone .....  | Howard Redhouse  |
| Shiprock .....    | Mr. Sampson Yazzie<br>Miss Bessie Joe  |
| Toadlena .....    | Mr. Sidney Nez<br>Mr. William Barker<br>Miss Marian Henry  |
| Two Wells .....   | Mr. Melvin Chavez  |
| Zuni .....        | Mr. Rex Natewa   |

The following churches are at present calling missionaries for foreign fields, but have thus far not yet been successful in securing a missionary-pastor: Bethel Edgerton; First Cicero; Coldbrook; Third Kalamazoo; LaGrave Ave.; Third Lynden.

We are very grateful to God for the love for missions as evidenced by the generous giving. Besides the regular quota for missions, many of our churches contribute also to the support of some specific missionary. Our missionaries deeply appreciate the personal interests of the congregations which support them and this relationship is also a source of special mission interest on the part of the supporting church. According to the rule of our Mission Order, Article VI, Section 3, a church which supports a missionary may under certain circumstances be free of the quota for the particular field in which its missionary is serving. Some of our churches have availed themselves of this privilege, but many of them have chosen to contribute their regular mission quota and have also carried on the support for their chosen missionary.

SECTION TWO  
GENERAL MATTERS

A. LOAN TO COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH AMERICA AND CEYLON. Synod of 1952, Acts p. 108, Art. IX, instructed the Christian Reformed Board of Missions to make a loan of \$10,000 to the Committee for South America and Ceylon. This transaction took place on December 26, 1952, and it is expected that the loan will be repaid within one year.

B. ANNUITIES. In reply to the Synod of 1952 with reference to annuities, we offer the following:

1. HISTORY

Classis Grand Rapids East in 1950 requested the Synod of our Church to make a study of the propriety of the sale of annuity bonds. This request was provoked by the advertising of such bonds by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions. Thereupon Synod appointed a committee to make a special study of annuity bonds and their sale by ecclesiastical bodies. This committee reported to the Synod of 1952, which report appears in Acts 1952, pp. 293-300.

This synodical study committee offered the following recommendation in Acts 1952, p. 300:

"That Synod express itself as opposed to the sale of annuities by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

*Grounds:*

- "1. It is not proper for the Church to enter the field of business.
- "2. It necessitates the creation of motivation for Christian giving through an appeal to material considerations, as is evident in annuity promotion literature, and thereby undermines the true motivation of Christian giving."

Thereupon Synod adopted the following recommendation:

"Synod postpone action until 1953 on the recommendation of this committee. *Ground:* The principle of annuities should be more carefully discussed by the Church at large and by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions before we can concur with the advice of the study committee on a matter of such far reaching importance." Acts 1952, p. 106.

2. OBSERVATIONS

a. The Synodical Study Committee sidestepped the real issue and the exact mandate, namely, to make a study of annuity bonds and their sale by ecclesiastical bodies, and spent its force on calling attention to the common abuse so prevalent in the matter of annuities. Synod of 1952 felt this when it decided to postpone action on the

ground that "the principle of annuities should be more carefully discussed."

b. The Synodical Study Committee gave undue prominence to the annuities issued by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions because the mandate was the study of such bonds and their sale by ecclesiastical bodies. At the present time Calvin College and Seminary receive such annuities.

c. Arguments on the basis of a prevalent abuse are not necessarily arguments against the principle as such. Many things are abused by many people but the fact of their abuse does not rule out the possibility or actuality of their proper use.

d. Such abuse of annuities is called to our attention by the Synodical Study Committee and various instances are cited. In such advertisements the element of security, financial gain, and a life income are stressed so much that the whole matter becomes a business deal and the element of giving to the Kingdom is relegated to a place of minor importance if it is mentioned at all.

e. Such abuse of the matter of receiving annuities is a real temptation to any ecclesiastical body making use of them. This danger must be admitted, faced, and then avoided.

### 3. INFORMATION

a. The matter of annuities is not one of great importance to the Christian Reformed Board of Missions and very little advertising has been done along this line. Most of the present annuities have come unsolicited. As a matter of fact, the Board has at present less than \$6,500.00 in Government bonds and cash in the annuity fund.

b. Although the Synod speaks of the "sale of annuity bonds" the Board has always looked upon the matter as the "reception of annuities." This means that for the Board this is not primarily a business proposition but rather a reception of this capital for safe-keeping and use for the Kingdom of God.

c. Such annuities are received from the donors to whom interest is paid proportionate to their age. The donors give this money to the Board with the stipulation that said donors receive a rate of interest for the remainder of their natural life, and upon the death of the donors this capital in toto becomes the Board's money. Such annuities are invested in U. S. Government bonds. Some people prefer this method of giving and feel satisfied that their money will be used by a cause dear to their hearts.

d. It is very evident that Synod is interested in the principle involved in annuities. This principle involves giving of money with certain considerations, receiving of these gifts, investment of the capital, interest on this amount, and similar questions. This is business, but

the Church always has an inevitable measure of legitimate business attached to its administration and program.

e. Pursuant to its policy thus far the Board does not emphasize the financing of its program in this manner, and thus receives the few annuities our people may wish to give.

4. *RECOMMENDATIONS*: We recommend that Synod approve the following position taken by the Board:

a. That the Board may receive annuities if the element of giving is predominant.

*Grounds*:

(1) Such legitimate business is not morally wrong.

(2) Such gifts allow for positive Kingdom participation.

b. That the Board does not solicit such annuities by advertisement.

*Grounds*:

(1) Giving to the Church must not motivate from material gain.

(2) Giving to the Church is a spiritual exercise in which the motivation of giving must remain predominant.

C. *REFORMATION TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIP*. Since the Synod of 1952 requested our board to give special attention to the request of the Reformation Translation Fellowship for listing on the accredited causes, we propose to Synod that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions set up a Special Gift fund for the Reformation Translation Fellowship, that we inform the Churches concerning this fund, and permit a total of \$500 per year to be given to this fellowship if this amount is received. Our Japan Mission declared in one of its minutes: "The missionaries of the Japan Mission express agreement with the work of the Reformation Translation Fellowship and recommend that the board support them as far as possible."

The Reformation Translation Fellowship is currently publishing the *MANUAL OF REFORMED DOCTRINE* by Prof. L. Berkhof into the Chinese language and is chiefly interested in providing soundly Reformed literature for the Chinese reader. We believe this is a work of great promise.

### SECTION THREE FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### A. TREASURER'S REPORT

The following are statements of Summary of Receipts and Disbursements of various funds and of Assets and Liabilities at the close of December 31, 1952, as prepared by the Auditor, Mr. Peter Vander Meer, Certified Public Accountant. A detailed account of all transactions will be presented to the Budget Committee of Synod.

**ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF  
VARIOUS FUNDS FOR YEAR 1952**

|  |              |             |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Operating Fund Receipts .....  | \$487,954.83 |             |
| Operating Fund Disbursements .....                                       | 550,622.35   |             |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
| Excess Disbursements over Receipts.....                                  |              | \$62,667.52 |
| Approved Projects and Specified Funds:                                   |              |             |
| Receipts .....   | 66,283.19    |             |
| Disbursements .....  | 63,146.66    |             |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
| Excess Receipts over Disbursements.....                                  |              | \$ 3,136.53 |
| Annuity Funds:   |              |             |
| Receipts .....   | 134.41       |             |
| Disbursements .....  | 299.00       |             |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
| Excess Disbursements over Receipts.....                                  |              | 164.59      |
|  | <hr/>        | <hr/>       |
|  | \$ 3,136.53  | \$62,832.11 |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
| Net Excess Disbursements over Receipts.....                              |              | \$59,695.58 |
| Plus items included in Special Gifts Receipts:                           |              |             |
| Gifts received and held for Special Purposes<br>(donor-designated) ..... | 15,402.40    |             |
| Gifts received and set aside for Synodically<br>Approved Projects .....  | 17,965.71    |             |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
|  |              | \$93,063.69 |
| Less Acquired Assets, etc., paid out of                                  |              |             |
| Special Gifts Fund .....   | \$63,146.66  |             |
| Decrease in Annuity Fund.....  | 164.59       |             |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
|  |              | 63,311.25   |
| <hr/>  |              |             |
| Decrease in Net Worth .....  |              | \$29,752.44 |

**BALANCE SHEET**

**ASSETS**

*Operating Fund:*

|   |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Peoples Nat'l Bank, Checking Account.....     | \$ 94,062.29 |              |
| Merchants Bank, Gallup, Checking Account..... | 7,410.04     |              |
| Merchants Bank, Gallup, Building Account..... | 325.90       |              |
| Petty Cash at Stations.....                   | 5,037.50     |              |
| U. S. Bonds unappropriated .....              | 109,240.00   |              |
| <hr/>   |              |              |
| Total Operating Fund .....                    |              | \$216,075.73 |

*Other Assets:*

|  |             |              |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Accounts Receivable .....                        | \$ 4,276.36 |              |
| Accounts Receivable — Rehoboth .....             | 2,445.41    |              |
| Notes Receivable — Missionaries .....            | 3,131.98    |              |
| Notes Receivable — South American Fund.....      | 10,000.00   |              |
| Advances .....                                   | 800.00      |              |
| Inventories of Supplies — Rehoboth and Zuni..... | 9,955.54    |              |
| Prepaid 1953 Budget and Salary Payments.....     | 22,092.65   |              |
| <hr/>  |             |              |
| Total Other Assets .....                         |             | \$ 52,701.94 |

*Funded Reserves, Approved Projects and Gifts:*

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Old Kent Bank — Checking Account..... | \$ 52,410.84 |
| Stocks and Securities .....           | 20,480.00    |
| U. S. Bonds — Approved Projects ..... | 12,487.50    |
| U. S. Bonds — Specified Gifts.....    | 54,020.00    |

Total .....\$139,398.34

*Funded Reserves — Specified:*

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| U. S. Bonds — Beets Memorial .....               | 6,000.00    |
| Annuity Fund — U. S. Bonds.....                  | \$ 1,739.00 |
| Annuity Fund — Savings Acct., Peoples Nat'l Bank | 3,493.69    |
| Annuity Funds — Checking Acct., Old Kent Bank    | 953.85      |

Total .....\$ 6,186.54

**FIXED ASSETS**

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Land and Buildings .....            | \$695,218.95 |
| Residence — 725 Benjamin Ave.....   | 23,562.84    |
|                                     | <hr/>        |
|                                     | \$718,781.79 |
| Less Reserves for Depreciation..... | 210,616.26   |
|                                     | <hr/>        |
|                                     | 508,165.53   |
| Furniture and Equipment .....       | \$159,278.38 |
| Less Reserves for Depreciation..... | 73,351.78    |
|                                     | <hr/>        |
|                                     | 85,926.60    |

Book Value of Fixed Assets .....\$594,092.13

TOTAL ASSETS .....\$1,014,454.68

**BALANCE SHEET**

**LIABILITIES**

*Current Liabilities:*

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Accounts Payable — General .....   | \$ 1,559.10 |
| Accounts Payable — Zendings Centrum.....                                   | 252.60      |
| Reserve for Pension Fund.....  | 36.31       |
| Amounts Owing to Missionaries, held in trust<br>for Car Depreciation ..... | 3,757.50    |

Total Current Liabilities .....\$ 5,605.51

Liability for Reserve for Indian Evangelistic Work .....5,085.60

*Liabilities for Approved Projects and*

*Specified Funds:*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Unexpended for all Mission Fields .....           | \$ 42,041.75 |
| Unexpended for Synodically Approved Projects..... | 80,396.75    |

Total .....\$122,438.50

*Specified Funds and Reserve:*

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Beets Memorial Fund .....                      | \$ 5,961.20 |
| Annuity Fund .....                             | 6,475.44    |
| Collected Down Payment on Land Sold.....       | 2,000.00    |
| Reserve for Fire Insurance — Indian Field..... | 11,000.00   |

Total .....25,436.64

TOTAL LIABILITIES .....\$158,566.25

EQUITIES

|   |             |                |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| Net Worth, January 1, 1952.....                           |             | \$980,711.08   |
| Addition for Furniture, Equipment and Buildings....       |             | 5,672.48       |
|   |             | \$986,383.51   |
| Decrease in Net Worth.....                                |             | 29,752.44      |
|   |             | \$956,631.07   |
| Less Depreciation Calendar Year.....                      | \$33,226.00 |                |
| Less Set Aside for Synodically<br>Approved Projects ..... | 62,431.04   |                |
| Less Set Aside for Indian Evangelistic<br>Work .....      | 5,085.60    | 100,742.64     |
|   |             | \$ 855,888.43  |
| Net Worth, December 31, 1952.....                         |             | \$ 855,888.43  |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITIES.....                         |             | \$1,014,454.68 |

Finance Committee  
 Christian Reformed Board of Missions  
 Grand Rapids, Michigan  
 Gentlemen:

I have examined the accounting records and general ledger of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions for the year ended December 31, 1952, and have compiled a balance sheet as at that date, and a statement of receipts and disbursements for the year 1952, which in my opinion present fairly the financial position and the results of the operations of your Mission.

Books and vouchers were kept in excellent manner, and bank balances and securities were on hand.

My examination was in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

Very truly yours,  
 PETER B. VANDER MEER, C.P.A.

**B. BUDGETS**

1. BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 1953. In addition to those budget requests for 1953 which were approved by the Synod of 1952, other requests have come in which the Board felt it could not deny. Funds to meet these requests are on hand or will be when special gifts for these requests have been received. But the approval of Synod is still needed to use such funds for these specific projects.

a. We request approval of the following expenditures for special needs for 1953 from General Operating Funds:

|  |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|
| (1) Farmington — Extra Labor .....                         |            | \$ 100.00   |
| (2) Gallup — Repair Sidewalk — Hayenga House .....         |            | 150.00      |
| (3) Rehoboth — Water Tank Repair.....                      | \$2,500.00 |             |
| Service Truck Upkeep .....                                 | 500.00     | 3,000.00    |
|  |            | \$ 3,150.00 |
| (4) Rehoboth Field Pastor —<br>Vacation Bible School ..... |            | 50.00       |

|  |          |                    |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| (5) Indian Village —                     |          |                    |
| Vacation Bible School .....              | 50.00    |                    |
| Water Softener .....                     | 136.00   | 186.00             |
| (6) Rehoboth Hospital —                  |          |                    |
| Mileage Doctor Car .....                 | 180.00   |                    |
| Lab Equipment .....                      | 1,000.00 | 1,180.00           |
| (7) Shiprock — Additional Rent .....     |          | 270.00             |
| (8) Tohatchi — Manse Stucco Repairs..... | 600.00   |                    |
| Church Painting .....                    | 740.00   |                    |
| Garage, Office roof repair.....          | 650.00   | 1,990.00           |
| (9) Zuni — Roofing on Building.....      | 485.00   |                    |
| Electric Wiring and Fixtures .....       | 165.00   |                    |
| Native Evangelist Help — Summer.....     | 240.00   | 890.00             |
| (10) Formosa — Salary and Budget.....    | 5,000.00 |                    |
| Travel, freight, etc.....                | 1,000.00 | 6,000.00           |
|  |          | <u>\$13,816.00</u> |

b. We request approval for the following expenditures for special needs for 1953 from Special Gifts Funds:

|   |          |                    |
|---|----------|--------------------|
| (1) Farmington — Water Heater .....             | \$ 90.00 |                    |
| 4 safety valves — gas lines.....                | 100.00   |                    |
| Stub-ins — Gas, Water, Sewer.....               | 75.00    | 265.00             |
| (2) Rehoboth — Service Truck for Field Man..... |          | 2,000.00           |
| (3) SUDAN — Medical Supplies .....              | 2,800.00 |                    |
| Additional for Single Person's House and        |          |                    |
| Married Couples House at Zaki Biam .....        | 1,680.00 |                    |
| Married Couples House at Harga.....             | 1,120.00 |                    |
| Single Person's House at Baissa .....           | 1,400.00 |                    |
| Adding Machine .....                            | 200.00   | 7,200.00           |
|   |          | <u>\$ 9,465.00</u> |

2. BUDGET REQUEST FOR 1954. A complete list of details of the budget requests for 1954 will be submitted to the officers of Synod and to members of its budget committee when Synod meets.

Here is a summary of these requests:

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Operating Budget (basic):        |                     |
| Indian .....                        | \$341,557.85        |
| Japan .....                         | 82,300.00           |
| South India .....                   | 77,916.00*          |
| Sudan .....                         | 138,775.80          |
| Administration — General .....      | 65,025.00           |
|                                     | <u>\$705,574.65</u> |
| Less Estimates Salary Receipts..... | 75,000.00           |
|                                     | <u>\$630,574.65</u> |

\*Subject to review before Synod meets.

Based upon 41,060 families we respectfully request a quota of 15.37 per family.

b. Special Gifts Budget:

|   |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (1) Farmington — New Car .....                                |             | \$ 1,700.00 |             |
| (2) Two Wells — Chapel .....                                  |             | 4,000.00    |             |
| (3) Japan — Housing .....                                     |             | 15,000.00   |             |
| (4) Sudan — Sevav — Car .....                                 | \$ 2,750.00 |             |             |
| Harga — Car .....   | 2,750.00    |             |             |
| Five "study and consultation rooms"<br>for missionaries ..... | 1,400.00    |             |             |
| Baissa — Single Person's House.....                           | 1,800.00    |             |             |
| Lupwe — Storage Building .....                                | 700.00      |             | 9,400.00    |
| <hr/>   |             |             |             |
| (5) India — Erecting Chapels, etc. ....                       | 4,000.00    |             |             |
| Larger Quarters — Adoni .....                                 | 14,000.00   |             |             |
| Missionaries' Homes .....                                     | 3,000.00    |             | 21,000.00*  |
| <hr/>   |             |             |             |
|   |             |             | \$51,100.00 |

\*Subject to review before Synod meets.

C. A PLEA FOR PROMPT REMITTANCES FROM TREASURERS.

During the first months of the year the financial income at the mission office is far below the expenditures. This is due to the fact that the quotas for the first quarter do not come in during the early part of the year. During the first six months of 1952 the income for missions at our office amounted to \$121,631.81 and the expenditures amounted to \$270,954.76, showing that the expenditures exceeded income during that period to the amount of \$149,322.95. During the course of the year this is balanced. However, it does indicate that the board must have a sizeable reserve on hand annually and also that delays in sending in the quotas in the early part of the year works severe handicap on the treasurer.

SECTION FOUR  
THE INDIAN FIELD

A. CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE. The General Conference of Indian missionaries appointed the Rev. Donald E. Houseman to be its representative at the last board meeting and Synod. Such a representative is usually heartily received by Synod and given the privilege of the floor when Indian mission matters are discussed.

B. PROGRESS OF THE WORK. The mission service in New Mexico is an intensive and extensive program. All our staff has in the past few years been working under some psychological difficulty due to the "status quo" decision which threatened to stifle initiative and ambition for the work. Nevertheless, the "status quo" stand of Synod does not mean that the work stood still. There has been virtually no addition in white personnel or building on the field, save as replacements were needed, but the effort to evangelize the Navaho and the Zuni tribes

went on steadily and there have been instances of genuine progress. Along with the progress there have also been instances of deep disappointment. Some who gave great promise for Church membership and spiritual leadership fell back again into error and sin. But there are several believers groups which give promise of an emerging Church. The question is not altogether settled in the minds of our missionaries as to whether we must strive for an absolutely native Church or whether the proximity of the whites to the Indians will mean a mixed Church and therefore possibly Christian Reformed Churches rather than native Churches.

We are happy that we can report that Mr. John T. Ebbers, our new business manager, has entered into his work with great zeal and energy. For the sake of expediting matters, it has been decided to have him assume general managership over all property and building problems on the whole field. This has required some changes in organizational detail, but evidently will work out for the good of the work and, we trust, will relieve the missionaries of many problems concerning property and building.

C. REHOBOTH HOSPITAL. Our medical work at Rehoboth is very much appreciated by the Indians and serves significantly in mellowing the attitude of the Indians towards our missionaries and our Church. The native hostility and reserve that are often present, and the spiritual barriers that hinder easy approach to the Indian, are by way of the hospital often broken down. It is an important agency in dealing with the role of the medicine man and the superstitions attached to him.

The problem at present is hospital reconstruction or addition. Considerable study has gone into the hospital needs and our doctor has endeavored to bring the needs home to the Board. A committee has been appointed by the board to make a thorough study of this matter and report to the executive committee, which shall serve Synod with advice in a supplementary report.

D. REHOBOTH PROPERTY. Our Church has long been owner of a tremendous area of ground in New Mexico. In the summer of 1952 the El Paso Natural Gas Co. of El Paso, Texas, approached our board regarding the purchase of approximately 400 acres of our land lying north of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks with an offer of \$6,000. The company's purpose for desiring this land is for the erection of a re-fractionating plant in which propane and butane gases may be distilled from natural gas. They also desire to erect a number of homes for employees of the company. Because of the land's comparatively little value to our mission and with a view to forestalling the company's locating nearby without restrictions, our finance committee was

empowered to negotiate the sale of this property to the above mentioned company.

After consultation with General Conference on our Indian field and with the assurance that the land would be used for only such purposes as permitted by our board, the finance committee, with the approval of the executive committee, offered this property to the El Paso Natural Gas Co. for the sum of \$15,000. This offer was accepted and the documents involved have been duly executed with the approval of the board at its meeting in February. The following stipulations and restrictions were agreed upon:

1. The company agrees to guarantee our present rate of water supply, 12 gal. per minute.
2. Effective guarantees against offensive smokes and odors and the sale of intoxicating liquors.
3. Proper guarantees against resale of property contrary to the wishes of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.
4. Effective guarantees that there will be no unnecessary Sunday labor — both during the construction of the plant and during its operation.
5. The assurance that the Southern Gas Company will furnish gas to Rehoboth Mission.

E. LANGUAGE PROBLEM. It remains the conviction of the board that it is important that missionaries know the language of the people with whom they labor. Our missionaries in the past have not been required to secure a thorough knowledge of the language and have only in a few instances been given time for the acquisition of this knowledge. General Conference has given serious thought to this matter and has offered its thinking to the board and the board has once again requested General Conference to give the entire matter further consideration. The suggested plan now is that we prepare a native to teach the language to new missionaries coming to the field.

## SECTION FIVE INDONESIA

For several years the invitation to enter Indonesia has confronted our Church. After six declines from ministers called to Indonesia and the inabilities of both the Rev. A. H. Smit and the Rev. Clarence Van Ens to serve in investigating the field, the board appointed a committee to review the matter once again. We present to Synod the following report and recommendations:

Since 1948 the question of sending missionaries to Indonesia has faced our board and the Christian Reformed Church Synod. We have called ordained men to this work, but none of those called were ready to accept. Our board at one time tried to secure the service of the

Rev. Albert H. Smit to have him survey the field as a possible field of mission service, but the General Committee for Home Missions was not willing to yield him for the time that would be required. Subsequently, the Rev. Clarence Van Ens was requested to go to Indonesia when on his way to Ceylon, but he also was unable to accept such assignment.

Nevertheless, the need for the gospel in that part of the world continues to press upon us and the desire of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands as well as the desires of the established Reformed Churches of Indonesia continue to demand further consideration on our part of further possible endeavor in that area. Dr. R. O. De Groot, while in the office of the secretary, wrote to the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia indicating that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions was continuing its investigation of the Indonesia area as a possible mission field for the Christian Reformed Church. In reply to this letter we have an answer from the Synod of the Reformed Church of Indonesia signed by Rev. L. W. Korvinus and P. Rozendal, chairman and secretary respectively of the Dutch Reformed Church of Medan, to whom the letter was referred for answer. It is a very extensive answer, reviewing the general Church and mission pattern now existing in Indonesia, and offering specific suggestions for possible mission service. It concludes with great appeal for continued interest and specific entrance into the work. Instead of entering into an elaborate review of the whole matter, we will offer the main thrust of the letter which we received from these brethren which is the official answer to our request for information from the Dutch Reformed Church Synod.

The need for additional missionary service to Indonesia is beyond question. Whether we turn to this letter of their Synod or turn to other materials that are available to us, there is simply but one answer: The need is enormous and the opportunities abound. Whether we think of it in terms of winning souls to Christ or building the Church or being a light in the midst of darkness or stemming the tide of anti-Christian doctrines, the entire Asian world cries aloud to the Church: Send out the light! Our correspondent from the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia concludes his message with the following paragraph:

"Come over to Sumatra and help us! In the present world situation it must be considered a great opportunity given to the Church, that almost without any limitation you can preach the Gospel in Indonesia, though there is an overwhelming majority of Islamites. This opportunity is still given. For how many years, nobody can tell us! We sincerely hope your Churches will join us and do the work that is done now for the sake of the Lord, without hesitation."

The REFORMED JOURNAL of December 1952 carried an article by J. A. C. Rullmann under the title "Reformed Mission Work in Central Java." From this article we gather that missionary work in Java is encouraging and that there continues to be in that area a wonderful open door for mission service. The correspondent of the Synod, however, indicates that it is the unanimous conviction of the Dutch Reformed Church Synod that if we enter with them into the work it is advisable that we consider entering the great Island of Sumatra.

There has been a great migration of some 900,000 people from the Island of Java to Sumatra and this great mass of people now constitutes a great missionary challenge for the Church in Sumatra. Then also, in the Island of Sumatra, the power of Islam is very strong and there is need for the counter witness of Christianity there.

In Northern Sumatra, which might roughly be considered the territory of the Church at Medan, there are some 500,000 Javanese and in Southern Sumatra, which may be considered the territory of the Church of Palembang, there are some 400,000 Javanese. These people have been the objects of the Sumatra Reformed Church mission work since 1930. The work carried on amongst the Javanese is supported also by the cooperation of the Reformed Church in Java. With reference to this Javanese work in the Island of Sumatra, the letter says:

"In the opinion of the Synod of the (Dutch) Reformed Churches in Indonesia and even more in the opinion of the Churches of Medan and Palembang there exists for your Churches a most important working area in Sumatra primarily amongst the Javanese groups of the population in cooperation with the three Churches which are already active there with an inadequate number of workers (Medan, Palembang, Djakarta).

"To what extent there will be room left for your Churches to (secondarily) work among the Chinese population apart from the activities done in this respect by the Methodist Church is not yet ascertainable. Most probably there are however some possibilities also in this respect."

The Synod too is of the opinion that working arrangements can easily be established between us in our work and the existing body now working in Indonesia. It is, however, necessary to have the Javanese Church do the calling of the missionary who is then to serve under the direction of that Church. Nevertheless, the letter also says: "When your Churches have decided to send missionaries to Indonesia, especially to Sumatra, they will serve under your Churches in some relation with the Javanese Church of Djakarta and the (Dutch) Reformed Churches at Medan and Palembang."

With reference to the question that Dr. De Groot asked in his letter as to the hazard that missionaries would encounter in Java, the letter gives the assurance that there would in Sumatra be no abnormal hazards save as such as are always common to those who are engaged in missionary service.

There are two possible approaches that we may now follow in dealing with this question of missionary service to Indonesia:

#### I. IN FAVOR OF SENDING MISSIONARIES TO INDONESIA:

A. We have at present no foreign mission work specifically directed against the Moslem faith. Here is a strategic opportunity.

B. The influence religiously of America in Indonesia is largely either Christian Day Adventism or Pentecostal or Roman Catholic.

C. With a population of 77,000,000 there is yet great opportunity for Christian mission work in that area.

D. Since the war, the need for leadership in the native Churches has been very great because the former Dutch leadership has been reduced and the native leadership has not been able to do justice to the need.

E. The historical fact that the Reformed faith has had the inside track compels us to ask whether or not we are not challenged here to enter in and continue the Reformed witness in that part of the world, and assist our fellow Reformed Church in its great need.

#### II. CONSIDERATIONS THAT SHOULD CAUSE US TO HESITATE.

A. There is already a great record in that area of Christian witness.

B. The native Church is established in Sumatra as well as in Java although the need for further mission work is indisputably great.

C. We have already called several men to take up the work but without success.

D. Entrance upon this work would mean an entirely new area for mission service for our Church and will require a considerable period for orientation to anyone entering the service there for us.

E. The work would have to be in some way a joint enterprise in that we would have to work in conjunction with another ecclesiastical body.

F. Our decision will be dependent upon our other commitments:

1. Will Japan demand more of our resources both as to men and money?

2. What will the further expansion needs and opportunities in Nigeria imply?

3. How great and heavy will our obligations be for South India in the foreseeable future?

It is our impression that the Indonesian opportunity is certainly an open door for mission service for our Church. We know, however, that there are open doors also in several other directions and that it is not good policy to enter new areas unless those currently being worked give reasonable assurance of completion.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. To advise Synod that for the present we discontinue further effort to secure missionaries to serve our Church in Indonesia.

*Grounds:*

1. The appeal for expansion which we face in Nigeria.
2. Our present limited manpower in missions.
3. The heavy commitments we already have in our several other fields for foreign missions.

B. To inform the Dutch Reformed Church of Indonesia that we very greatly appreciate their willingness to have us join in their work, that we appreciate too the great need for the gospel amongst the Indonesian people and the importance of missionary service in that part of the world, but that we feel ourselves at the present unable to enter into the Indonesian area because of the expanding demands of our presently occupied and expanding fields.

### SECTION SIX FORMOSA.

Miss Lillian Bode, who formerly served our Church in both China and Zuni, arrived in Formosa on the first day of March 1953 to commence her mission service on that island. Through correspondence with the Rev. J. Galbraith, general secretary of the Committee on Foreign Missions of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, assurance had been given to our board that the missionaries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Formosa would be very happy to have Miss Bode come to Formosa and enter the work and they also gave assurance that she could work in cooperation with them. This is in line with the decision of last year's Synod (Acts, p. 78, Art. IV).

### SECTION SEVEN JAPAN

We have at the present time four ordained missionaries and one Bible Woman working in Japan; and three Churches which are calling missionaries for Japan: Bethel Edgerton; Coldbrook Grand Rapids; Lagrave Ave. Grand Rapids.

Up to the present our missionaries have been primarily occupied with language study and have also given some time in extending hospitality to our servicemen located in Japan.

It has been decided that the Rev. E. A. Van Baak shall be located in Suwa, a city of about 30,000 population, and that the Rev. Henry Bruinooge be located in Kofu with a population of 120,000. Kofu is located between Tokyo and Suwa, 75 miles from Tokyo and 44 miles from Suwa. These locations were chosen by our Japan Mission with the advice of the Reformed Church of Japan. The Van Baaks plan to move to Suwa this spring and the Bruinooge family will likely leave Tokyo for Kofu sometime this summer.

Rev. Robert Sutton and Rev. Richard Sytsma are both giving most of their time to language study as yet; there has been no decision with reference to their specific location. Miss Magdalena Koets has currently been serving as teacher in the Christian School in Tokyo while also carrying on her language study.

Our missionaries in Japan have given encouraging reports on their work and indicate that the door to Japan remains open for missions. They have close fellowship with the missionaries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and keep close touch in their work with the Reformed Church of Japan, which is soundly Reformed and zealous for further missionary service to Japan.

Plans are at present in the making for sending the Rev. Shigeaki Fujii to the United States for a two or three year period of study at Calvin. Classes Chicago North and South have agreed to underwrite this venture to the amount of \$7,000. The brother is an ordained minister of the Reformed Church of Japan and has been heartily recommended for this scholarship by our missionaries. The board has agreed to attend to the arrangements.

## SECTION EIGHT SOUTH INDIA

India has been an active mission field for the Christian Church for over a century, but our Church officially took over a phase of mission service to India in 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Ramiah and Miss Ann Bosch are our first missionaries to that land and early this year they were joined by the Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin Ypma and Dr. and Mrs. Peter Y. De Jong. Our mission is divided into two divisions, that of the Bellary and the Mysore districts. Mr. Ramiah has been serving as treasurer, but up to the present there has not been a formal organization of a mission conference on the field.

The work in South India will center chiefly in guiding the native Church which is emerging and in training native leadership for evangelistic and pastoral work. Miss Bosch has completed her language study, and the new missionaries are currently busy at that task.

The Rev. Ralph Baker has been called by the Seymour Christian Reformed Church for South India, but is still awaiting his entrance

visa. During the interim period he has been serving as stated supply, first at Cleveland, Ohio, and at present at Goshen, Indiana. The Rev. Leonard Sweetman of Conrad, Montana, has been called for South India by the Third Church of Paterson. Application for his visa will be made some time this spring.

## SECTION NINE SUDAN

We may report that the work in Nigeria has continued with great blessings from the Lord. God has given us opportunity to enter further into the Tiv work which was an expansion of our field permitted by the Synod of 1950. We are currently being invited by the Dutch Reformed Church Mission to further penetrate the Tiv area, but this matter has been referred to the General Conference on the field for study and recommendation. We feel that we are richly privileged in that there will be two doctors going to the Sudan field this year. Dr. Roy Davis will be in Nigeria by the time Synod meets and Dr. Joyce Branderhorst will be leaving for the field during the summer of 1953.

There are two matters that will require special synodical attention. The matter of a delegation to our field in the Sudan will need synodical approval, and the constitution of the African Christian Church is a matter of information.

1. *Delegation.* Our Nigerian General Conference presented a request that a delegation of our home board be sent to the field some time in the early part of 1954. This request was made because of the Sudan United Mission Jubilee which is scheduled for that time. Representatives of all sponsoring Churches and boards are being invited to attend this Jubilee and the conference feels our Church should be represented also. The board recommends to Synod that we send such a delegation to the field to represent us at the Jubilee celebration, to visit our mission field, and to consult, as need may demand, with the mission authorities concerning further expansion of our work in the Tiv area. The delegation as elected: Rev. H. J. Evenhouse and Mr. J. T. Daverman. Rev. J. Verbrugge and Dr. H. J. Kreulen were elected their respective alternates.

2. *Constitution.* The Board was given a copy of the proposed constitution of the Ekklesiya Christi Cikin Sudan and we offer to Synod the brief history of this constitution as prepared by a committee of the board:

This proposed constitution was drawn up by missionaries of the Sudan United Mission appointed for this purpose by the Field Council of the S.U.M. The idea of having such a constitution was first brought forward by the native Christians at a Christian fellowship gathering. The native Christians belonging to the several branches of the African

Christian Church as it is at present being promoted by the Sudan United Mission indicated that they desired a more formal organization of their Church so that the African Christian Church might secure recognition by the government as being an institution independent of and quite distinct from our missions. It is also necessary if the African Christian Church is to have legal standing before the government that it have a formulated constitution. Thus, in order to gain recognition as an indigenous religion and to have recognition also as an independent organization, the native Christians desired that a constitution be formulated for the benefit of the Church. The Field Council of the S.U.M. thereupon appointed a committee to draw up such a constitution. Concerning this proposed constitution, we read the following:

"The following is a draft constitution for the Ekkdesiya Kristi Cikin Sudan which is the name given to all those Churches which are under the guidance of the Sudan United Mission and Church of the Brethren Mission in Nigeria. This draft is now going to all the Church councils of that Church and the home boards of the two missions for comment and criticism with view to putting this into practice early in the year 1954. Hausa copies will be sent to all the councils in Nigeria. It is hoped — especially with regard to home boards — that early action will be taken so that the end of 1952 will see all replies placed before the advisory bodies here."

The above quotation is a brief explanation attached to the original copy of the constitution submitted to us for our consideration. From the above we can gather that we are not being asked to approve this constitution but rather to offer our comments and criticism. It is currently being studied by the regional Churches in Africa so that the natives themselves may have a voice in the matter, and it is also being studied by the boards which are sponsoring the work in the S.U.M. region.

We must remember in this connection the decisions of our Synod in both 1939 and 1945. In 1939 our board in reporting to Synod, and the Synod by its acceptance of the board report, took the following position with reference to the native Church in Africa:

"The Church is willing to cooperate with the rest of the S.U.M. work in Nigeria by appointing a representative on the Field Council and by showing sympathy with the African Church aims of the mission." (Board report to Synod 1939).

In 1945, after Synod officially recognized the existing congregation on our Nigerian field, and the sincere greetings of the Nigerian Church had been extended to our Synod through the Rev. E. H. Smith, the following decision was taken by our Synod:

"Your committee recommends that Synod endorse the policy of Church union as now in effect on our Nigerian field. The term 'Church Union' may raise in our minds the spectre of denominations seeking to unite organically. That is not the connotation of the term as applied to Nigeria. It refers to a rather loose organization, a spiritual fellowship, with only advisory powers.

*Grounds:*

"1. This is in harmony with our decision of 1939 to continue the work on the Nigerian field along indigenous lines.

"2. It would do irreparable harm to the work if this policy were to be discontinued." Acts 1945, p. 45.

The above was then adopted by the Synod as our official position.

In the light of the above history we can observe that the native Church is coming to a point of maturity and that the Church established in our region will have to be viewed constantly as a body that is very close to our mission but nevertheless as having independent standing from our mission.

After reviewing the proposed constitution and suggesting some changes and additions, the board decided to send a letter to the regional Church in our mission area containing the following elements:

1. We have taken notice of and have offered some comments concerning the proposed constitution.

2. We give God praise for the great blessing upon our mission work in Africa in that it has been crowned with the establishment of the native Church.

3. We remind the Church in our mission area that the Reformed heritage entrusted to her is exceedingly precious and involves her with great spiritual responsibility to adhere to the Reformed faith and to promote it.

4. We also remind the regional Church that we cannot permit intimate Christian fellowship and mission service of our mission with the regional Church in our mission area except that Church be Reformed in its doctrine and practice.

5. We shall in our home Church continue to pray and work for the spiritual good of the Church in Africa.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIAN REFORMED BOARD OF MISSIONS

HENRY J. EVENHOUSE, *Secretary*

**LABOR POLICY**  
**(Majority Report)**

1. OUR MANDATE.

a. *Materials upon which it is based.*

Overtures 5, 6, 7, 16, 17. pp. 83-87, 518, 519, 523, 524. Acts 1952.

b. *Contents.*

The Committee "is to give careful study to, and make recommendations concerning the Labor Policy Problem which the Church has encountered in awarding contracts for denominational projects. If possible, it is to report to the Synod of 1953." Acts 1952.

c. *Interpretation.*

The Mandate is self-explanatory. It requires:

- (1) recognition that a specific labor policy problem exists.
- (2) careful study by the committee.
- (3) determination of a right solution to it.
- (4) a report to Synod of 1953 with proper recommendations.

2. A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED.

a. *Where was it encountered?*

The Problem was encountered by the denominational Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary in the awarding of contracts for the construction of buildings on the Calvin Campus.

b. *What is the Problem encountered?*

The Problem encountered was and still is this:

What is the most equitable way of obtaining bids and awarding contracts for denominational projects, if we are to act in harmony with the Church's pronouncements on Labor Organizations and membership in them together with the specific instruction of Synod to denominational Boards "to do everything possible to protect the rights of those who have conscientious objections to membership in Neutral Labor Organizations, while at the same time endeavoring to apply the economic principles of competitive bidding and efficient workmanship to protect the denominational financial interests?"

c. *What difficulties are involved in resolving the Problem?*

The difficulties encountered arise from the fact that in attempting to apply the economic principle of competitive bidding and the demand for good workmanship, the Boards must deal with both Open and Closed Shop bidders, unless bidding is limited to Open Shop bidders.

If bidding is limited to contractors who operate on an Open Shop

basis, the bids may or may not be higher than if bidding is open to all qualified bidders. No one can tell beforehand. In some cases the bid might be higher since Closed Shop contractors were awarded the last two contracts.

If the bidding, however, is not limited to Open Shop bidders, Boards face the possibility of eliminating possible low-bid contractors or sub-contractors because Closed Shop Contractors will not work with them on the same job.

In attempting a solution to these difficulties the Board must face certain questions, such as:

(1) Is it right to open bidding to all competent contractors regardless of their labor policy and then be compelled to award the contract to a Closed Shop bidder, if he is the successful low-bidder, when the Board knows beforehand that this will eliminate the conscientious objectors from an opportunity to work on the job?

(2) If the conscientious objector is excluded by this method of obtaining and awarding bids can we say that his rights have been properly protected as per the instructions of Synod?

(3) Should not the Boards supplement the pronouncements and instructions which Synod has made to our people concerning the development of a Christian labor consciousness and the need for corporate action, by exercising greater care in obtaining bids and awarding them where Synod has jurisdiction?

(4) Should not the principle of conscientious objection have priority over the economic principle of competitive bidding when these two clash as they have heretofore?

*d. How has the Board of Trustees attempted to resolve the Problem?*

The Board of Trustees has recognized that there is a problem. (cf. Acts 1950. p.28) The Board after due deliberation attempted to resolve the Problem upon the basis of the economic principle of competitive bidding to all qualified contractors regardless of their labor policy. This resulted in awarding the contracts for the last two buildings to Closed Shop contractors.

In determining upon this solution the Board felt that it could not accede to the request of the C. L. A., that it include a protective clause in the specifications to the effect that the contractor would not be allowed to discriminate between applicants for work regardless of their union or non-union affiliation.

*e. What was the effect of this attempted solution?*

(1) Its effect upon the awarding of contracts.

The first of the three contracts entered into by the Board of Trustees on this basis was awarded to an Open Shop contractor employing for

the most part C. L. A. Labor. The second and third of these three contracts were awarded to contractors who employ members of Neutral Labor organizations and who have Closed Shop agreements with them.

(2) Its effect upon the Church at large.

In the first instance there was no public dissatisfaction with the awarding of the contracts. No complaints or overtures appeared at Synod.

In the second and third instances a sentiment of dissatisfaction was aroused in various parts of the Church. This sentiment came to expression in the Overtures of several Classes to Synod. Synod was overtured: to do more to protect the rights of the men who have conscientious objections against membership in Neutral Labor Organizations; to declare itself in favor of an Open Shop Policy on its building projects; to support its own pronouncements in re labor and labor organizations. (cf. Overtures 1950-1952).

(3) Its effects upon several Synods as result of the Overtures.

*Synod of 1950* "expressed regret that the Board of Trustees in the awarding of the Library contract did not concern itself sufficiently to guarantee equal rights to all workers irrespective of membership or non-membership in any particular Labor Organization." This same Synod drew up an instruction to the Boards concerning this very matter for future action. "In awarding eventual contracts for the construction of buildings the Board of Trustees, and also all other denominational Boards, shall exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with the so-called Neutral Labor Organizations." (cf. Acts 1950. p. 28)

*Synod of 1951* adopted a recommendation of the Board as follows: "This bid is requested with the understanding that if the circumstances permit or demand other organized or unorganized labor can be employed than the labor organization with which the contractor stands related." (cf. Acts 1950. p. 50)

*Synod of 1952* rescinded this clause because "The Clause is so ambiguous that no one can possibly determine what the circumstances may be spoken of in this clause." (cf. Acts 1952. p. 84)

Synod also thereupon appointed the present committee to seek a solution.

### 3. WHAT PRINCIPLES MUST BE KEPT IN MIND TO GIVE DIRECTION FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AND AVOIDANCE OF THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED?

a. *We must consider Synod's pronouncements concerning Labor Organizations. Among others consult Acts 1943, 1946, 1947.*

(1) Concerning the development of a positive Christian Labor consciousness.

Synod has throughout the years repeatedly affirmed and reaffirmed the need for development of Christian Labor Organizations in various parts of the country and of the need for cooperation between such organizations. It has repeatedly called upon the ministers and the consistories to instruct the membership of the Church in Christian labor practices and to cultivate the development of Christian Labor consciousness and to encourage the membership to give effect to it by means of corporate action. It has repeatedly recommended the C.L.A. for moral and financial support.

(2) Concerning Neutral Labor Organizations.

Synod has refrained from denouncing any so-called Neutral Labor Union by name. It has also not specifically declared membership in such Unions incompatible with Church membership. It does warn against membership in Unions which carry on unchristian practices. It calls upon the Consistories to exercise discipline in cases where this exists.

*b. We must consider Synod's instruction to the Boards.*

It is very evident from the instruction of Synod to its Boards and its expression of regret concerning one of the Board's actions in this matter that Synod is concerned to do everything possible to protect the conscientious objector to Neutral Labor Organizations and to grant to all an equal opportunity to work on its projects.

*c. We must consider that Synod has endorsed, fostered and recommended Christian Labor Organizations and membership in them, but it has never endorsed or recommended membership in Neutral Unions. It has tolerated these but never promoted them.*

In all of its pronouncements and instructions Synod has placed the emphasis upon enunciating Christian principles and upon cultivating and protecting the Christian conscience. It has not expressed itself on the Open or Closed Shop.

#### 4. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

Synod should adopt the following recommendations as offering the most equitable solution to the Problem which the denominational Board has encountered in its construction reports.

*a. Synod adheres to the decision of 1950. Art. 85, 4.*

"Synod decides that in awarding eventual future contracts for construction projects, the Board of Trustees and other denominational Boards, shall exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with so-called Neutral Unions."

Grounds:

(1) Synod should lend support to the Christian Conscience which it has cultivated by means of its own pronouncements and instructions. It should do this in places where it has immediate jurisdiction.

(2) Synod should sustain its own pronouncements re the need of fostering Christian Organizations, if they are to become truly effective.

*b. Synod decides upon the following procedure to effectively safeguard the rights of its people on its own building projects.*

(1) The denominational Boards shall ask for bids from qualified and reliable contractors, with the understanding expressly stated in the conditions of the contract that:

No contractor or subcontractor shall be prevented from working on the proposed building because of his affiliation or non-affiliation with any labor organization.

No individual shall be excluded from working on the proposed building because of his affiliation or non-affiliation with any Union.

Ground:

Synod should not allow any organization, which refuses to recognize the Christian convictions of its membership re labor organizations, to impose its will upon our people in positions where Synod has the authority and the power to prevent it.

Past experience teaches that such an instruction is necessary to make the decision (under "a" above) effective.

(2) In the event that no bids are received on this basis (pt [1] ) or the bids received are exorbitant Synod grants the Boards the right to erect buildings on a non-competitive basis under proper supervision.

(3) If the above procedure (2) in the judgment of the Board, is inadvisable, it shall present the matter with its recommendations to the following Synod.

Ground:

There must be protection against exorbitant bidding as well as against discrimination against conscientious objectors.

*c. Synod decides that only in such places where the above-mentioned procedure cannot be followed a Board is permitted to follow another labor policy. In such cases it should be made clear to the Church at large that there is no other alternative.*

Signed

PETER HOLWERDA

H. J. RYSKAMP

JOSEPH GRITTER

WILLIAM VAN REES

P. S. Mr. C. Van Valkenburg has reserved the right to send in a Minority Report.

## (Minority Report)

### I. THE MANDATE

*A. Materials* — Overtures 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, pp. 83-87, 518, 519, 523, 524 of the Acts of 1952.

*B. Scope* — The Committee is to give careful study to and make recommendations concerning the labor policy problem which the Church has encountered in the awarding of contracts for denominational building projects.

#### *C. Interpretation* —

1. to recognize the grievance of some brethren that they are not allowed to work (if they so desired) on buildings being constructed under the control and direction of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary.

2. to study all the items that go to make up the problem.

3. to diligently seek a recommended answer for Synod.

### II. AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM.

#### *A. Background*

1. Synod has been repeatedly urged in overtures to direct the Board to let building contracts to only those contractors who will actually be able to permit non-union workers, members of unions other than neutral unions, as well as neutral union members to work on the job. The request is that a purely open shop exist between the successful bidder (contractor) and his employees. Synod has refrained from granting the specific guarantees requested.

2. Synod has stated that in letting the contract to an American Federation of Labor union organization contractor no specific Synodical ruling has been violated by the Board. At that time Synod had virtually the same issue before them as now. (Acts 1950 p. 28)

3. Synod has urged the Board to exert themselves to the utmost to safeguard the rights of those whose conscientious convictions prevent them from affiliating with the so-called neutral labor organizations. (Acts 1950 p. 28) Synod has established rules or principles that apply to membership in unions and its enunciation of Scriptural principles may be applied to every Christian.

4. Synod, to date, has refrained from being an arbiter of economic organization problems. It has not taken a stand against the union shop method of organization. Synod has not taken a stand against the neutral union as such. The challenges for the Christian member of the neutral unions have been pointed up by Synod.

5. Synod has urged both moral and financial support of a Christian labor association. It has also urged the general principles tending to Christian labor consciousness. These are applicable to all Christians.

6. The Christian Labor Association has become recognized as a competent union and has qualified as the bargaining unit in numerous instances of employer-employee relations. It as well as the neutral unions are permitted to agree to a union shop with the employer under the Federal statutes.

7. There are Christian brethren and members of the Christian Reformed Church employed on the campus building projects. These men desire to use the union shop method in their dealings with the employer. This is done under the neutral union affiliation.

8. In the past the Board has let contracts to both open shop and union shop employer contractors. The Board states that it lets the contracts after due consideration is given to the whole problem involved in each building contract.

*B. The Pertinent Issues in the Mandate.*

1. to seek an answer to the objections of our fellow members that they are not always permitted to work, if they so desired, on college building projects when undertaken by contractors under union shop agreements with their employees because the brethren have conscientious convictions against joining a union which supports the union shop and is neutral as far as Christian basis and objective is concerned. (It has not been asserted that the brethren have been without work)

2. to determine whether Synod should give a directive to the Board that the governmentally-sanctioned union shop (which gives the authority to require the employer to exclude, after 30 days, from the job those employees who are unwilling to become affiliated with the lawfully constituted bargaining unit) is an anti-Christian labor method and whether the championed open shop is *the* Christian method of economic organization in the field of employer-employee relations.

3. to determine what class of building contractor the Board should deal with, dependent on whether his labor supply is tied to him with a union shop or open shop contract. (This indirectly determines whether the Board shall deal with the CLA or a neutral union contractor.)

III. RECOMMENDATION.

A. That Synod should refrain from making a directive to the Board regarding the right or wrong method of economic organization in employer-employee relations as a part of the contract involved in building projects and should refrain from stipulating a procedure that makes distinctions in labor union affiliations based on the mode of membership organization.

IV. SUPPORTING THOUGHTS.

A. The writer has been unable to find Scripture that demands the open shop or forbids the union shop. (We assume the legitimacy of

unions of employees, collective bargaining established by contract, and statutory control over the same) The Scriptures, throughout, call the child of God to effect righteousness over against evil.

B. Article 30 of the Church Order states in part — “In these (ecclesiastical assemblies such as Synod) ecclesiastical matters only shall be transacted and that in an ecclesiastical manner.”

1. In the Acts of 1937, Art. 17, p. 11, it is declared “that political, social, and economic questions are ecclesiastical matters only when doctrinal and ethical issues of sufficient moment are involved *according to the Word of God and our standards.*”

2. To assert an exception to this principle and demand that Synod give the requested directive would lead the Church into the error of totalitarian action and make her the arbiter of the fine details of temporal life. Synod should find a clear spiritual issue at stake before it makes a commitment. The grievance of the brethren is not that clear as we shall endeavor to show.

C. Synod constituting the churches is empowered in its organic structure to accomplish the matters of the Church.

1. The instituted church cannot act authoritatively beyond its own domain. The nature of the method of economic organization in employer-employee relations is not within its province of action. If it were, then every detail would have to be established and every variation thereafter would have to be redetermined by another Synod.

2. The Synod is not permitted to enact rules that allegedly guarantee equal rights in the economic sphere. The same rules could easily effect an inequality under a slight change of circumstances.

3. Nothing the Synods have done demands that the next Synod violate the clear limitation of the Church Order.

4. To assert that the requested condemnation of the union shop method and the consequent disapproval of the neutral union as such would be a separate act and would apply only to the denominational building problem would do injustice to the requirement that Synod's decision should be a guide in all similar situations. Every Christian employer and employee should feel bound to the pronouncement. Is the spiritual issue clear that the requested universal disposition is presently in order? We do not think so. Should Synod ban the neutral union and the union shop in this fashion? This is contrary to all past Synodical action.

5. Can Synod forget the Christian who has a firm conviction that he has been called to testify and does exert an influence in the midst of the world where economic organization is affected on the union shop basis? What would Synod do for the man who has a conviction

against joining any union? What would Synod do for the Christian who refuses to work on one of the college buildings because he has a conviction against working under the arrangement established by the AFL, bargaining unit? (This situation would result if the AFL would allow unaffiliated or CLA men on the job as was required of the Board). These questions point up the acute involvement for Synod once it ventures into this field. Which conscientious conviction will receive the priority?

D. Part of the grievance revealed in the Overtures is that the union shop requirement under which the successful bidder is operating keeps the brethren from working because they could not conscientiously join the neutral union. The very protection given the employee under such an arrangement is the protection the brethren will need to maintain their acquired status as a bargaining unit when an increase in the number of employees brought to the job endangers the same. How else can a bargaining unit of Christian employees hope to maintain itself in the face of numerical superiority?

1. The union shop has been developed as a tool of labor organization over against the employer to accomplish a just testimony in the disposition of economic means and the profits of human effort.

2. The union shop is compulsory membership in the union which has gained the rating of bargaining unit. This became the natural end of collective bargaining. Inquiry shows that employers desire the union shop if there is to be a union at all.

3. By agreeing to a union shop the employer is permitted and is required to deal with a unit representing *all* employees. The open shop operating with a union bargaining unit does not give the employer the right nor the opportunity to deal with the portion of his unaffiliated or non-bargaining-unit employees. Neither do these employees have the freedom to bargain over working conditions. Full freedom on the job demands the abolition of all collective bargaining and the outlawing of all unions. Experience has shown that failure to achieve a balance by some form of collective bargaining has fostered inequalities.

4. It can reasonably be considered that Christian unions would want the protection of the union shop. This may not be the literal stand but it is the present spirit where they are the bargaining unit.

E. Another part of the grievance going to make up the problem is the conviction against joining the neutral organizations. As previously pointed out there are men of conviction at work in such organizations.

1. The neutral organization affords an opportunity for Christian thought and action. Sane and fair methods of bargaining may be the Christian contribution. Possibly more members in our Church, other

than laborers only, are to blame for the failure to do more than has been done in the realm of labor relations.

2. The broad sphere of action where guidance is so sorely needed is a real challenge to the Christian worker. He needs the help of his fellow church members to gain knowledge and technique to fulfill his task. We feel that the demand of the objecting brethren is a demand that all Christians withdraw from economic associations that are not Christian.

3. To date Synod has not condemned membership in any union but has given the standards for disciplinary action by the Consistory where the member is guilty of unchristian acts in his union.

F. The Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary is a body of Christians charged to consider all values in their task of operating the School.

1. They are bound to exercise a Christian discretion in every problem. If they are guilty of unchristian acts they should be disciplined by their Consistories.

2. The construction contracts they must consider and enter into involve many considerations which no bystander can judge. The contract is made with the contractor (employer) and not the employees. The contractor is committed to his productive unit and its union affiliation.

3. The issue of labor policy is one strictly for the Board to whom has been delegated the whole responsibility of operating the School and raising the necessary structures. To merely say that Synod has immediate jurisdiction begs the question. The study of the limitation contained in the foregoing discloses that Synod does not have the authority to make a rule on a debatable point of economic life.

4. Though as we contend Synod does not have such authority to grant the requests of the objecting brethren these men are not precluded from effectively persuading the Board to give heed to the study and discussion and thereby sharpen their evaluation of the problem. All the members can then rest assured that all has been done that may be done.

G. We hope that one thing has been made clear. The constitutional limitation on Synod's authority stated in the Church Order should be recognized. The complicated issues of labor relations, including the basis of organization of employees in unions, are not so easily labeled nor are they so clear in their spiritual implications that Synod should be asked to rule on a separate item. We believe this applies to denominational building projects.

CORNELIUS VAN VALKENBURG

**CHURCH ORDER REVISION COMMITTEE**

To the Synod of 1953

DEAR BRETHREN:

The revision of the Church Order in co-operation with our sister churches was proposed to the Synod of 1950 by the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands. A study committee appointed by that synod reported favorably on this project in 1951, and a committee was appointed by the Synod of 1951 to advise the Synod of 1952 as to the extent and manner in which the revision is to be undertaken.

The Synod of 1952 adopted the advice of this study committee, consisting of the following four recommendations (*Acts*, 1952, pp. 35, 36, 161 ff).

“(1) That the proposed revision shall seek to retain the venerable Church Order of Dordt (1618-19) as to its general order and the number of articles.

(2) That the proposed revision shall present an improvement of the wording of the present redaction, which in several instances is obsolete or not clear. However, all needless changes shall be studiously avoided.

(3) That in so far as situations of sufficient importance have arisen in the life of the churches which are not covered by the rules of the present Church Order, the proposed revision may include additions to certain relevant articles, as long as these are in accordance with the Scriptures, our Reformed principles, and present established ecclesiastical practice.

(4) That this proposed revision shall be undertaken in close co-operation with the Dutch and possibly the South African churches but without binding the committee necessarily to incorporate the fruits of the labors of these others.”

The undersigned were appointed as a committee to carry out this mandate. Through consultation with each other and correspondence with the committee in the Netherlands, your committee has investigated the possibility of working out a revision in collaboration with the Dutch committee. We wish to inform Synod that we have come to the conclusion that it is inadvisable and virtually impossible to work in such close collaboration with the other churches as to make the revision the work of a combined transatlantic committee. Some of the difficulties are accounted for by the distance between the committees, the fact that the Dutch Synod meets only once in three years, and the

further fact that important steps toward revisions have already been taken by them. The weightiest consideration, however, is the fact that local situations and conditions vary too much to make a unified product a reasonable goal. The latter is undoubtedly what the Synod of 1952 had in mind when it specifically excused the present committee from incorporating the results of the labors of the others and advised a redaction which would meet the needs of the Christian Reformed Church (Acts, 1952, p. 35).

We suggest that Synod go on record as favoring the following procedures to guide us in our future work. (1) That while the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands proceed with drafting and adopting their own revision, our committee shall keep in touch with their committee, informing them of our reactions to various proposed changes and additions, in so far as the committee in the Netherlands requests such consultation. (2) That our committee shall in due season advise one of our future synods as to possible and advisable revisions in our Christian Reformed Church Order, profiting by the findings and decisions of the Churches in the Netherlands.

We believe that by such a procedure the duty of consultation between sister churches will be discharged as far as it is possible to do so, and that thus the work of our own revision of the Church Order will go forward, but with the caution, consideration, and deliberation which is proper in so weighty a matter. Correspondence with the committee in the Netherlands has established that they agree with the propriety of this procedure and will welcome the comments which we have to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN MONSMA, *Chairman*

IDZERD VAN DELLEN

R. J. DANHOF

RALPH J. BOS

J. H. KROMMINGA, *Secretary*

## REPORT NO. 28

### PUBLICATION OF SERMONS FOR READING SERVICES

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

A. Your Committee respectfully reports that it has carried out Synod's mandate with respect to publishing Volume 9 of Sermons, and is busy preparing Volume 10. 500 copies of each will be published.

To ascertain the need for continued publication of sermons on free texts and the Catechism your committee addressed a questionnaire to our 389 consistories. We received 104 replies. We can be certain of disposing of 109 copies of Volume 9.

B. Our second mandate from Synod pertains to the preparation of a new set of Catechism sermons to be published at the rate of one volume per year. The results of the information received through the questionnaire are very discouraging and your committee has not felt free to continue with this part of its mandate until it first informs Synod of its findings.

1. Only 27 churches were sufficiently interested to reply in favor of or against a new series on the Catechism. 19 were in favor, 8 were not. Of the 19 only 17 felt sufficient need to have catechism sermons on hand and have consequently purchased the sermons edited by the Rev. Henry J. Kuiper.

2. Further, your Committee is aware that new sermons on the Catechism written by men of Reformed persuasion and edited by the Rev. H. J. Kuiper are still coming off the press.

3. And finally the expense involved in publishing 2 volumes on the Catechism would call for an outlay of at least \$2400.00.

It is the humble opinion of your committee that Synod should reconsider the decision to publish books on the Catechism until such a time when there shall be a more general demand for them, and to urge those consistories who feel the need of using Catechism sermons for reading to avail themselves of those that are now on the market.

C. Concerning the feasibility of using recorded sermons in public worship, your committee is not ready to report fully at this time. The use of recorded sermons is fully as much a matter of practice as of principle. Your committee is awaiting reports from a number of churches who have used recorded sermons.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. PAUL DEKOEKOEK

REV. RAYMOND H. HAAN

REV. WILLIAM VERWOLF, *Secretary*

REPORT NO. 29

**FAITH, PRAYER AND TRACT LEAGUE**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

During the past year the Lord has again richly blessed the activities of the Faith Prayer and Tract League. The silent evangelist of the printed page has been carried into all parts of our land through the efforts of those who were faithful in tract distribution. Although the files are not filled with written testimonials from those who were the recipients, there is evidence that the written word of hope and salvation was a great blessing to many people with whom contact was made.

In the year 1952 new records of tract distribution were reached by the league. A total of more than 2,500,000 tracts were sent out. Numerous inquiries and requests were received from new areas including foreign fields. It is difficult to estimate or visualize the influence which so great a distribution may have had upon the lives of thousands of people. Upon the basis of God's promises, we can be assured that these efforts will not return void.

As your delegate, I also wish to call your attention to the fact that this work was carried out with a minimum expenditure and with the greatest of efficiency. In spite of increased growth and greater tract distribution there has been no proportionate increase of costs. League headquarters and office facilities are meager and hardly adequate. The entire operation is carried on by a part time manager and part time office help, together with the continued cooperation of devoted board members. All monthly reports, as submitted by the manager, Mr. John Brondsema, revealed a keen interest in league growth and gave proof of his desire to have the league be a real service in God's kingdom.

I feel that our church should be grateful to God for past blessings upon the league and I hereby kindly request Synod to recommend this cause to our churches for their continued moral and financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN KEUNING

P. S. Receipts and Disbursements have been submitted to the Budget Committee.

## REVISION OF THE FORM FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

### ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The mandate of our Committee is found on page 70 of the Acts of Synod, 1952. In response to Overture No. 43 Synod adopted the advise of the advisory committee "to study the matter of revision and abbreviation of the Form for the Lord's Supper by appointing a study committee." The following grounds were adduced: "1. The sentence structure of our present form is cumbersome and difficult to read. 2. The form can be shortened without doing violence to its content. 3. A somewhat shorter form would encourage reading it in its entirety at both Communion services." These are substantially the grounds given in the overture of Classis Zeeland.

Although the fact that Synod appointed a committee to study the matter of revision and abbreviation does not commit such a committee in favor of revision, the grounds adopted with the recommendation clearly imply that Synod favored some revision. We have therefore concluded that our mandate is twofold: 1. to study the advisability of abbreviating and re-wording the Form for the Lord's Supper; 2. in the light of such study to submit drafts of whatever we deem advisable in the way of an altered Form.

### HISTORICAL

We begin by reminding of decisions of past Synods regarding the use of the Form for the Lord's Supper.

The Synod of 1922 (Acts p. 71) rejected an overture by Classis Pella asking Synod to recommend the reading of the first part of the Form in the preparatory service. This action was based on the grounds that: (1) the Form is not adapted (op aangelegd) to be split into two sections; (2) the exposition of the doctrine of the Lord's Supper found in the first part of the Form is inseparably connected with the exhortation to self-examination and belongs with the celebration of the Sacrament.

At the Synod of 1936 an overture by the Consistory of Summer Street, Passaic, N. J. asked Synod to grant permission to read the Form in two parts with the understanding that the opening paragraph be read also at the Communion service. A protest by Mr. H. Hamstra against the action of his Consistory in this matter was also considered. Synod disposed of the matter by deciding not to take action as requested by the Consistory, but to declare that according to Art. 62 (C. O.) and the decision of Synod 1922 this matter is left to the dis-

cretion of the Consistories. It is true that Art. 62 leaves matters of detail to the discretion of the Consistories, but not the reading of the Form and prayers. It is also obvious that the Synod of 1922 did not leave this to the discretion of the Consistories but decidedly advised against reading the Form in two parts.

In 1938 Classis Pella asked Synod to draft an abbreviated Form for the Lord's Supper "to be read, if so desired, in place of the long Form in the second and third services on the Lord's Day." (Acts, p. 43) Synod did not accede to this request on the grounds that: (1) an abbreviated Form, once adopted by Synod, may crowd out the regular Form, which would be a distinct loss; and (2) in our bi-lingual churches, the regular Form should be used in both languages.

The need for change in the use of our Form has thus been brought to the attention of Synod in various ways over a period of thirty years. It is also significant that this matter is receiving attention in the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. In distinction from previous Synods the Synod of 1952 acted favorably upon the request of Classis Zeeland, and we trust that our labors may find further favorable response from the Synod of 1953.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

In the light of previous Synodical decisions, especially the grounds adopted by the decision of 1952, and taking into consideration practices common in our churches as to the manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper, your committee comes with the following recommendations:

- I. The preparatory part of the Form should not be read separately at the preparatory service. Synod advises those Consistories now following this practice to discontinue doing so.

#### *Grounds:*

1. The Synod of 1922 rejected the overture of Classis Pella on grounds that still hold against splitting the Form into two parts. The conclusion of the Synod of 1936 that this is left to the discretion of the Consistories is erroneous and contrary to the spirit of Article 62 C. O. and the decision of 1922.

2. The preparatory sermon should stress the three points of self-examination and make the use of the Form for that purpose unnecessary.

3. Historically our fathers did not feel that a form for the preparatory service was necessary; on the contrary, our liturgical forms belong with the liturgical act which they explain and should not be separated from it by an entire week.

- II. No extensive abbreviation and revision of our beautiful and well-rounded Form should be made.

*Grounds:*

1. It is "the pearl of our liturgical forms" (Prof. Biesterveld) and radical revision will tend to mar its effectiveness and beauty.
2. The Form is not too long if the sermon, which is frequently too lengthy, is kept within proper limits, and given less prominence. (See further recommendation IV)

III. WITH RESPECT TO THE SECOND COMMUNION SERVICE WE RECOMMEND:

A. Synod adopt an officially approved abbreviated Form which may be used at the second administration of the Sacrament, at the discretion of the Consistories.

B. Synod make the reading of the unabbreviated Form mandatory for first administration of the sacrament, and when there is only one Communion service.

*Grounds:*

1. Reading the long Form twice on the same Lord's Day to the same congregation tends to create weariness and dislike for the Form.
2. A lengthy Form detracts from the post-Communion applicatory sermon, which stresses points not prominent in the Form.
3. The objection of the Synod of 1938 that use of a short Form will crowd out the long Form is met by making the use of the unabbreviated version mandatory in the first service. Moreover, the fact is undeniable that now many churches make their own unauthorized abbreviation of the Form in the second service, making for a lack of uniformity that is undesirable and will be removed by use of an official shorter Form.

IV. SYNOD ADVISES THE CHURCHES TO CHANGE THE USUAL ORDER OF THE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE

. . . in which the Form is commonly read *after* the sermon—so that the sermon will be preached after the words, "may the almighty God and Father . . . help us in this," etc., and be followed by the prayer. (This would not necessitate a change in the wording of Article 62 of the Church Order, since we now follow the Form by the sermon in the applicatory service without regarding this as a violation of the Church Order. The intent of the Article is that the sacrament shall be accompanied by administration of the Word).

*Grounds:*

1. Not the sermon but the sacrament is the main thing in this particular service. This does not mean that we fall into sacramentalism, for the Form is in effect administration of the Word in explanation of the sacrament.

2. This will give more prominence to the Form, integrate it more closely with the sermon, and lessen the danger that the sermon crowds out the Form. (See further suggested draft).

V. WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND REVISIONS:

(We are listing these separately in order that we may give our grounds for these changes; this will also facilitate discussion by Synod).

A. The Lord's Prayer should not be used twice. We have eliminated it from the prayer of Thanksgiving in the long Form, as is also done in the Dutch version commonly used in the Netherlands. We have added it to the thanksgiving in the short Form since it forms the appropriate conclusion of the sacrament in the applicatory service.

B. The Apostle's Creed should be placed before the Lord's Prayer in the prayer, and not form the conclusion as at present. The Lord's Prayer is a perfect summing up of our petitions and as the divinely inspired Word should not be followed by even so honored a human document as the Creed. This change will also remove the confusion which easily results from the present order so that the Creed is sometimes recited rather than incorporated into the prayer. (Witness the "Amen" twice repeated.)

C. The words in italics: "During the communion a psalm shall," etc., should be deleted entirely. This practice has become largely obsolete in our churches. Whether there shall be singing, reading, or music by the organ during the communion can be left to the Consistories. However, your committee feels that even the spoken Word detracts from attention to the sacrament and that silent meditation during its observance is preferable.

D. Revision of the list of "gross sins" in more modern terms to meet our present situation. We suggest the following:

"All who worship any creature rather than God the Creator; all who practice any form of superstition; all who take God's name in vain; all desecrators of the holy Sabbath; all who disobey their parents and other God appointed authorities; all who sow dissension in Church or State; all who foster hatred and envy; all adulterers, and those who live in unchastity, intemperance and dishonesty; all gamblers and covetous persons; and all who live ungodly lives."

E. We recommend the elimination of the quotation of Christ's words at the institution of the Supper. Although this gives a good liturgical effect, it involves repetition of what has already been stated in quoting I Corinthians 11, and is repeated essentially in the Communion formula.

VI. WE RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING REVISION  
OF THE UNABBREVIATED FORM :

*Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, attend to the words of the institution of the holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are delivered by the holy apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-29 :*

*For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, This is my body, which is for you; this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.*

To celebrate the supper of the Lord to our comfort it is necessary to examine ourselves rightly; and to direct it to the end for which Christ has ordained and instituted it, namely, to His remembrance.

The true examination of ourselves consists of these three parts:

First: Let each of us consider by himself his sins and accursedness, that he may abhor himself and humble himself before God, considering that the wrath of God against sin is so great that He, rather than to leave it unpunished, has punished it in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, with the bitter and shameful death of the cross.

Second: Let each of us examine his heart whether he also believes this sure promise of God that all his sins are forgiven him only for the sake of the passion and death of Jesus Christ, and the complete righteousness of Christ is imputed and freely given him as his own—yes, so completely as if he himself, in his own person, had satisfied for all his sins and fulfilled all righteousness.

Third: Let each of us examine his conscience whether he is minded henceforth to show true thankfulness to God in his whole life, and to walk sincerely before His face; likewise, whether he, without any hypocrisy, heartily laying aside all enmity, hatred and envy, earnestly resolves henceforth to live in true love and unity with his neighbor.

All who are thus minded God will certainly receive in grace and count them worthy partakers of the table of His Son Jesus Christ. On the contrary, those who do not feel this testimony in their hearts eat and drink judgment to themselves. Wherefore we also, according to the command of Christ and of the apostle Paul, admonish all who know themselves to be defiled with wilful sins to abstain from the table of

the Lord, and declare to them that they have no part in the kingdom of Christ; such as all who worship the creature rather than God the Creator; all who practice any form of superstition; all who take God's name in vain; all desecrators of the holy Sabbath; all who disobey their parents and other God appointed authorities; all who sow dissension in Church or State; all who foster hatred and envy toward their neighbor; all adulterers, and those who live in unchastity, intemperance and dishonesty; all gamblers and covetous persons; and all who live unholy lives. All these, while they continue in such sins, shall abstain from this food, which Christ has appointed only for His believers, lest their judgment be made the heavier.

But this is not designed, dearly beloved brothers and sisters, to discourage the contrite hearts of the believers, as if none might come to the supper of the Lord but he that is without sin. For we do not come to this supper to testify thereby that we are perfect and righteous in ourselves. On the contrary, we seek our life apart from ourselves in Jesus Christ, and acknowledge thereby that we lie in the midst of death. Therefore, although we find many shortcomings and miseries in ourselves—namely, that we have not perfect faith and do not give ourselves to serve God with perfect zeal, but have to strive daily with the weakness of our faith and the evil lusts of our flesh, yet, since we are, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, heartily sorry for these shortcomings and desire to fight against our unbelief and to live according to all the commandments of God, we rest assured that no sin or infirmity which still remains in us against our will can hinder us from being received by God in grace and being made worthy partakers of this heavenly food and drink.

Let us now also consider to what end the Lord has instituted His supper; namely, that we should do this in remembrance of Him. After this manner we are to remember Him by it:

First, that our Lord Jesus Christ according to the promises made in the Old Testament was sent by the Father into this world. He assumed our flesh and blood, and has borne for us the wrath of God from the beginning of His incarnation to the end of His life upon earth. The bloody sweat was pressed out of Him in the garden, where He was bound that we might be set free from our sins. Afterwards He suffered innumerable reproaches, was innocently condemned to death, and permitted His blessed body to be nailed to the cross that He might fasten to it the bond written in ordinances that was against us. Thus He has taken the curse from us, that He might fill us with His blessings. He humbled Himself to the very depths of hellish agony when He cried on the cross, *My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?* Finally, He confirmed with His death and the shedding of

His blood the new and eternal testament, the covenant of grace and of reconciliation, when He said, *It is finished.*

That we might firmly believe that we belong to this covenant of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the holy supper on the same night that He was betrayed. By this sign and seal the Lord Himself assures us, saying, As often as you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you shall thereby, as by a sure remembrance and pledge, be admonished and assured of My hearty love and faithfulness toward you, that, whereas you should otherwise have suffered eternal death, I give My body on the tree of the cross and shed My blood for you, and nourish and refresh your hungry and thirsty souls to everlasting life as certainly as this bread is broken before your eyes, and this cup is given you, and you eat and drink with your mouth in remembrance of Me.

From this institution of the holy supper of our Lord we see that He directs our faith and trust to His perfect sacrifice once offered on the cross, as the only ground and foundation of our salvation, whereby He has become to our hungry and thirsty souls the true food and drink of life eternal. For by His death He has taken away the cause of our eternal death and misery, namely sin, and obtained for us the life-giving Spirit, that we by the indwelling Spirit should have true communion with Him and be made partakers of all His riches, of life eternal, righteousness and glory.

Besides, by this same Spirit we are also united as members of one body in true brotherly love, as the Apostle says; *Seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we all partake of the one bread.* For as the bread in the sacrament is baked out of many grains, and the wine is pressed out of many grapes, so are we many members of Christ, but together one body. As therefore Christ has so exceedingly loved us, we are to love one another for His sake, and show this toward one another not only in words, but also in deeds.

May the almighty, merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ help us in this through His Holy Spirit. Amen.  
(*The sermon shall be preached at this time*)

That we may obtain all this, let us humble ourselves before God and with true faith implore Him for His grace:

Merciful God and Father, we beseech Thee that in this supper, in which we exercise the blessed remembrance of the bitter death of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, Thou wilt be pleased to work in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, that we with true confidence give ourselves up more and more to Thy Son Jesus Christ. May our contrite hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit be nourished and refreshed with His true body and blood, yea, with Him, true God and man, the only

heavenly bread, so that we no longer live in our sins, but He in us and we in Him. Make us so truly partakers of the new and everlasting testament, the covenant of grace, that we do not doubt that Thou wilt forever be our gracious Father, nevermore imputing our sins unto us, and providing us with all things for body and soul as Thy dear children and heirs.

Grant us also Thy grace that we may take up our cross cheerfully, deny ourselves, confess our Savior, and in all tribulation, with uplifted head, expect our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, where He will make our mortal bodies like His glorified body, and take us to Himself in eternity.

May we by this holy supper be strengthened in the catholic, undoubted Christian faith, of which we make profession with heart and mouth, saying,

*I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe a holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.*

Answer us, O God and merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors; and bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. AMEN.*

That we, then, may be nourished with Christ, the true heavenly bread, let us not cling with our hearts to the external bread and wine but lift them up on high to heaven, where Christ Jesus is our Advocate, at the right hand of His heavenly Father, not doubting that we shall be nourished and refreshed in our souls with His body and blood through the working of the Holy Spirit, as truly as we receive the holy bread and drink in remembrance of Him.

(In breaking and distributing the bread the minister shall say:)

The bread which we break is a communion of the body of Christ. Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was broken unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(When he takes the cup he shall say)

The cup of blessing which we bless is a communion of the blood of Christ. Take, drink ye all of it, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(After the communion the minister shall say:)

Beloved in the Lord, since the Lord has nourished our souls at His table, let us jointly praise His holy Name with thanksgiving; and let everyone say in his heart:

*Bless Jehovah, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

*Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*

*Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.*

*Jehovah is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness.*

*He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger forever.*

*He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us after our iniquities.*

*For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward them that fear him.*

*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

*Like as a father pitieth his children, so Jehovah pitieth them that fear him. (Psalm 103:1-4, 8-13)*

*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)*

*But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:8-10)*

Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord from this time forth for evermore. AMEN.

#### *Thanksgiving*

O merciful God and Father, we thank and praise Thee with all our heart that in Thy boundless mercy Thou hast given us Thine only begotten Son for a Mediator and sacrifice for our sins, and as our food and drink to eternal life; and that Thou givest us a true faith by which

we become partakers of these Thy benefits. Thou hast also through Thy dear Son Jesus Christ instituted and ordained the holy supper for the strengthening of that faith. We beseech Thee, O faithful God and Father, that through the operation of the Thy Holy Spirit the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His death may tend to our daily increase in true faith and in blessed fellowship with Christ; through Him, Thy dear Son, who with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, lives and reigns forever. AMEN.

VII. WE RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING ABBREVIATED FORM, FOR USE IN A SECOND COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY:

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, attend to the words of the institution of the holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are delivered by the holy apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-29:

For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, This is my body, which is for you; this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood; this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat of this bread and drink of the cup ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.

To celebrate the supper of the Lord to our comfort it is necessary to examine ourselves rightly; and to direct it to the end for which Christ has instituted it, namely, to His remembrance.

The true examination of ourselves consists of these three parts:

First: Let each of us consider by himself his sins and accursedness, that he may abhor himself and humble himself before God.

Second: Let each of us examine his heart whether he also believes this sure promise of God that all his sins are forgiven him only for the sake of the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

Third: Let each of us examine his conscience whether he is minded henceforth to show true thankfulness to God in his whole life, and to live in love and unity with his neighbor.

All those who are thus minded God will certainly receive in grace and count them worthy partakers of the table of His Son Jesus Christ. On the contrary, those who do not feel this testimony in their hearts eat and drink judgment to themselves. Wherefore we also admonish all who know themselves to be defiled with wilful sins to abstain from

the table of the Lord. These, while they continue in such sins, shall abstain from this food, which Christ has appointed only for His believers, lest their judgment be made the heavier.

But this is not designed, dearly beloved brothers and sisters, to discourage the contrite hearts of the believers, as if none might come to this supper of the Lord but he is that without sin. For we do not come to this supper to testify thereby that we are perfect and righteous in ourselves. On the contrary, we seek our life apart from ourselves in Jesus Christ, and acknowledge that we lie in the midst of death. Therefore, although we find many shortcomings and miseries in ourselves, namely, that we have not perfect faith and do not give ourselves to serve God with perfect zeal, but have to strive daily with the weakness of our faith and the evil lusts of our flesh, yet, since we are, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, heartily sorry for these shortcomings and desire to fight against our unbelief and to live according to all the commandments of God, we rest assured that no sin or infirmity which still remains in us against our will can hinder us from being received by God in grace and being made worthy partakers of this heavenly food and drink.

Let us now also consider to what end the Lord has instituted His supper; namely, that we should remember Him by it. Let us, then remember that our Lord Jesus Christ according to the promises made in the Old Testament was sent by the Father into this world. He assumed our flesh and blood, and has borne for us the wrath of God from the beginning of His incarnation to the end of His life upon earth. The bloody sweat was pressed out of Him in the garden, where He was bound that we might be set free from our sins. Afterward He suffered innumerable reproaches, was innocently condemned to death, and permitted His blessed body to be nailed to the cross that He might fasten to it the bond written in ordinances that was against us. Thus He has taken the curse from us, that He might fill us with His blessings. He humbled Himself to the very depths of hellish agony when He cried on the cross, *My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?* Finally, He confirmed with his death and the shedding of His blood the new and eternal testament, the covenant of grace and of reconciliation, when He said, *It is finished.*

That we might firmly believe that we belong to this covenant of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the holy supper on the same night that He was betrayed. By this sign and seal the Lord Himself assures us, saying, As often as you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you shall thereby, as by a sure remembrance and pledge, be admonished of this My hearty love and faithfulness toward you, that, whereas you should otherwise have suffered eternal death, I give My

body on the tree of the cross and shed my blood for you, and nourish and refresh your hungry and thirsty souls to everlasting life as certainly as this bread is broken before your eyes, and this cup is given you, and you eat and drink with your mouth in remembrance of Me.

From this institution of the holy supper we see that our Lord directs our faith and trust to His perfect sacrifice once offered on the cross, as the only ground of our salvation. For by His death He has taken away the cause of our eternal death and misery, namely sin, and obtained for us the life-giving Spirit, that we by the indwelling Spirit should have true communion with Him and be made partakers of all His riches, of life eternal, righteousness and glory.

Besides, by this same Spirit we are also united as members of one body in true brotherly love, as the Apostle says: *Seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we all partake of the one bread.* As Christ has so exceedingly loved us, we are also to love one another for His sake, and show this toward one another not only in words, but also in deeds.

May the almighty, merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ help us in this through His Holy Spirit. AMEN.

That we may obtain all this, let us humble ourselves before God and with true faith implore Him for His grace:

Merciful God and Father, we beseech Thee that in this supper, in which we exercise the blessed remembrance of the bitter death of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, Thou wilt be pleased to work in our hearts through the Holy Spirit that we with true confidence give ourselves up more and more to Thy Son Jesus Christ. May our contrite hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit be nourished and refreshed with His true body and blood, yea, with Him true God and man, the only heavenly bread, so that we no longer live in our sins, but He in us and we in Him. Make us so truly partakers of the new and everlasting testament, the covenant of grace, that we do not doubt that Thou wilt forever be our gracious Father, nevermore imputing our sins unto us, and providing us with all things for body and soul as Thy dear children and heirs.

Grant us also Thy grace that we may take up our cross cheerfully, deny ourselves, confess our Savior, and in all tribulation, with uplifted head, expect our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, where He will make our mortal bodies like His glorified body, and take us to Himself in eternity.

May we by this holy supper be strengthened in the catholic, undoubted Christian faith of which we (have made, or make) profession with heart and mouth. (It shall be optional whether the Apostles' Creed shall be read before the Form, or incorporated into the prayer at this point).

Answer us, O God and merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

That we may be nourished with Christ, the true heavenly bread, let us not cling with our hearts to the external bread and wine but lift them up on high to heaven, where Christ Jesus is our Advocate, at the right hand of His heavenly Father, not doubting that we shall be nourished and refreshed in our souls with His body and blood through the working of the Holy Spirit, as truly as we receive the holy bread and drink in remembrance of Him.

(In breaking and distributing the bread the minister shall say:)

The bread which we break is a communion of the body of Christ. Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was broken unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(When he takes the cup he shall say:)

The cup of blessing which we bless is a communion of the blood of Christ. Take, drink ye all of it, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed unto a complete remission of all our sins.

(It shall be optional whether the post-communion thanksgiving as in the regular Form shall be read at this time:)

#### *Thanksgiving*

O merciful God and Father, we thank Thee with all our heart that in Thy boundless mercy Thou hast given us Thine only begotten Son for a Mediator and sacrifice for our sins, and as our food and drink to life eternal; and that Thou givest us a true faith by which we become partakers of these Thy benefits. Thou hast also through Thy dear Son Jesus Christ instituted the holy supper for the strengthening of that faith. We beseech Thee, faithful Father, that through the operation of Thy Holy Spirit the remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His death may tend to the daily increase of our faith; through Him, Thy dear Son, in whose name we conclude our prayers, saying, (to be concluded with the Lord's Prayer) AMEN.

Your Committee requests Synod to permit Rev. J. C. Verbrugge, our Chairman, to defend our Report when it is considered by Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. VERBRUGGE  
ELCO H. OOSTENDORP  
J. K. VAN BAALEN  
J. HANENBURG

## REPORT NO. 31

### REALIGNMENT OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION

#### (Majority Report)

To the Synod of 1953

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

Herewith the study committee No. 54, appointed by the Synod of 1951, presents its report:

I. MANDATE: (*Acts of 1951*, page 71, art. 136, II).

The mandate of your committee finds its origin in two overtures addressed to the Synod of 1951 and in Synod's reaction to a study report submitted on "The Scope of Church Extension."

Overture No. 3 was submitted to Synod by Classis Grand Rapids West, and its full text may be found in the *Acts of Synod, 1951* pp. 449 and 450. Therein "Classis Grand Rapids West overtures Synod to consider a plan of providing three committees for the control of our Mission and Church Extension work." The plan submitted envisions the establishment of a Church Extension Committee, a Domestic Mission Committee, and a Foreign Missions Committee. The significant ground for the desirability of this realignment was stated as follows:

"There is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own Christian brethren.

a. This confusion is evident in the preamble of our "Rules of the Home Mission Order." The delineation of the scope of home missions which is given in the rules stresses several aspects of the work among the brethren and barely mentions the primary task of missions — bringing the Gospel to the unchurched.

b. This same confusion is evident among the membership of our churches. In our mission programs little or no distinction seems to be sensed with respect to work among unbelievers on the one hand and brethren of the faith on the other.

c. The above-mentioned confusion tends to weaken our program of bringing the Gospel to the unchurched and unbelieving. Without in any sense deprecating the importance of laboring for and among the brethren of the Reformed faith, we must in fairness acknowledge that in our home mission work we have emphasized the need of church extension among our brethren in the faith and neglected large scale work among the unchurched."

Overture 23 to the Synod of 1951 from the Saginaw Christian Reformed Church endorsed and further amplified the overture of Classis Grand Rapids West. (See *Acts, 1951*, page 457). Grounds 2 and 3 of this overture present pertinent argumentation which is additional to that of the original overture. These grounds read as follows:

"2. Church extension matters will become more coordinated. Sometimes, it would seem, there is a lack of coordination between such functions as Church Help and the Fund for Needy Churches, simply because two different committees deal with such problems.

"3. It will cause the long spoken-about mission program in the United States to come into its own. We believe our witness to our fellow Americans is rather weak. Furthermore, due to the emphasis which is placed on seeking the scattered Reformed sheep (extension work), there is a seeming lack of leadership for organized churches which seek to carry forth the evangelization mandate of our Lord and integrate the fruits of such evangelization into said churches. Such leadership ought to come from the leaders of our domestic missions program. We believe that we are correct in observing that today the number of ordained men in extension work *greatly outnumbers* those engaged in missions or evangelization. We believe this will continue until the day we distinguish in principle and in practice between missions and extension."

Your committee was appointed to study the problem "and serve Synod with advice whether there should be a re-division of Synodical work," giving these grounds:

- a) "The plan appears to have merit."
- b) "The implications of the plan are so far-reaching that your advisory committee is unable to serve Synod with advice in this matter." (See *Acts, 1951*, page 71, art. 136. II, B).

In addition to these overtures the Synod of 1951 also faced the problem of the relationship between Church Extension and Home Mission work. Synod *adopted* the majority report of a previous study committee on "The Scope of Church Extension," which advised "that Synod *do not specify* that 'the promotion and establishment of new congregations among our own members and in our church centers' be included in 'the scope of Home Missions' and that therefore the phrase 'to promote, etc.' *be not incorporated* into the Preamble of the Home Mission order" (*Acts, 1951*, p. 71; italics ours). The grounds adopted for the above read as follows:

- a) "The organization of new congregations in church centers is presently a part of the Home Mission program, and hence there is no need of incorporating this statement in the preamble."
- b) "The inclusion of these words 'the promotion and establishment of new congregations in our church centers and among our own people' tends to give too much emphasis to 'organizing new congregations among our own people' rather than to 'the preaching to those who are without,' *which is the primary task of Home Missions.*" (italics ours).

From the above action of Synod arose the further question whether the promotion and establishment of new congregations among our own church members and in our church centers should constitute a part of the work of Home Missions at all. Therefore Synod again referred

"the Matter of the 'Scope of Home Missions,' namely whether the promotion and establishment of new congregations among our own members and in our own church centers shall be included in the scope of Home Missions" to this committee for further study and advice. (See *Acts, 1951*, page 72). When Synod declared that "*the basic plan appears to have merit*," and decided that the inclusion of the words "the promotion and establishment of new congregations in our church centers and among our own people" "*tends to give too much emphasis to 'organizing new congregations among our own people' rather than to 'the preaching to those who are without,' which is the primary task of Home Missions*" (italics ours), it is evident that Synod recognized the merit of the contention of Classis Grand Rapids West and of the Saginaw Consistory that "there is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own brethren."

A particular aspect of this problem was touched upon directly by an overture to the Synod of 1952 from Classis Chicago North (Overture 9, *Acts, 1952*, pages 519-20) which requested

"That the work of Church Community Jewish Evangelism be placed under the General Committee for Home Missions. Grounds:

1. The field of activity of our Field Missionary would thus be extended to the entire denomination.

2. The Field Missionary would thus be available wherever there is opportunity for Jewish Evangelism.

3. In this way we would expand our witness to the Jewish people beyond the Chicago and Paterson area.

4. It would create a greater interest in and love for Jewish Mission work throughout the denomination.

5. Synod has at its 1948 meeting gone on record as favoring this plan, but it was never definitely carried out as a project denominational in scope. We quote the *Acts of 1948* as follows: 'Synod encourage our churches to act in accordance with the ideas expressed in the Report, namely that we seek to evangelize the Jews which live within the bounds of our local churches, as well as those living in predominantly Jewish communities. This should be done as a phase of the United Home Mission Service' (*Acts, 1947*, Art. 109, I, A, p. 59; *Acts, 1948*, Art. 55, I, A, b, p. 16)."

The Synod of 1952 referred this matter to our committee. (See *Acts, 1952*, page 67, art. 136, III).

## II. ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM :

As a result of our study of these overtures, the related declarations of Synod respecting them, and the present organization of our "mission agencies," your committee is convinced that there are certain inadequacies resident in the present structure of our denominational "mission agencies." These have resulted from a lack of proper definition

of activity and the failure to provide over-all planning as the work of the church increased in scope and variety. In the solution which we propose to these difficulties, your committee has sought to obviate the weaknesses in the present organization of our mission agencies, and to prepare an administrative blue-print which is logically integrated on the basis of inherent principles.

We are convinced that the logical and practical integration of our denominational work demands that related efforts be administered by committees whose functions are clearly defined on a *principal* basis. In the past it has happened that some of our related denominational projects have been allocated to committees which have been independent and unrelated to each other. For example, our Jewish Missions have operated independently of our Home Missions efforts; our work in South America, and more recently in Ceylon, has been carried on by a separate committee, reporting only to Synod. This tends to dissipation of administrative talent and to duplication of effort. To escape fragmentation we believe that our church should direct its attention to the organization of our denominational "missions agencies" on *basic inherent principles*.

There have been times in which we have placed unrelated matters under the jurisdiction of one committee. As an illustration of this your committee would like to cite the experience of the General Committee for Home Missions. Your committee believe that Synod has saddled the General Committee for Home Missions with too many of these unrelated tasks. These have been loaded on the General Committee for Home Missions perhaps because we lacked a proper agency to execute them, but with the result that there was little attention paid by Synod to the relationship of these tasks to the main task of the Committee, which is evangelism. Our Canadian Immigration work with the funds, man power, and buildings involved has drawn heavily upon the resources and energies of the Committee. These extra-evangelistic tasks and responsibilities have prevented the Home Missions Committee from going all-out for its main task. The able secretaries have labored exhaustively but with not enough time to devote to evangelism. Operational interference is especially costly at a time when top leadership is sorely needed by the church which is groping in its early efforts in real evangelism upon its emergence from its traditional isolationism.

In order that the General Committee for Home Missions may perform its proper labors, it will have to be unloaded of its extra-evangelistic burdens. The Home Missions Committee has in the past produced some excellent studies on a Calvinistic evangelism (see the report to Synod of 1946, many *Banner* articles, etc.), but a more difficult and important task must yet be attacked, namely to project such studies into field activity. The challenge of domestic evangelism has not yet

been brought down to the "grass roots." This promotional task among our own members calls for all-out efforts, and in conjunction with this we must reach out into the extensive fields that are opening before us in our American world. The Committee which is charged to execute this work *must* be free from all encumbrances to pursue its main task.

It is our opinion that the assignment of extra-evangelistic tasks to the Home Missions Committee is an indication of our failure to think through the inherent organizing principles upon which a denominational committee for evangelism ought to be organized. In recent years God has given our church a real awakening in home missions interest. If we are wise, we will immediately capitalize on this. We must solidify our gains and direct a forcible assault against unbelief by mobilizing the strength of our church toward evangelism. Our proposed solution will, we believe, point the way toward this concentration of effort.

### III. CONSIDERATIONS:

In proposing a logically integrated structure of denominational boards and committees, we have been governed by the following considerations:

1. Fairness to our membership demands representative control through classically-designated members to denominational boards and committees—this because our churches are held responsible for the moral and financial support of all denominational projects. The work of the church that is denominational in scope should be, whenever possible, conducted by general committees composed of classically-designated representatives together with such members at large as Synod may deem wise to appoint. It is this sort of arrangement that has kept our church informed with respect to our denominational projects. We feel that the absence of such representation is one of the weaknesses of our present set-up in so far as several of our denominational committees are concerned. For example, the committees for South America and Ceylon, the Back to God Hour, and Jewish Missions are relatively independent of and removed from our classes and churches.

Consistency requires that there be a greater degree of uniformity with respect to the representative character of our boards and committees. The genius of our Reformed Church polity necessitates that the projects of the church should be as close to the individual churches as possible.

2. We feel that *unity of effort* must be preserved, and that tendencies toward sectionalism within our denomination must be curbed. The *future* solidarity of our denomination will be assured only by arousing and maintaining the interest and cooperation of our entire membership.

3. We believe that administrative uniformity and integration of effort almost invariably effect economies in money and use of personnel.

We are convinced from a comparison of the administrative costs of our present Board set-up that the administrative costs of the three committees which we are recommending will not exceed the administrative costs which our church is presently paying. A look at the proposed budgets for 1954 will make this clear: the administrative costs of the Foreign Board are \$33,675.00; for the Home Missions Committee—\$14,200.00; for the Back to God Hour—\$33,700.00. In fact, it may very likely prove that a considerable saving will result from the correlation of the other independent committees under one head and unified direction. At the same time we feel that the large expenditure we are at present making for our radio hour would be a more justified expenditure if a more aggressive attack could be made on the evangelistic task. This we feel will be accomplished by the plan of reorganization which we propose.

4. Your committee argues for *long-range* perspective. Too frequently and too long we have regarded and accepted challenges as though they were or are merely incidental or passing emergencies. Thus it has come about that our Home Mission effort, for example, has been given the responsibility for too wide a variety of functions or activities not closely related to domestic evangelism specifically. We should admit that the aggregate of the crises of any given time often constitutes the normalcy of or for the future, if the Lord tarries. One emergency may conceivably evaporate but others will crowd into its place. It is for the servicing of these new (and miscellaneous) challenges, and for the undertaking of the duties not specifically evangelistic in character now cared for by the Home Missions Committee that we are proposing a third denominational committee—a denominational “church services committee.” This committee is not a “catch-all” for unrelated functions, for we feel that the inherent principles which will be defined will give a logical and orderly and practicable area of responsibility to this committee.

#### IV. DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO INHERENT PRINCIPLE:

We now arrive at a definition of categories according to inherent principles. Your committee proposes three such categories:

##### A) *Foreign Missions*

Foreign Missions may be defined as the work of the church which addresses itself particularly to those peoples that are basically pagan and heathen. It is the sacred duty and blessed privilege of the church to take part in the fulfillment of Christ's great commission to preach the Gospel to all nations.

### B) *Home Missions*

Home Missions may be defined as the work of the church which addresses itself particularly to the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving in the whole of our American community.

### C) *Denominational Services*

Denominational services may be defined as the activity of the church which provides for the spiritual and material needs of our own churches and members when needed, as well as for our brethren of the Reformed faith.

Your committee calls Synod's attention to the fact that the principle of division which defines the mandate and scope of labors of this third denominational committee is somewhat different from that defined in the overtures. Substantially, the work which is assigned to this committee is unchanged. However, we are assured that the principle according to which we have defined these labors is expressive of the intent of the original authors of the overture. Besides, it is acknowledged by the minority of our own committee to be "*without doubt thoroughly logical*" (italics ours). The only question that remains is whether or not this can be satisfactorily implemented. This we feel will be reasonably demonstrated by a delineation of the work of this committee.

We also feel that Synod must face this fact: the scope of our labors that comes under the category of "spiritual and material needs of our own churches and members . . . as well as of our brethren of the Reformed faith" has increased tremendously over the past years. Balance between the various aspects of this work will have to be maintained, but recognition will also have to be given to the relationship of this work to our other denominational commitments.

## V. OUR PROPOSED RE-ALIGNMENT.

### A. *The Christian Reformed Board of Missions*

With respect to the labors on the Indian and Foreign fields, your committee recommends that the Christian Reformed Board of Missions be retained with its presently assigned scope of labors—viz., Nigeria, Japan, China, Indonesia, Southern India, and the Indian Field, together with whatever new fields may be opened in the future in this area of activity.

#### *Grounds:*

a) Historically our Christian Reformed Board of Missions has been assigned the task of executing those mission activities of our denomination which addressed themselves particularly to those peoples that are basically pagan and heathen.

b) In the case of our Indian Missions, though lying within the boundaries of the continental United States, the Gospel addresses itself to a people that is basically pagan. Our missionaries here must deal with a pagan culture, and the problems are similar to those on the foreign field. However, in conformity with the overture your committee concedes that such work among the American Indians as may be conducted beyond the boundaries of the reservation in typical American communities (e.g., Albuquerque) should be under the jurisdiction of the General Committee for Home Missions as envisioned in this report.

B. *The General Committee for Home Missions*

According to our principle of definition and division of labor, we would assign the following work to this committee:

1. Denominational Radio Broadcast and Follow-up Work.

*Grounds:*

a) The Broadcast is designed to reach the unchurched and the unbelieving.

b) It serves as the spearhead of the Home Mission program, and should therefore be thoroughly integrated with this work.

c) The close relationship of the radio ministry to the denominational home missions effort is clearly attested by the Back to God Hour itself in *The Banner* of January 30, 1953:

*"The blessings of the past point to greater responsibility and opportunity for the future. . . . Five years of network broadcasting have paved the way for expansion beyond radio itself. The weekly messages and monthly devotional calendar are sent out by the tens of thousands every month. . . . The recently inaugurated follow-up program has already led to the opening of denominational Home Mission fields in cities where the Christian Reformed Church previously had no place. This would seem to be only the beginning of a new and important outreach.*

*"Our responsibility as a denomination has immeasurably increased with this radio witness. Every member of the Christian Reformed Church is challenged to increase its effectiveness. Correlation between the effort of the Church's membership, and its radio witness is essential. Truly, God has given us a spiritual heritage which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."* (italics ours.)

2. Evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving in the United States and Canada.

*Grounds:* Synod itself has declared that this is "the primary task of home missions" (cf. *Acts*, 1951, p. 71).

3. The work among the distantly dispersed brethren of the faith in the United States and Canada, such work to be done in conjunction with the work among the unchurched and unbelieving. This does not have reference to such concentrations of Reformed believers as found in Canada at present because of immigration.

*Grounds:*

a) Ideally each center of evangelism should have the benefit of a Reformed nucleus.

b) Concretely, the work in such areas can only be done through Home Mission effort, and must be done in conjunction with the work among the unchurched and unbelieving.

4. The Publication of Tracts and Mission Literature.

*Grounds:*

a) Three committees are presently engaged in this work: Home Missions Committee, Back to God Hour, and the Synodical Tract Committee — resulting in duplication and overlapping.

b) Witnessing through the printed word can be a fruitful means for the accomplishment of Home Mission work.

c) The demand for literature in connection with our radio work is increasing, and this demand can be provided in this way.

5. Jewish Evangelism. The work among the Jews properly belongs to the activity of the General Committee for Home Missions.

*Grounds:* We believe that the grounds of the overture presented to the Synod of 1952 by Classis Chicago North (See Overture 9 to the Synod of 1952) argue conclusively for this:

"1. The field of activity of our Field Missionary would thus be extended to the entire denomination.

"2. The Field Missionary would thus be available wherever there is opportunity for Jewish Evangelism.

"3. In this way we would expand our witness to the Jewish people beyond the Chicago and Paterson areas.

"4. It would create a greater interest in and love for Jewish Mission work throughout the denomination.

"5. Synod has at its 1948 meeting gone on record as favoring this plan, but it was never definitely carried out as a project denominational in scope. We quote the *Acts of 1948* as follows: 'Synod encourage our churches to act in accordance with the ideas expressed in the Report, namely that we seek to evangelize the Jews which live within the bounds of our local churches, as well as those living in predominantly Jewish communities. This should be done as a phase of the United Home Mission Service' (*Acts, 1947, Art. 109, I, A, p. 59; Acts, 1948, Art. 55, I, A, b, p. 16*)."

C. *Denominational Services Committee*

According to our previous definition, this is the general committee for spiritual and material aid to our own churches and to the brethren of the Reformed faith. Following this definition, we would assign the following work:

1. The promotion and establishment of new congregations among the brethren of the Reformed faith in Canada settling there as a result of the immigration program.

*Grounds:*

a) This effort cannot be viewed as Mission work, since these people are already members of the church.

b) This does constitute aid to the brethren of the Reformed faith.

2. The Canadian Emergency Building Fund.

*Ground:* This is closely allied to the work listed as 1. above, and should be integrated with it.

3. The supervision of the labors of the Canadian Immigration Committee.

*Ground:* Though this *committee* should continue as presently constituted because of the nature of its membership and work, its activities should be synchronized with the work numbered as 1. above.

4. The Calvinist Resettlement Committee.

*Ground:* Since the work of this committee will largely resemble the work being done among the immigrants in Canada, its logical grouping would be under this head, though it may function as a sub-committee of this General Committee.

5. The work of assisting our local congregations and/or classes in the promotion and establishment of new congregations in our own church centers and from among our own membership, when such help is needed.

*Grounds:*

a) There are instances when such aid to our own churches is necessary.

b) Though historically this work was carried on by the General Committee for Home Missions, it is not mission work, but constitutes spiritual aid to our own members.

6. The Fund for Needy Churches.

*Ground:* The work of subsidizing needy churches definitely constitutes aid to our own church members.

7. The Church Help Fund.

*Grounds:*

a) This fund, administered at present by an independent committee, could operate more efficiently if more closely integrated with the work of this General Committee.

b) This also constitutes aid for our own churches.

8. Work among the Servicemen.

*Ground:* Though carried on now by the Home Missions Committee, this work properly constitutes spiritual aid to our own membership, and is not Mission work.

#### 9. Work in South America and Ceylon.

*Ground:* This work as presently conducted is spiritual aid primarily to the brethren of the Reformed faith.

However, should the character of this work change so that it becomes largely *missionary* instead of spiritual aid to brethren of the Reformed faith, we feel that these labors should become the responsibility of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions.

#### 10. Korean Spiritual Relief.

*Ground:* This work is directed toward those who are brethren in the faith. These ten agencies, and others that may be established as need arises in the future, constitute the labors of the Denominational Services Committee.

This leaves one committee still unaccounted for, the Chaplains' Committee. Its work is so specialized and limited in scope, serving as a liaison between our Synod and the General Commission of Chaplains, that its interests can best be served by the presently constituted committee appointed directly by Synod. Therefore we recommend to leave it intact.

### VI. THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT AND PARTICULAR SYNODS

Since our churches are still considering the matter of establishing Particular Synods, your committee makes a few observations with respect to the question whether the establishment of such Synods would materially affect our recommendations. We call to your attention, first of all, that if our denomination moves in the direction of Particular Synods, we should still maintain denominational boards to carry on the work that is denominational in scope. To do otherwise would contribute to sectionalism and destruction of our denominational unity. Of course, the adoption of Particular Synods might alter the constituency of our boards: for instance, Synod might decide that the boards should be made up of delegates of the Particular Synods rather than delegates of the Classes. Such a change would not influence the determination of how many boards we should have or what work shall be entrusted to these boards. It would, however, be a satisfactory method of delegation to these boards, and since the number of classes would be increased, it would prevent the Boards from becoming unduly large and unwieldy with resulting inefficiency.

Looking at our proposed realignment, it is evident that the bulk of the work assigned to each committee, or board, is denominational in scope, and should be controlled by a denominational agency. We believe that an examination of the work of each committee makes this very clear.

The nature of our *Foreign Mission* work demands the continuation of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions. The only alternative

would be to break up this work and entrust various fields to Particular Synods. That such a plan is not feasible is cogently demonstrated in the report of our Christian Reformed Board of Missions to the Synod of 1952, pp. 361-362 as follows:

"This plan of dividing responsibility for the administration of missions to various sections constituted along classical or geographical lines must inevitably lead to sectionalism in missions. By turning the administration over to various sections each would feel a greater allegiance to its own foreign mission work than to the whole work of the denomination. Such sectionalism will:

a. *Remove the work of foreign missions farther from the rank and file of our people* who will be expected to continue to pay their quotas but will know and specialize only in their own fields.

b. *Produce 'sectionally informed' delegates.* If at present only a small number of delegates at Synod have a sufficient draft of missions matters, there will be still less knowledge of mission matters if the delegates are informed as to only one field, each according to his own administrative section.

c. *Result in several diverse policies in missions.* It is already evident that, because of varying circumstances of background and national traditions found on the various missions fields, allowances must be made as to indigeneity and policies of subsidy. The fact that subsidies, etc., are checked on one field is because of the over-all picture that is possible to a general board conducting all the diverse fields. However, sectionalism in administration would cause a greater temptation to 'hand out' without consideration of the needs to be found elsewhere."

[d. *Result in loss of efficiency and economy.* The financial costs of dividing our foreign mission work would be disastrous. (Note: this statement is ours, not that of the report of the Board.) The report continues:] "The fact is that the multiplication of administrative bodies can mean only one thing—an increase in administrative expense to the denomination as a whole. The auditor's report on the work of our treasurer this year has this statement: 'The administrative cost is small compared to the volume of work involved and the fact that the administrative work of the various fields is managed by one office results in a most economical arrangement. Another important advantage that this centralization effects is that of maintaining cash reserves. It works like the Federal Reserve System; for instance, if a certain field, for good reasons, has expended more money than its allotment, other fields may have lesser disbursements (as has happened in previous years) and consequently payments are not interrupted. Difficulties would most likely arise if cash reserves were spread thinly among various treasuries. Individuals sending gifts and Classical Treasurers are also greatly accommodated by the present arrangement.'"

Looking at the work of *Home Missions*, we observe that in this category also a General Committee will still be necessary. The work of the Back to God Hour, the work among the distantly dispersed brethren of the faith, the publication of tracts and mission literature, the work of Jewish evangelism, and also the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving in the United States and Canada are all of a

denominational character and demand uniform policy and administration. It may be argued that the Particular Synods could take charge of the work within their territories. They *should* do so. Our Classes at present should also do home mission work in their territories. Some of our classical home missions committees are doing a splendid job of administering home mission work within the confines of their classes. However, there will always be many fields in our nation that are distant from the Classes or Particular Synods. The work on such fields should be done according to uniform policy by our denominational committee. The Committee on Particular Synods recognized this when it wrote: "A central Denomination-wide committee could be retained to which each Synod would appoint one or two delegates and the purpose of each would be to discuss mission principles, get a united approach to the general problems, and serve to stimulate activity generally." (*Acts of Synod, 1952, p. 173*).

A survey of the tasks of the *Denominational Services Committee* shows that it will also be engaged with matters that are denominational in scope.

If Particular Synods are established, your committee is convinced that the proposed realignment will still be the best method of conducting our denominational mission work and services with unity, efficiency, economy, and uniformity of policy.

## VII. SUGGESTIONS

Having studied the above plan and its implications, your committee has some practical suggestions for the execution of this project, should it find favor with and approval by Synod. They are as follows:

1. Since the plan proposes a much closer integration of Home Mission Work as now defined and the denominational broadcast, your committee would suggest moving the General Committee of Home Missions from the Grand Rapids area to the Chicago area and that the Executive Committee be composed of the members from Classes Chicago North, Chicago South, Oostfriesland, Wisconsin, and Kalamazoo, together with such members-at-large as Synod may appoint.

2. Since the technical aspects of the Radio Broadcast demand the services of men acquainted in this field, we suggest that a subcommittee of specialists be appointed by Synod for the administration of this aspect of the work, this sub-committee to be composed of members living in close proximity to Chicago so as to eliminate heavy expense.

3. Since the presently constituted Executive Committee of the General Home Mission Committee is thoroughly acquainted with the work in Canada, and since this constitutes at present so large a part of the work of this committee, we suggest that this Executive Committee serve as a nucleus for the Denominational Services Committee.

4. Because several "independent" committees have been eliminated, the proposed plan would demand less rather than more personnel as board members. Moreover, the amount of travelling involved would certainly not be increased, which will be evident when we bear in mind that much present travel will become unnecessary. To take one example only: the proposed plan would eliminate the present bi-monthly meetings of the *entire* Back to God Hour Committee. In addition, Synod must bear in mind the number of individuals presently involved in these various functions: the Back to God Hour Committee has 12 members, the South America Committee has 6 members, the Jewish Mission Boards together have 14 members, the Church Help Fund Committee has 6 members (a total) for these committees alone of 38 members). These would be eliminated under the proposed plan.

Your committee also favors that more laymen be appointed to serve as members of these boards. When these men are elected by the Classes (and this is permissible under our present rules), it is understood that they shall render their reports as do the ministers who are delegated.

#### VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that Synod adopt the above plan of realignment for the agencies carrying on the work of the church, and bring it into execution.

##### *Grounds:*

a) This realignment is in accordance with the inherent principle of the labors concerned.

b) This realignment will integrate and unify the efforts of the denomination, giving each its rightful place and needed emphasis.

c) This principle of realignment will provide for future expansion of denominational activity.

2. That Synod appoint a committee to draw up the necessary changes in the rules and mission orders which the above recommendation requires.

3. We recommend that Synod declare this work of the committee to be the proper fulfillment of its twofold mandate and Synod's answer to Overtures 3 and 23 presented to the Synod of 1951, and Overture 9 of 1952, as well as an answer to the question of the relationship between Church Extension and Home Mission work as posited by the Synod of 1951.

4. We recommend that Synod discharge this study committee as having completed its work.

5. We request Synod that Rev. W. P. Brink be permitted to defend this report before Synod and its advisory committee.

Humbly submitted,

WILLIAM P. BRINK  
RENZE O. DE GROOT  
RICHARD R. DE RIDDER  
JOHN A. MULDER  
EARL STRIKWERDA

### **Minority Report**

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The undersigned, members of the above named Study Committee, are unable to agree wholly with the judgments and recommendations of the Majority of this Committee, and beg leave to submit a Minority report and recommendation. The Minority questions the basic premise of the overture, namely, that Home Missions must deal only and exclusively with "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving." The Minority regards this isolation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" as neither necessary nor desirable. It is of the further opinion that in other respects the plan proposed by the overtures has serious drawbacks. And it judges that a satisfactory delineation of function can be achieved by some measure of reorganization within the existing framework.

#### **I. DIFFICULTIES IN THE PLAN OF THE OVERTURES**

A. The Minority believes that the strict separation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" from "church extension work among our own Christian brethren" is neither necessary nor desirable.

The major ground for the proposal of the overtures is the judgment that "there is evident confusion in our circles today with respect to the distinction between mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving and church extension work among our own Christian brethren." This confusion, it is said, "tends to weaken our program of bringing the Gospel to the unchurched and unbelieving." In order to remove this confusion and remedy this weakness it is proposed that the Home Missions Committee concern itself only and exclusively with "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving," and that "the work among our own Christian brethren" (Canada, South America, and Ceylon, our own church centers) be placed under the administration of a newly organized Committee—"the Church Extension Committee."

The question, therefore, is: Will the separation of "work among our own brethren" from Home Missions guarantee a due proportion and

quality of denominational effort in "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving?" The Minority does not feel that a separate administration is necessary to achieve this end, nor even that it is desirable.

Our present Home Missions Committee *can* discharge both duties—*in the measure that the church herself is ready and able to discharge both*—without unduly neglecting the unchurched and unbelieving. And it is fair to say that this is being done. The large attention we are giving to Canada is no disproof of it. For one thing, except for the fact that the Canadian field calls for some effort from the Home Missionary-at-Large and the secretary, that field has not taken away the services of the regular home missionaries in the states. Those who labor in Canada as Home Missionaries are men who have been established ministers, and who by reason of their ability in the Holland language have given themselves to emergency home missionary service in Canada. Secondly, it so happens that precisely at the time when Canada claimed so much of our Home Missions attention we have been making our largest advances in the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving—as witness our work in California, New Jersey, Bellwood and Champaign, Illinois, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Salt Lake City, Utah, Columbus, Ohio, Negro evangelization in Harlem, the exploratory activities of the Rev. Harold Dekker, and the summer field work of several Seminary students. No one will claim that we should be satisfied with this, but it does show what can be done, and what more can be done if our Home Missionary staff continues to enlarge its vision and purpose for the due prosecution of what Synod 1951 called "the primary task of Home Missions." The only remaining need is that our churches should be willing to provide adequate funds and that our ministers should be ready and willing to offer themselves to this urgent and difficult missionary service.

The Minority further contends that a separate administration for the evangelization of the unchurched and unbelieving is not wholly desirable. The task of preaching the gospel and organizing churches among our own brethren, does stand in some relationship to the work of evangelization. The establishment of new churches in new communities provides a real opportunity for making these churches relevant to that community, and when a new church is organized an attempt should certainly be made to interest not only Christian Reformed people in the neighborhood but as well the unchurched and ill-churched. We ought more seriously to think of the establishment of new churches as an opportunity for community penetration, instead of solely as an exercise of gathering together those already of our own faith or in our own membership. The continuance of this work under the Home Missions Committee would help to sustain this concern and purpose.

B. The Minority believes that in other respects the plan proposed has serious drawbacks.

1. The principle of organization proposed for the third committee by the overtures is faulty, since Home Missions is also and must indeed be an exercise in "Church Extension." The esteemed Majority of our Committee has recognized this and proposes a different principle of organization—that of "Denominational Services." But the Minority is not persuaded that this redefinition of the work of the third major Board makes the general plan proposed by the overtures any more acceptable. In fact, it introduces other and perhaps larger difficulties into the general plan proposed by the overtures.

The principle of "denominational services" is no more satisfactory than "church extension" as a principle for the organization of a third major Board. For the principle of "denominational service" is formal and abstract and not sufficiently realistic. It is without doubt thoroughly *logical* to classify the various activities proposed for the third committee in the *category* of "the activity of the church which provides for the spiritual and material needs of our own churches and members . . . as well as of our brethren of the Reformed faith." It is quite another question whether it is *reasonable* to place these various activities in the hands of one *Committee*. What looks good on paper may not be feasible or efficient in the field of actual operation. It will be observed that a "Denominational Services Committee" is expected to manage many activities which are actually quite unrelated, however logically they may be classified together as services; and activities carried on in widely separated areas, from Canada to Ceylon. By reason of this the work of that Committee would consist largely of a meaningless kind of supervision, since most of these activities, being specialized, would have to be administered in any event by separate committees, as is indeed recommended.

2. The organization of another major Board without better reason would unwarrantably increase the number of ministers who serve on Boards and Executive Committees and who are drawn frequently and sometimes long from the work of their churches. Already about 75 ministers are members of three major Board and Executive Committees which require considerable travel and extended periods of time away from their churches. The Minority does not believe that an additional twenty-five or more ministers should become so involved without commanding reason.

3. A large part of the work which the overtures propose for the third major Board is of an emergency nature and will be considerably reduced. Other parts of its work—such as the organization of new churches in our own church centers—should be left as much as possible

to more localized agencies such as consistories and classes, and ought certainly not be made one of the regular duties of a major denominational Board. As for our Canadian work, it is to be expected that after existing Canadian churches are more firmly established and the stream of immigration grows smaller, the Canadian churches and Classes will normally carry out that work themselves, in like manner and measure as our churches in the States.

There is much of the "work among our own brethren" which ought not to be made so prominent and permanent a part of denominational responsibility. As much as possible we ought to encourage a larger measure of local initiative and responsibility in the prosecution of that work. This can better be done if such work is a subsidiary part of the work of the Home Missions Committee, than if it is made the sole and permanent concern of a separate "Church Extension Committee." The latter committee—and this is even more true of a "Denominational Services Committee"—is likely to promote and encourage a large measure of ecclesiastical paternalism. It is certain that the setting up of a third committee will give larger prominence to "work among our own brethren" than it has ever had before; and many who hesitated to apply to the Home Missions Committee for help in the organization of new churches and for subsidies will be less hesitant to do so when a major Board is set up specifically for such purpose. We have opposed the growth of the Welfare State in our national life. Why encourage the growth of a Welfare Church in our denominational life?

## II. MINORITY RECOMMENDATION

Since our Committee was mandated also to "serve Synod with advice whether there should be a re-division of Synodical work," the Minority humbly submit its own recommendation. The Minority recommends the retaining of our present organizational structure, but suggests some change and rearrangement within it. We shall give our reasons for such changes as we proceed with the outline of our recommendation.

### A. *Foreign Missions Board*

- Nigeria - Japan - China - Indonesia - Southern India - Indian Field (USA) - South America and Ceylon.

There is one change proposed—the inclusion of South America and Ceylon under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Missions Board. Our reasons are the following:

1. Both South America and Ceylon offer strategic opportunities for the prosecution of what is essentially foreign mission work, for which the churches already existing there could provide a local base of operations. This is especially true of Ceylon. The work in these overseas areas, even on the present basis, can without undue burden be added to

that of the Foreign Missions Board, through which a uniform policy for all overseas personnel can be established in matters of allowance, furlough, etc.

2. In any event, the Minority does not believe that we should step up a policy of paternalism in our relationship to these churches, as we might be doing if we should place them under the care of a "Church Extension Committee." Perhaps it is coming to the time when we should be more concerned about encouraging these distant churches to become fully independent and self-sustaining. If we expect to press the principle of indigency in the native churches, we ought not to be too slow in seeking its application in churches of such long standing as those in South America and Ceylon. It will always be possible for us, as sister churches, to render aid in financial gifts and scholarships or grants for the training of their men. But no major Board will be needed to administer such aid.

B. *General Committee of Home Missions*

- Evangelism of the unchurched and unbelieving. - Jewish Evangelism.
- Labor among the dispersed of the faith in Canada and the U. S.
- Assistance in the organization of new churches. - Fund for Needy Churches. - Servicemen's Work.

The inclusion of Jewish Evangelism, as proposed in the overture of Classis Chicago North, and on the grounds there stated (cf. *Acts 1952*, pp. 519-20), is recommended by the Minority in agreement with the Majority.

C. For the rest, the Minority is of the opinion that in the interest of greater efficiency, because they are specialized activities, and because the work would in any event have to be conducted by separate Committees, the following activities should be administered by special committees appointed by Synod, as is now the case.

- Back to God Hour. - Publication of Literature. - Church Help Fund. - Calvinist Resettlement Service. - Canadian Immigration Service. - Chaplains' Work. - Korean Spiritual Relief.

The Minority wishes to make these observations concerning the Back to God Hour and the Publication of Literature.

1. Notwithstanding its close relationship to Home Missions work, the Minority recommends that the Back to God Hour continue as at present. Grounds:

a. The BTGH is by itself a large denominational effort and commands a large budget. It would in any event have to be administered by a special committee, as even the Majority recommends. There is no good reason why it should not continue under the present Committee

appointed directly by Synod. Synodical supervision of this Committee is adequate and salutary, and to be preferred to supervision by the Home Missions Committee.

b. Under the present administration the BTGH has been one of the most efficient and successful of all of our denominational enterprises, and already, through the Minister of Evangelism, has established an adequate liason with the Home Missions Committee. Unless it can be shown that there is some *actual* deficiency in the present set-up, the present proved and successful administration of the BTGH ought to be retained.

2. It is the opinion of the Minority that the publication of literature intended for denominational witness to the outside may well be assigned to the BTGH Committee. Grounds:

a. The BTGH is already engaged in the publication of a considerable body of literature intended for such denominational witness.

b. Because of the particular nature of its work and its large contact with the American world through radio mail, it is in a position to know what kind of literature is most effective for denominational witness.

c. The BTGH has at its command facilities for the publication and distribution of such literature.

### III. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. Our Committee has not made a special study of the problem of organization as it will be affected by the institution of Particular Synods. What the Minority proposes, therefore, is relevant to our present denominational structure—without Particular Synods. Since the introduction of Particular Synods might considerably alter our organizational structure, it is thought unwise to make any major organizational change at this juncture. It would seem that the Committee now making a study of the matter of Particular Synods ought to present to the Church a rather specific blue-print of organization and administration for our various denominational activities. The question of the organization and administration of denominational effort is a most crucial consideration for determining whether Particular Synods are feasible and may profitably be introduced.

#### B. Summary of Recommendations.

As long as we retain our present structure, and at least until Particular Synods are introduced, the Minority of the above-named Study Committee humbly submits the following recommendations for consideration by Synod:

1. That Synod do not adopt the plan of reorganization proposed by the overtures of Classis Grand Rapids West and the Church of Saginaw, Michigan, but retain in its general outline the present structure of Foreign Missions Board, General Committee for Home Missions and special Synodically appointed Committees. *Grounds*:

a. The strict separation of "mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving" from "church extension work among our own Christian brethren" is neither necessary nor desirable (cf. I, A, above).

b. The reorganization proposed by these overtures has serious drawbacks (cf. I, B, 1, 2, 3, above):

1) The principle of organization on which the general plan of the overtures is based is faulty.

2) The creation of another major Board, with Executive Committee and executive personnel, would unwarrantably increase the number of ministers serving on Major Boards and Executive Committees.

3) The plan of the overtures gives a too prominent and permanent status to work that ought to be considered of a temporary and emergency nature, and encourages the growth of an ecclesiastical paternalism.

c. There is, if we are to strengthen our mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving, a more basic need than that of reorganization. The more basic need is for a clearer understanding of the problems involved in mission work among the unchurched and unbelieving in America, of the missionary goal to which we must set ourselves, of the integration and co-ordination of our missionary efforts, and of the mission policies we must follow in the pursuit of our task. And with that there must be a determined purpose to use our congregations and the nuclei "of our own people" as missionary agencies, and a determined purpose to bring the unchurched and unbelieving into the Church of Christ without fear of the problems they may bring. If these conditions are not met, it is hard to believe that a mere shift in organization and administration will be a cure-all for the weakness of our mission to the American world.

d. Satisfactory improvement of administration can be effected by some alteration within the existing structure, as recommended below:

2. That Synod adopt the following organizational and administrative changes:

a. Discontinuance of the South America and Ceylon Committee, and the transfer of work in those areas to the administration of the Foreign Missions Board, for reasons given in II, A, 1, 2, above.

b. Transfer of Jewish Evangelism to the administration of the Home Missions Committee as proposed in the overture of Classis

Chicago North and for grounds adduced in that overture (cf. *Acts* 1952, pp. 519-20).

c. Assignment of the work of the publication of literature intended for denominational witness outward to the Back to God Hour Committee, for reasons given in II, C, 2, above.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. VANDE KIEFT  
GEORGE STOB

## REPORT NO. 32

# THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

### ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:

It is with gratitude to our God that we present this report on our activities in administering both the Pension and Relief Funds of our denomination.

### PART I

#### PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

The Board is composed of Mr. N. Hendrikse, President; the Rev. J. Beebe, Vice-President; the Rev. F. Handlogten, Secretary; Mr. F. L. Winter, Treasurer; and Mr. W. H. Boer, Vice Secretary-Treasurer. The alternates are: Mr. G. Dornbos, Mr. G. B. Tinholt, Rev. W. Van Peurse, Mr. B. De Jager, and Rev. T. Yff. We respectfully call Synod's attention to the fact that the name of Mr. Fred L. Winter, Treasurer of the Board, is not included as a member of the Committee as mentioned in the 1952 Acts of Synod, Art. 190, VI, A, 18.

We wish to acknowledge the many faithful services of the Rev. J. O. Bouwsma who served the Fund so long and so well as Secretary of the Board since the beginning of our Plan in 1940. Rev. B. Van Someren's sound advice and competent leadership as Vice-President for six years is also acknowledged. Both Rev. Bouwsma and Rev. Van Someren retired from the Board last year.

The term of appointment of members Mr. N. Hendrikse and Mr. F. L. Winter, and as alternate Mr. G. Dornbos, expire at this time.

### PART II

#### INFORMATION ON PENSIONERS

We have been informed of the emeritation of the following: Dr. Ralph Bronkema by Classis Orange City on the grounds of "ill health and the inability to perform his work"; emeritation to become effective June 30, 1952. The Rev. J. D. Pikaart by Classis Minnesota on the grounds of "age, years of service and illness of wife." Emeritation became effective September 30, 1952.

Classis Grand Rapids East, at its meeting January 15, 1953, declared the Rev. L. Oostendorp eligible for a call.

The Rev. P. Jonker passed away September 29, 1952. His widow became a pensioner. The following pensioners have died since our last report: Rev. S. Struyck, Rev. G. Vander Riet, and Mrs. B. Nagel.

The number of pensioners, as of February 1, 1953, was 43 ministers and 83 widows.

The Synodical Amendment as to the pension of a widow with a dependent child or children (Acts of Synod 1952, Art. 92, III, 4, pages 37, 38) went into effect January 1, 1953. This liberalized rule enables the Board to provide help to five widows on behalf of thirteen children under 19 years of age. We can say that this help is greatly appreciated by the widows.

**PART III**  
**THE MINISTERS' PENSION FUND**

*1. Average Salary.*

According to the rules adopted by Synod the average salary of the ministers in active service shall be determined on or before March 1st. A statement with the names of 375 ministers and the amount of the salary of each is available for Synod. The average salary of the 375 reported is \$4,020.99.

The 1953 pension of a minister — 50% of the average salary computed to the nearest multiple of 10 — is \$2,010, an increase of \$100. The 1953 pension of a widow — 40% of the average salary computed to the nearest multiple of 10 — is \$1,610, an increase of \$80.

*2. Budget for 1954.*

| <b>Anticipated Receipts</b>              |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Quotas (41,045 families at 4.00).....    | \$164,180.00        |
| Ministers, 3½% of Salary .....           | 52,500.00           |
| Interest .....                           | 1,600.00            |
| <b>Total</b> .....                       | <b>\$218,280.00</b> |
| <b>Anticipated Disbursements</b>         |                     |
| Pensions, Ministers (43 at \$2,010)..... | \$ 86,430.00        |
| Pensions, Widows (83) .....              | 114,348.83          |
| Dependent Allowance to Widows .....      | 2,400.00            |
| Administrative Expense .....             | 1,500.00            |
| Additional Pensions .....                | 12,870.00           |
| <b>Total</b> .....                       | <b>\$217,548.83</b> |
| <b>Balance</b> .....                     | <b>\$ 731.17</b>    |

The quota for 1953 is \$4.00. We recommend an increase of \$ .25 in the quota for 1954, raising it to \$4.25. The increase should raise \$10,000. The last three years we ran in the red, for each year the disbursements exceeded the receipts. The cash on hand at the close of 1949 was \$35,044.08 and at the close of 1952 it was only \$14,974.25. This balance is not sufficiently large to operate in a satisfactory and safe manner. The Board feels that this trend toward the depletion of the small balance on hand should at least be stopped, and if at all possible even reversed. Furthermore, the quotas are not met by all the congregations; some, as the Canadian Churches, cannot meet it in full. Note that the anticipated quotas is based on the actual number of

families in the 1953 yearbook. It must also be considered that the 1954 pensions will in all probability be higher. The increase in the pension (as noted in 1 above) requires an increase in the quota. Since the pensions are geared to the salary as the salaries increase the pensions also increase. Approximately 30% of the increase in pensions is absorbed by the increase in the 3½% salary contributions of the ministers; the rest of the increase, about 70%, should be raised by the quota.

3.

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952

#### CURRENT PENSION FUND

##### RECEIPTS

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Quotas from Classical Treasurers..... | \$133,155.43        |
| Ministers, 3½% of Salary.....         | 49,625.62           |
| Interest .....                        | 1,684.35            |
| Miscellaneous .....                   | 213.62              |
| <b>Total Receipts .....</b>           | <b>\$184,679.02</b> |
| Balance January 1, 1952.....          | 17,808.25           |
| <b>Total .....</b>                    | <b>\$202,487.27</b> |

##### DISBURSEMENTS

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Pension to Ministers .....       | \$ 78,062.90        |
| Pension to Widows .....          | 107,876.25          |
| Administrative Expense .....     | 1,573.87            |
| <b>Total Disbursements .....</b> | <b>\$187,513.02</b> |
| Balance December 31, 1952.....   | \$ 14,974.25        |

#### RESERVE PENSION FUND

##### RECEIPTS

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Increment on U. S. Bond ..... | \$ 260.00           |
| Balance January 1, 1952.....  | 76,610.00           |
| <b>Total .....</b>            | <b>\$ 76,870.00</b> |

##### DISBURSEMENTS

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| None                           |              |
| Balance December 31, 1952..... | \$ 76,870.00 |

The \$76,870.00 is invested in United States Securities in accordance with a Synodical decision.

Article X of the rules adopted by Synod reads: "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."

PART IV  
THE MINISTERS' RELIEF FUND

1. This fund was established by Synod to aid those ministers, widows, and orphans whose pensions are inadequate because of adverse conditions. It is maintained by free-will offerings of the congregations. The Rules authorize the Board to inform the Church when an offering is needed. We are thankful and happy that once again we can report that it is not necessary to request a free-will offering this year, 1953, since there is a good balance on hand.

2.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
January 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952  
CURRENT RELIEF FUND

RECEIPTS

|                            |    |             |
|----------------------------|----|-------------|
| Classical Treasurers ..... | \$ | 113.76      |
| Interest .....             |    | 500.00      |
| Miscellaneous .....        |    | 100.00      |
| Balance Dec. 31, 1951..... |    | 10,698.30   |
| Total .....                |    | \$11,412.06 |

DISBURSEMENTS

|                             |    |             |
|-----------------------------|----|-------------|
| To Ministers .....          | \$ | 1,605.00    |
| To Widows .....             |    | 1,670.00    |
| Total .....                 |    | 3,275.00    |
| Balance Dec. 31, 1952 ..... |    | \$ 8,137.06 |

RESERVE RELIEF FUND

RECEIPTS

|                               |    |             |
|-------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Increment on U. S. Bonds..... | \$ | 827.30      |
| Balance Jan. 1, 1952.....     |    | 45,336.20   |
| Total .....                   |    | \$46,163.50 |

DISBURSEMENTS

None

The \$46,163.50 is invested in U. S. Bonds.

A detailed statement of the disbursements shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee of Synod and, if Synod so desires, to Synod itself in Executive session. This is in accordance with the rules adopted by Synod.

The Board has sought to administer the fund as reasonably as possible, and again this year the cost has been kept well below one percent of the monies administered.

PART VI  
MATTERS REQUIRING SYNODICAL ATTENTION

1. The recommendation to increase the quota \$ .25 for 1954, raising it to \$4.25 Cf III, 2, above.

2. The appointment of two new members and one alternate. Cf. I above.

3. The Board recommends that Synod grant dependency allowance for children physically or mentally incapacitated on or before their 19th birthday, by augmenting the pension of a widow at the rate of \$150 per year per dependent child beyond its 19th birthday. The amendment would read as follows: "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." Art. 92, III, B, 4, f, on page 37 of the 1952 Acts of Synod would then read: "The pension of a widow with a dependent child or dependent children shall be augmented at the rate of \$150 per year per dependent child until the dependent has reached the 19th 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, the pension to such a widow shall not exceed 50% of the average salary of our ministers in active service."

Upon inquiry the Board has been appraised of four children of widow pensioners who would be covered by this amendment, should Synod concur in our recommendation.

It is recommended that this amendment be made retroactive to January 1, 1953, at which time the widow pension for children under 19 years of age was augmented.

Humbly submitted,

The Ministers' Pension and Relief Administration,

F. HANDLOGTEN, *Secretary*

February 5, 1953

Board of Trustees

THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Gentlemen:

accounts and records of the Treasurer of the Ministers' Pension and Relief

In accordance with your request, we have made an examination of the Administration for the year ended December 31, 1952, and submit our report thereon as contained in the comments, exhibits and schedules listed in the index on the preceding page.

Respectfully submitted,  
MATHOFER, MOORE & DELONG  
*Certified Public Accountants*

#### SCOPE OF EXAMINATION AND GENERAL COMMENTS

In the course of our examination, we verified the cash on deposit in the banks by reconciliation of the ledger balances with the amounts stated in certificates received from the depositories.

We did not count the cash on hand at December 31, 1952, but verified the fact that the total amount of \$8,036.26, representing receipts of December 31, 1952, was deposited intact on January 3, 1952.

We traced recorded cash receipts from their source to their deposit in the bank and recorded cash disbursements were vouched by checking all cancelled checks against the check register.

We inspected the United States Government bonds as held investments by the Administration and either verified the amount of interest received thereon or set up the increase in redemption values at December 31, 1952.

All monies collected were deposited in the Hackley Union National Bank, Muskegon, Michigan. Each of the two funds maintained by the administration has a claim against monies and investments for the amount shown as the balance of such fund in Schedule A-3.

Footings and postings were checked sufficiently to establish their accuracy.

We did not inspect the minutes of the secretary.

We represent below a comparative summary of the operations of the two funds maintained by the Administration for the four years ended December 31, 1952:

#### PENSION FUND

|                     | YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31 |              |              |              |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                     | 1949                   | 1950         | 1951         | 1952         |
| BALANCES — JAN. 1.  | \$ 83,285.75           | \$106,134.08 | \$ 94,722.88 | \$ 94,418.25 |
| RECEIPTS .....      | 169,655.73             | 140,390.64   | 173,467.86   | 184,939.02   |
| Totals .....        | \$252,941.48           | \$246,524.72 | \$268,190.74 | \$279,357.27 |
| DISBURSEMENTS ..... | 146,807.40             | 151,801.84   | 173,772.49   | 187,513.02   |
| BALANCES — DEC. 31  | \$106,134.08           | \$ 94,722.88 | \$ 94,418.25 | \$ 91,844.25 |

(SCHEDULE A-3)

#### REPRESENTED BY:

|                                    |              |              |              |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash on hand and<br>in Banks ..... | \$ 35,044.08 | \$ 23,372.88 | \$ 17,808.25 | \$ 14,974.25 |
| Investments .....                  | 71,090.00    | 71,350.00    | 76,610.00    | 76,870.00    |
| Totals (as above).....             | \$106,134.08 | \$ 94,722.88 | \$ 94,418.25 | \$ 91,844.25 |

#### RELIEF FUND

|                       |              |              |              |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| BALANCES — JAN. 1 ..  | \$ 54,624.49 | \$ 55,717.48 | \$ 56,363.29 | \$ 56,034.50 |
| RECEIPTS .....        | 2,983.99     | 1,880.81     | 4,351.21     | 1,541.06     |
| Totals .....          | \$ 57,608.48 | \$ 57,598.29 | \$ 60,714.50 | \$ 57,575.56 |
| DISBURSEMENTS .....   | 1,891.00     | 1,235.00     | 4,680.00     | 3,275.00     |
| BALANCES — DEC. 31 .. | \$ 55,717.48 | \$ 56,363.29 | \$ 56,034.50 | \$ 54,300.56 |

(SCHEDULE A-3)

#### REPRESENTED BY:

|                                    |              |              |              |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash on Hand and<br>in Banks ..... | \$ 14,817.08 | \$ 14,281.19 | \$ 10,698.30 | \$ 8,137.06  |
| Investments .....                  | 40,900.40    | 42,082.10    | 45,336.20    | 46,163.50    |
| Totals (as above).....             | \$ 55,717.48 | \$ 56,363.29 | \$ 56,034.50 | \$ 54,300.56 |

## THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

## BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1952

## ASSETS

## CURRENT ASSETS

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Cash on Hand and in Banks (Schedule A-1).....     | \$ 23,111.31        |
| INVESTMENTS (SCHEDULE A-2)                        |                     |
| United States Savings Bonds — Series F and G..... | 123,033.50          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> .....                         | <b>\$146,144.81</b> |

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES .....                        | \$ —                |
| FUND BALANCES (SCHEDULE A-3)                     |                     |
| Pension Fund .....                               | \$91,844.25         |
| Relief Fund .....                                | 54,300.56           |
|  | 146,144.81          |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b> ..... | <b>\$146,144.81</b> |

## SCHEDULE A-1

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 1952

|   | Fund         |              | Totals                      |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
|   | Pension      | Relief       |                             |
| CASH BALANCE — JAN. 1, 1952 .....         | \$ 17,808.25 | \$ 10,698.30 | \$ 28,506.55                |
| CASH RECEIPTS (EXHIBIT B) .....           | 184,679.02   | 713.76       | 185,392.78                  |
| Totals .....                              | \$202,487.27 | \$ 11,412.06 | \$213,899.33                |
| CASH DISBURSEMENTS<br>(EXHIBIT C).....    | 187,513.02   | 3,275.00     | 190,788.02                  |
| CASH BALANCE — DEC. 31, 1952 ....         | \$ 14,974.25 | \$ 8,137.06  | \$ 23,111.31<br>(Exhibit A) |
| REPRESENTED BY                            |              |              |                             |
| Cash on Hand Awaiting Deposit .....       |              |              | \$ 8,036.26                 |
| Cash in Hackley Union National Bank ..... |              |              | 9,850.73                    |
| Cash in Old Kent Bank .....               |              |              | 5,224.32                    |
| Total (As Above) .....                    |              |              | \$ 23,111.31                |

SCHEDULE A-2

THE MINISTERS' PENSION AND RELIEF ADMINISTRATION  
of the Christian Reformed Church

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS — December 31, 1952

229

| DESCRIPTION  | Dated   | Due     | Bond Numbers          | Denomination | Cost Plus<br>Increment | Pension     | Relief    |
|--|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 10-1-41 | 10-1-53 | V45931-32G            | \$ 5,000.00  | \$ 10,000.00           | \$10,000.00 | \$ .....  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series F..... | 4-1-42  | 4-1-54  | C318283-84F           | 100.00       | 189.00                 | ....        | 189.00    |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series F..... | 4-1-42  | 4-1-54  | C318292F              | 100.00       | 94.50                  | ....        | 94.50     |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series F..... | 4-1-42  | 4-1-54  | M243773-88F           | 1,000.00     | 15,120.00              | ....        | 15,120.00 |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series F..... | 4-1-42  | 4-1-54  | M243790F-M243799F     | 1,000.00     | 1,890.00               | ....        | 1,890.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 3-1-43  | 3-1-55  | V221843-44G           | 5,000.00     | 10,000.00              | 10,000.00   | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series F..... | 3-1-44  | 3-1-56  | V226184-87F           | 5,000.00     | 17,740.00              | 8,870.00    | 8,870.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 3-1-45  | 3-1-57  | V558662-63G           | 5,000.00     | 10,000.00              | 5,000.00    | 5,000.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 3-1-45  | 3-1-57  | M3524284-85G          | 1,000.00     | 2,000.00               | ....        | 2,000.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 3-1-45  | 3-1-57  | D1830213-G            | 500.00       | 500.00                 | ....        | 500.00    |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 2-1-46  | 2-1-58  | M4447276-79G          | 1,000.00     | 4,000.00               | 4,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 2-1-46  | 2-1-58  | C4172299-G            | 100.00       | 100.00                 | 100.00      | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 3-1-46  | 3-1-58  | Y659789G              | 5,000.00     | 5,000.00               | ....        | 5,000.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 4-1-46  | 4-1-58  | C4209470G             | 100.00       | 100.00                 | 100.00      | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 4-1-47  | 4-1-59  | C4763126G-C4762787-9G | 100.00       | 400.00                 | 400.00      | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 4-1-47  | 4-1-59  | M5622828G             | 1,000.00     | 1,000.00               | 1,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 4-1-47  | 4-1-59  | M5622941G             | 1,000.00     | 1,000.00               | 1,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 4-1-47  | 4-1-59  | M5622943G             | 1,000.00     | 1,000.00               | 1,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 4-1-47  | 4-1-59  | X796995G              | 10,000.00    | 10,000.00              | 10,000.00   | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 2-1-48  | 2-1-60  | Y878817G              | 5,000.00     | 5,000.00               | 5,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 5-1-48  | 5-1-60  | V899129G              | 5,000.00     | 5,000.00               | ....        | 5,000.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 7-1-48  | 7-1-60  | M6540188-92G          | 1,000.00     | 5,000.00               | 5,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 7-1-48  | 7-1-60  | C5221740-43G          | 100.00       | 400.00                 | 400.00      | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 2-1-49  | 2-1-61  | Y947710-11G           | 5,000.00     | 10,000.00              | 10,000.00   | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 5-1-51  | 5-1-63  | V1086514G             | 5,000.00     | 5,000.00               | 5,000.00    | ....      |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 5-1-51  | 5-1-63  | M7955584-5G           | 1,000.00     | 2,000.00               | ....        | 2,000.00  |
| United States of America Savings Bonds — Series G..... | 5-1-51  | 5-1-63  | D3535245G             | 500.00       | 500.00                 | ....        | 500.00    |

TOTALS

\$123,033.50      \$76,870.00      \$46,163.50

(EXHIBIT A)

SCHEDULE A-3

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES

December 31, 1952

|                                   | Fund         |              | Totals       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                   | Pension      | Relief       |              |
| FUND BALANCES — JAN. 1, 1952..... | \$ 94,418.25 | \$ 56,034.50 | \$150,452.75 |
| FUND RECEIPTS (EXHIBIT B) .....   | 184,939.02   | 1,541.06     | 186,480.08   |
| Totals .....                      | \$279,357.27 | \$ 57,575.56 | \$336,932.83 |
| FUND DISBURSEMENTS                |              |              |              |
| (EXHIBIT C) .....                 | 187,513.02   | 3,275.00     | 190,788.02   |
| FUND BALANCES — DEC. 31, 1952     |              |              |              |
| (EXHIBIT A) .....                 | \$ 91,844.25 | \$ 54,300.56 | \$146,144.81 |

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF FUND RECEIPTS

Year Ended December 31, 1952

|                                | Fund         |             | Totals       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                | Pension      | Relief      |              |
| CASH RECEIPTS                  |              |             |              |
| Classes Treasurers .....       | \$133,155.43 | \$ 113.76   | \$133,269.19 |
| Ministers .....                | 49,625.62    | —           | 49,625.62    |
| Interest .....                 | 1,684.35     | 500.00      | 2,184.35     |
| Miscellaneous .....            | 213.62       | 100.00      | 313.62       |
| Totals (Schedule A-1) .....    | \$184,679.02 | \$ 713.76   | \$185,392.78 |
| OTHER ADDITIONS                |              |             |              |
| Increment on United States     |              |             |              |
| Savings Bonds — Series F ..... | 260.00       | 827.30      | 1,087.30     |
| Totals (Schedule A-3) .....    | \$184,939.02 | \$ 1,541.06 | \$186,480.08 |

EXHIBIT C

STATEMENT OF FUND DISBURSEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 1952

|                                   | Fund         |             | Totals       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                   | Pension      | Relief      |              |
| CASH DISBURSEMENTS                |              |             |              |
| Payment to Beneficiaries          |              |             |              |
| Ministers .....                   | \$ 78,062.90 | \$ 1,605.00 | \$ 79,667.90 |
| Widows .....                      | 107,876.25   | 1,670.00    | 109,546.25   |
| Salaries                          |              |             |              |
| Secretary .....                   | 300.00       | —           | 300.00       |
| Treasurer .....                   | 300.00       | —           | 300.00       |
| Clerical .....                    | 218.00       | —           | 218.00       |
| Traveling Expense .....           | 172.25       | —           | 172.25       |
| Professional Services .....       | 167.50       | —           | 167.50       |
| Bond Premium — Treasurer          |              |             |              |
| and Clerical .....                | 70.50        | —           | 70.50        |
| Safety Deposit Box Rental .....   | 7.20         | —           | 7.20         |
| Bank Charges .....                | 9.66         | —           | 9.66         |
| Postage and Office Supplies ..... | 326.76       | —           | 326.76       |
| State Privilege Fee .....         | 2.00         | —           | 2.00         |
| Totals (Schedule A-1)             |              |             |              |
| (Schedule A-3) .....              | \$187,513.02 | \$ 3,275.00 | \$190,788.02 |

## THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

### ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

The Committee on Education herewith submits its report on matters pertaining to Catechesis, Sunday School, and Youth Bible Conferences. In respect to Catechesis a curriculum is presented which has been revised according to the decision of the Synod of 1952. Compendium revision has been carried forward somewhat, also according to the decision of last year's Synod, and the Committee hopes to present its revision in full next year. In respect to Sunday School matters the Committee on Education and the Publication Committee have reached full agreement and submit herewith a joint report on the preparation of the new Sunday School materials authorized by the Synod of 1952. Regarding Youth Bible Conferences a brief preliminary report is submitted at this time.

The entire Committee has met three times during the past year and sub-committees have met at numerous times intervening. The Committee is grateful to God for His guidance, a guidance which has come in part through many helpful expressions of opinion from individuals and consistories. It is evident that the work of the Committee commands the sympathetic interest of the Church at large.

### I. CATECHESIS

A. A PROPOSED CURRICULUM FOR NORMAL CATECHESIS, *that is where catechumens attend the Christian School.*

1. MANDATE: The Synod of 1951 approved the following scheme as the minimum to be taught in the catechism class: the Bible as history of revelation; Reformed doctrine and ethics; the Christian Reformed Church: History, Missions and Polity. (*Acts*, 1951, pp. 57, 364) In 1952 the Committee proposed a curriculum in line with this mandate. The Synod of 1952 referred the proposed curriculum "back to the Committee on Education for further consideration and study" and "to the consistories for constructive criticism". (*Acts*, 1952, p. 72)

2. PURPOSE: This curriculum is proposed for Churches where all or nearly all the children attend the Christian School. A supplementary curriculum adds courses to be taught in Churches where there is no Christian School. The over-all purpose of this curriculum is to teach the child what he needs to know in order to be prepared to make profession of faith in the Christian Reformed Church, to be a well-informed member, to take an active part in its work, to be a ready witness to its teachings, and to live a full-orbed Christian life in agreement with those teachings. The material will be tied in with the Bible

and with the official creeds of our Church, and will have as its object the child in the present American religious and cultural situation.

3. PLAN: The proposed curriculum is divided into 6 two-year classes, and will therefore require 12 years to complete: from the 3rd grade up to the 20th year (through the 19th year). Since each two-year class is a unit, and should be taught in the same sequence to every child, it is recommended that every Church begin catechism classes every other year, so that the same pupils will stay together all through their catechism courses. Allowance will then have to be made for pupils who become eligible for catechism one year after a class has been started. It is suggested that such pupils wait a year, so that, at any one time, pupils of the 3rd and 4th grade would begin catechism together.

4. RECONSIDERATION: Your committee prepared and distributed the following questionnaire. It was sent to each of our 390 consistories, with additional copies for each consistory member for his personal perusal and study prior to consistorial consideration. In addition, each minister was invited to send in a personal reply.

Response on the part of our Churches was gratifying. While it is a cause for regret that scores of consistories did not bring themselves to respond to this important inquiry, the replies which were received were of great help and encouragement. In all there were about 220 replies received. Most replies included comments considerably beyond a more affirmative or negative. Of the 220 replies, it is estimated that about 50 were directly prepared and written by ministers, the others in some way alluding to consistorial consideration and having been sent in by clerks of consistories.

a. The questionnaire sent out was as follows:

1) What is your general reaction to the proposed curriculum for normal catechesis?

2) Do you think the catechism curriculum should include, either as a complete course or as part of a course, a study of the following material:

a) The Christian Reformed Church: history, worship, government, missions, etc.?

b) The Belgic Confession?

c) The Canons of Dort?

d) The doctrinal implications of Biblical history?

e) The Christian witness, including the American religious world (denominations, sects, cults) and our impact on the world?

f) Christian living, applying the principles of Christian ethics to present-day life?

3) Do you think the proposed catechism curriculum provides sufficient time for the study of the compendium?

4) What is your general reaction to the specimen of compendium revision submitted to the Synod of 1952?

b. A study of the questionnaire replies reveals that there is general approval of the committee's intention to provide a new curriculum toward the improvement of catechesis in our Church. A large majority of consistories favor adding most of the proposed subject areas. (e.g. missions, Church history, Church government, ethics, Christian witness, etc.). This is also true respecting courses on the Canons of Dort and the Belgic Confession, and the one on the Covenant. However, there is also a general sentiment that the proposed *structure of courses* needed modification. The following particulars may be cited:

1) The Compendium is not satisfactorily dealt with:

a) Insufficient time is allotted to study of the Compendium.

b) Compendium study is not carried forward to a sufficiently advanced age. (i.e., to the time when profession of faith is usually made).

c) Compendium study is begun at too early an age.

2) Too many courses are added covering materials which should be studied in Church societies or could be included in basic Compendium courses. For example, ethics, sects, the Christian witness, etc., could be dealt with in Compendium study at the appropriate points. More advanced study of these matters should be included in Young Peoples Societies, etc.

c. In view of these evaluations and comments, the Committee has made the following changes, and offers a revised curriculum for Synod's approval:

1) Bible Doctrine for the first four years, grades 3 through 6 (changed only in time sequence).

2) The Christian Reformed Church and its Work, grade 7 (decreased from 2 years to 1).

3) Compendium, grades 8 through 12 (extended to the time when profession of faith is customarily made and increased from 3 years to 5, including areas such as the Christian life and the Christian witness under appropriate sections of the Compendium).

4) God's Covenant with Man, age 18 (formerly scheduled at age 17).

5) Survey of Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort, age 19 (added as a separate course)

NOTE: When the catechumen makes profession of faith before the entire curriculum has been studied, the consistory should require that the curriculum be completed.

5. THE REVISED CURRICULUM:

a. Following is a *brief oversight* of the entire revised curriculum:

FIRST TWO-YEAR CLASS: ELEMENTARY BIBLE DOCTRINE

Course No. 1, Elementary Bible Doctrine I (Grade 3, Age 8)

Course No. 2, Elementary Bible Doctrine II (Grade 4, Age 9)

SECOND TWO-YEAR CLASS: BIBLE DOCTRINE

Course No. 3, Bible Doctrine I (Grade 5, Age 10)

Course No. 4, Bible Doctrine II (Grade 6, Age 11)

THIRD TWO-YEAR CLASS: THE CHURCH AND THE COMPENDIUM

Course No. 5, The Christian Reformed Church and Its Work  
(Grade 7, Age 12)

Course No. 6, Compendium I (Grade 8, Age 13)

FOURTH TWO-YEAR CLASS: THE COMPENDIUM

Course No. 7, Compendium II (Grade 9, Age 14)

Course No. 8, Compendium III (Grade 10, Age 15)

FIFTH TWO-YEAR CLASS: ADVANCED COMPENDIUM

Course No. 9, Advanced Compendium I (Grade 11, Age 16)

Course No. 10, Advanced Compendium II (Grade 12, Age 17)

SIXTH TWO-YEAR CLASS: REFORMED DOCTRINE

Course No. 11, God's Covenant With Man

Course No. 12, Survey of the Belgic Confession and the Canons  
of Dort (Age 19)

b. THE REVISED CURRICULUM *defined and described*:

1. *First Two-Year Classes*: Elementary Bible Doctrine (Grades 3 and 4)

a. *Courses*:

1. Course No. 1: Elementary Bible Doctrine I (Grade 3, age 8)

2. Course No. 2: Elementary Bible Doctrine II (Grade 4, age 9)

b. AIM: The aim of these courses will be to introduce the child to God's saving truth as set forth in the Bible, illustrated by Bible stories; to start in the child a life-long habit of Bible reading; to give the child simple Bible verses to memorize; and by this means to begin to create in the child, with the blessing of the Holy Spirit, a knowledge of sin, a trust in Jesus as his Saviour, thankfulness to God for His great love, a desire for Christian service, and a realization that true service needs constant prayerfulness.

c. DESCRIPTION: These two courses would introduce the child to doctrine, which would be taught in terms of the Bible stories with which the child is familiar. In an elementary way, basic doctrines of the Bible would be taught by means of brief, simple statements in the child's own words. These doctrines would be illustrated by stories from the child's own experience, and by Bible stories with which he is familiar, thus relating what is to be learned to what is already known. Pictures, either photographs or reproductions of famous paintings, should be used, with comments to tie them in with the lesson. As to content, these Elementary Bible Doctrine courses would cover such ques-

tions as: Who is God? What is He like? What does He do? What is sin? Who is Christ? What is Faith? Who is the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be born again? What does it mean to follow Christ? What is heaven? What is hell? The order of this material is to be adapted to the thought processes of the child at this age.

NOTE: Various types of test forms and exercises should be used, e.g., true-false questions, multiple-choice tests, cross-out statements, matching and pairing, completion questions, essay type questions, problem-solving types of questions, questions applying material to life-situations and relating it to other Biblical or creedal material, etc. It is suggested that various types of exercises be included with each lesson in this entire curriculum, suitable for the age group addressed and subject matter covered. A variety of exercises will make these books adaptable to different types of programs and suitable for difference preferences on the part of catechism teachers.

2. *Second Two-Year Class: Bible Doctrine (Grades 5 and 6)*

a. Courses:

1. Course No. 3: Bible Doctrine I (Grade 5, age 10)

2. Course No. 4: Bible Doctrine II (Grade 6, age 11)

b. AIM: The aim of these courses would be to build on what has been taught in the Elementary Bible Doctrine course in grades 3 and 4, to give the pupil an understanding of how doctrine develops through the Bible. In this course the child is being taught doctrine, not within the framework of the Compendium, but within the framework of the entire Bible. Thus he not only becomes better acquainted with the Bible, but learns to associate the doctrines the Church teaches him directly with the Bible which is their source. (a more thorough course on Bible doctrine is presented under Course No. 11)

c. DESCRIPTION: These courses will teach the child the Bible as history of revelation. Their aim should be to teach, not just Bible stories, nor just Bible history, but Bible doctrine, as unfolded progressively from Genesis to Revelation. One might call these courses "the doctrinal implications of Bible history." They would attempt to portray for the pupil the living drama of God's redemptive work in history.

There should be memory questions, lesson explanations adapted to the mentality of these ages, tying in with their knowledge of Bible history. Memorization of Bible verses and Psalter-Hymnal numbers. (At this point there could be introduced material on stories of some of our best-known hymns and psalm-settings, to create greater interest in our hymns and psalms.) The exercises would require the child to make use of the Bible and to begin reflecting on the doctrinal meaning of Biblical events. There should again be good Bible pictures, with comments.

3. *Third Two-Year Class*: The Christian Reformed Church and the Compendium (Grades 7 and 8)

a. Course No. 5: The Christian Reformed Church and Its Work (Grade 7, Age 12)

1. AIM: The aim of this course is to acquaint the child with his Church and its program, and also with the missionary outreach of his denomination; to inculcate in the child a love for his Church, his Christian home, his Sunday School, and his Christian School; and to build in him not only a genuine interest in missions, but a vital love for the cause.

2. DESCRIPTION: This course would teach the child what he needs to know about his Church at this age. It would cover such subjects as: The Meaning of Worship, The Work of the Pastor, The Work of the Church Officers, Why Sunday School and Catechism, Stewardship, the Christian Home (and the child's obligations to it); the Church itself: history, government, size, geographical distribution of its members, locations of its college and seminary; its Mission program: home missions, city missions, radio, Canada, and foreign missions, including Indian missions, Nigeria, Japan, South America, Ceylon, China, new field in India, perhaps Indonesia. This material should be explained in an interesting way, with copious illustrations and maps, geared to the mind of a 12 year old child. Brief memory questions could be included. The explanations should tie in this material with Bible history and life situations as much as possible. We may capitalize at this point on the child's interest in and studies of geography. (Note: This is the time when the child is studying world geography in school). There will be memorization of Bible verses and Psalter-Hymnal numbers, Bible study and short prayers, pictures with comments, and a variety of exercises.

b. Course No. 6: The Compendium I (Grade 8, age 13)

1. AIM: The aim of this course is to introduce the child to the Compendium and to cover approximately one-third of the Compendium. This course, together with the two courses that follow, should give the pupil a thorough knowledge of the Compendium as a brief summary of doctrine derived from the Heidelberg Catechism, based on the Scriptures. The deeper aim of these courses (as well as of all the courses in this curriculum) is, with the blessing of the Spirit, to lead the pupil personally to accept his covenant obligations, trust in Christ as his Saviour and resolve to follow Him faithfully as Lord.

2. DESCRIPTION: These courses would be aimed at giving the child a thorough grasp of the Compendium. The New Compendium now being revised would be used as the text to be memorized. There would be frequent reviews, with various types of test questions, to make sure

that this material is well learned. In the explanation, the Scriptural basis of the Compendium should be emphasized, as well as its vital relation to the life of the pupils at this age. Scripture passages proving the doctrine should be reviewed or learned. The material should be so treated as to prepare the pupil for witnessing. Various types of exercises should be appended. These exercises should stress not mere rote memory, but comprehension of the material and relation of the material to the Bible and to life situations.

4. *Fourth Two-Year Class*: The Compendium

a. Courses:

1. Course No. 7, Compendium II (grade 9, Age 14)
2. Course No. 8, Compendium III (Grade 10, Age 15)

b. AIM: As stated under Course No. 6.

c. DESCRIPTION: As stated under course No. 6. In course No. 7 approximately the second one-third of the Compendium is studied, taking the pupil to the section of the Compendium which deals with gratitude. In course No. 8 the section of Christian gratitude is studied. The Moral Law of God is studied with particular emphasis upon its ethical implication for Christian life. Special stress would be placed upon the problems of a 15 year old child as he enters upon a period of life when he shall face some of his greatest temptations. The purpose of this study will be to instill in his youthful mind the principles of conduct which shall mold his Christian living. The Lord's Prayer is studied not only as a guide to teach the child the true art of prayer but the material content of each petition would be so presented and elaborated as to create interests in the youthful mind in conformity with the prayer. For example, the petition: "Thy kingdom come," would present the opportunity of teaching kingdom interests and principles.

5. *Fifth Two-Year Class*: Advanced Compendium

a. Courses

1. Course No. 9: Advanced Compendium I (Grade 11, age 16)
2. Course No. 10: Advanced Compendium II (Grade 12, age 17)

b. AIM: The aim of these courses would be to review the Compendium and, by means of repeating the material content of that which has been previously studied, to more deeply impress upon the mind of the pupil the content and meaning of the Compendium. At this more advanced age a more thorough study can be made of the Compendium, building upon that which has been taught in the previous courses. The purpose of these courses is to prepare the youth for profession of faith and intelligent Church membership.

c. DESCRIPTION: These courses would once again study the Compendium in the light of Scripture truth and would also be tied in

with the Belgic confession and Canons of Dort. Special emphasis would once again be placed upon a thorough memorization of the Compendium together with an adequate working knowledge of its material content. Lesson explanation should be adapted to the mentality of pupil ages. Various types of exercises should be appended which would require thorough home work for class preparation. In these exercises constant use of the Bible and the creeds would be required.

6. *Sixth Two-Year Class: Reformed Doctrine*

a. Course No. 11: God's Covenant With Man. (Age 18)

1. AIM: The aim of this course would be to teach Reformed doctrine with the covenant as organizing principle, and to help the pupil realize his covenant obligations. Since the covenant is so basic in our Reformed interpretation of Scripture, it is here singled out for special study. This course is intended to enrich covenant consciousness at a time when the catechumen has professed his faith or is about to do so.

2. DESCRIPTION: This course will teach young people Reformed Doctrine, organized in a different way than in the Compendium. The following scheme, suggested by "Heilig ze in uw Waarheid" by Van Maare and Spier (Kok, Kampen, 1940) will indicate the general plan: The revelation of the covenant, the God of the covenant, the decrees which underlie the covenant, creation—the foundation of the covenant, providence—the maintenance of the covenant, the covenant with Adam, the breaking of the covenant, the renewal of the covenant, the new covenant-head (Christ), the blessings of the covenant, the rule of the covenant, fellowship with the Covenant-God (prayer), the covenant people (the Church), the administration of the means of the covenant, guarding the holiness of the covenant (discipline), covenantal living, covenantal homes, covenantal child-training, the consummation of the covenant. The material in this course should be tied in with the progress and development of doctrine in the Bible. Memory work and Bible passages dealing with the covenant, explanatory material, exercises and questions for class discussion should be included.

a. Course No. 12: Survey of the Belgic Confessions and the Canons of Dort. (Age 19)

1. AIM: The aim of this course would be to make young people conversant with the content of the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort. Particular emphasis should be placed upon the Scriptural validity of Reformed Doctrine, and to foster a wholesome Reformed consciousness over against a growing doctrinal indistinction so prevalent in the world today. This course would aim at directing the life of the catechumen into an effective witness.

2. DESCRIPTION: While it is readily admitted that these creeds cannot be mastered in the compass of one year, the course would

be so planned as to give a working knowledge of them. The material would be so presented as to stimulate class discussion on the part of the student and thus to put into exercise the doctrine that has been learned in previous courses. Much use would be made of studying Reformed doctrine by comparing it with religious creeds prevalent in the world today.

## 6. FURTHER SUGGESTIONS.

a. *Length of season*: Your Committee feels that the usual catechism season should be considerably lengthened in order to allow for the completion of this curriculum, probably to a 9-month or 10-month term. (This has already been urged by the Synod of 1947.) More specific recommendations in this connection will be made later, as the courses are worked out in detail.

b) *Textbooks for these courses*: Your Committee feels that textbooks for the above courses should be prepared under the supervision of a single committee or board, so as to insure uniformity and continuity, and to avoid overlapping. The committee charged with carrying out this work should be empowered to engage writers for these catechism textbooks, and should have funds at its disposal for carrying out this program. Writing textbooks of this sort will require the full time for certain periods, of experts in these fields, and cannot be properly done by persons who, while writing such manuals, must also carry on a full-time program of pastoral work or teaching. Your committee suggests that such textbooks should pass through several hands before being approved (for example, one expert on subject matter, another expert on teaching the particular age-level involved, and another expert on writing and style). Such textbooks, after having been written, revised, perhaps rewritten, and tentatively approved, should be classroom-tested for a period of time (perhaps a year or two) before being put into permanent form. The final textbooks should be attractively printed and durably bound with hard covers, like the textbooks which children are accustomed to using in school.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That Synod approve the proposed curriculum for normal catechesis. *Grounds*:

1) This proposed curriculum executes the decisions of the Synods of 1946 (*Acts*, 91-92), 1947 (*Acts*, pp. 56-57) and 1951 (*Acts*, pp. 57, 364). Note particularly the following: "Prepare, in prospectus, a course of study which can be used as an integrated whole throughout our Catechetical courses from Primary to Compendium levels" (1947), and "There is urgent need for the improvement of our catechetical work in view of changes in pedagogical methods" (1946).

2) This proposed curriculum is integrated with the course of study generally followed in our Christian Schools. (See NUCS, *Course of Study*).

3) This proposed curriculum reflects the opinions of our consistories and ministers as expressed in the questionnaires. (See point "4" above)

b. That Synod empower the Committee on Education to provide for and supervise the preparation of a set of catechism textbooks which will embody the foregoing curriculum, and which will be intended for uniform use throughout the Churches of our denomination.

*Grounds:*

1) This is in compliance with the decision of the Synod of 1947: "Prepare in prospectus a course of study . . . with a view, if Synod approves the prospectus, of publishing a uniform set of lessons and study manuals." (*Acts*, p. 57, 3b)

2) There is a dire need for uniformity in catechism instruction in our denomination as indicated by the many wide divergencies which appear in a questionnaire study made by the Committee on Education. (See *Acts*, 1950, pp. 354-356)

3) There are no textbooks available at present to carry out the proposed curriculum.

4) The preparation of textbooks by a single committee should insure uniformity, continuity, and integration in the curriculum proposed, and should avoid overlapping.

**B. A PROPOSED AUXILIARY CURRICULUM — for catechesis where there is no Christian School.**

1. **MANDATE:** The Synod of 1951 declared that the following general areas must be covered either in the catechism class or in the Christian School:

a. *Bible History and Content*

b. *Church History*

c. "*Kingdom Perspectives*" — Calvinism as a world and life view (*Acts*, pp. 57, 364)

2. **PURPOSE:** Synod has instructed this Committee to correlate the catechetical curriculum with that in the Christian School. Therefore it is plain that where there is no Christian School, a supplementary curriculum is necessary for the catechism class, in order to provide the study of Bible and Church History which is otherwise done in the School, and to provide something of the Christian perspectives upon all of life which the School affords by its distinctive teaching of every subject. The general aim of this auxiliary curriculum is to assure a developing background of knowledge adequate for successful pursuit of the regular catechism curriculum and achievement of its ultimate goals.

3. **PLAN:** This curriculum, when worked out in detail as courses, will be coordinated insofar as possible with the regular catechism cur-

riculum, so that it can be taught in a supplementary period adjacent to the regular period, or simply by extending the regular period somewhat. In this way the additional work for the minister or other teacher can be kept to a minimum. Furthermore the early years of this supplementary curriculum can be adequately taught by parents in the home. Following is a brief oversight of the curriculum proposed:

- a. *Grades 1-4*—A four year course of Bible Stories (taught in the home)
- b. *Grades 5-8*—Four courses in Bible History and Content
- c. *Grades 9-10*—Two courses in Church History
- d. *Grades 11-12*—Two courses in "Kingdom Perspectives"

#### 4. CURRICULUM

##### a. *Bible Stories* (grades 1-4)

1) *Aim*: To provide a basic knowledge of Bible stories and characters so indispensable for spiritual development in the younger child, to assure an adequate background for regular catechetical studies, which begin at grade 3 according to the proposed curriculum above, and thus to compensate in some small part for the lack of a Christian School.

2) *Description*: These courses are to be conducted by the parents in the home. Not only can the task be done properly in this way without further burdening the minister, but this will also be a means of strengthening the spiritual resources of the home, which is especially important when the child does not attend a Christian School. The lessons should be very simple, based on the reading of Bible stories from such well-established books as those by Marian Schoolland and Catherine Vos. A manual would be furnished to aid the parents. Lessons should be very brief, indicating the particular story to be read and providing questions, memory work, and prayers in connection with it. This manual would follow closely the *Course of Study* published by the National Union of Christian Schools.

##### b. *Bible History and Content* (Grades 5-8)

1) *Aim*: The objective will be to inculcate Bible knowledge beyond mere familiarity with Bible stories, by means of an emphasis upon the interrelation of the events of these stories with one another, i.e. *an expanding emphasis on the Bible as history*; and furthermore, to provide a *systematic understanding* of Bible content suited to the particular age level.

2) *Description*: The emphasis will be on Bible knowledge throughout these four years. With a view to Bible History, attention will be given to such things as time spans (e.g. number of centuries from Abraham to Moses and from David to Daniel), temporal relationships

(e.g. between the preparation in Egyptian bondage and the appearance of the nation in the wilderness), causal relationships (e.g. faithlessness and apostasy brings the cycle of servitude, repentance and deliverance in the hero stories of the Judges), etc. Bible Content will give attention to the general contents or thrust of certain important and representative books (e.g. certain historical, poetical and prophetic books); and, also related to Bible History, such matters as Bible geography, place relations, civil and ceremonial customs, etc. (using maps, slides, strip films, and possibly various projects). In all of these courses attention would naturally be given to the doctrinal and ethical implications for the child, and there would be a continuous "stock-piling" of memory work, i.e. both selected verses and longer passages. The Bible History and Content series will in each grade cycle be appropriate to the age level of the child, and will be varied from year to year. This four-year plan will follow closely the course of study used in our Christian Schools (see NUCS, *Course of Study* for details) and will be correlated insofar as possible with the regular curriculum for the catechism class.

c. *Church History* (Grades 9-10)

1) *Aim*: To provide a formal study of *Church History*, which is considered most important for the proper training of the child, and which he will ordinarily not receive if he does not attend the Christian School.

2) *Description*: These courses should not consist in abstracted events and the doctrines or moralisms which can be related to them, but rather the actual historical unfolding of the life and times of the Church. There should be some preliminary perspective given on the origins of the Church in both the pre-theocratic and theocratic times and in the book of Acts. Historical relationships, time spans, etc. will be e.g. to teach the doctrine of the Trinity to this age group in terms of Arius' attempt to destroy it, rather than merely to teach it in abstract they influenced and were influenced by their times. Also most useful, particularly for integration with the doctrine courses of regular catechism, would be the "history of doctrine" approach. It is very helpful, accented. In part this study could be organized around great men, as propositional form. The same is true of Augustine vs. Pelagius on the doctrine of sin, Chalcedon on the natures and person of Christ, Roman Catholic semi-pelagianism on purgatory and penance, the Reformation on justification by faith, etc. It should not be overlooked that the National Union of Christian Schools has materials well-suited for this purpose.

d. *"Kingdom Perspectives"* (Grades 11-12)

1) *Aim*: To compensate in a very small way for the lack of what is normally accomplished by the Christian School as it teaches every

subject with distinctively Christian presupposition, interpretation and aim; that is, *to convey something of the significance of Calvinism as a world and life view.* The aim of this course will differ from Course No. 12 in the regular curriculum ("The Christian Life" — see above) as theory differs from practice, as a system differs from its expression, and as a philosophy of life differs from the ethics that it implies.

2) *Description:* This course must point to the fact that the Reformed expression of Christianity is as broad and as deep as all of human life itself; that Calvinism is more than a confessional or doctrinal standpoint; or better, that because it is confessionally full-orbed, e.g., goes beyond the five points of Calvinism and embraces the whole of the Covenant or Kingdom life of the Christian. The emphasis in this course will then be upon the Kingdom as embracing within itself the Church as institute, but also such other spheres as the Home, School, State, and Society. The Kingdom will be understood to demand control of such areas of human endeavor as the arts, science, education, government, business and industry. Hence, then, every vocation is for the Christian sacred, because under Christ all of life is sacred. Asceticism, therefore, in act or attitude, like secularism, is foreign to Calvinism because it is unchristian. All of this must be taught in terms of a Biblical understanding of the Kingship of Christ. The child thus comes to see that witnessing to this Christ, the Christ of cosmic redemption, is the calling of the Christian. Furthermore, the Kingship of Christ permits neither self-rule nor legalism, but only the liberty of bondage to Christ. This means self-denial, losing oneself for Christ's sake in order through mature Kingdom citizenship and obedience to find oneself in Christ. In order to get a vision of this Kingdom dimension of the Christian faith, and its demands upon the Christian, the student must on his own level, be introduced to the inner meaning of such classic expressions as *Pro Rege, The Glory of God, The Sovereignty of God, World and Life View, and Saved To Serve*; and be brought to say as was said recently in one of our journals, "Nothing matters but the Kingdom, but because of the Kingdom everything matters!"

5. COMMENT: Manuals must be prepared for each of these courses, in order to aid both the teacher and the catechumen. Materials already prepared by the National Union of Christian Schools can of course be utilized. Because of the additional time required for giving this *auxiliary* instruction (in addition to the regular catechetical curriculum) it may be necessary to use the assistance of elders or other qualified laymen. In any case, these four areas *must be covered* so that everything possible is done to offset the lack of a Christian School, and so that the teaching of the regular catechism curriculum will be of maximum effectiveness.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That Synod approve the proposed auxiliary curriculum for catechesis where there is no Christian School. *Grounds:*

1) This proposed curriculum executes the decisions of the Synods of 1947 ("ways and means of integrating our various educational agencies," *Acts*, p. 57) and of 1951 (quoted above under B—1 "MANDATE").

2) This proposed curriculum adapts the Christian School curriculum to the needs of those who cannot attend a Christian School, and takes into full account the course of study as outlined by the National Union of Christian Schools.

b. That Synod empower the Committee on Education to provide for and supervise the preparation of a set of catechism textbooks which will embody the foregoing curriculum, and which will be intended for uniform use throughout the Churches of our denomination.

*Grounds:*

1) This is in compliance with the decision of the Synod of 1947 regarding publication of uniform lessons and study manuals, (*Acts*, p. 57, 3b).

2) There is a dire need for such materials in view of the still-frequent lack of the Christian School among our Churches.

3) There are no textbooks presently available to carry out the proposed curriculum.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS (covering *both curricula*): That Synod enable the Committee on Education to proceed immediately with the preparation of textbooks, for *both the curriculum for normal catechesis and the curriculum for catechesis where there is no Christian School*, by means of the following steps:

a. Setting aside the sum of \$5,000 for the coming year (1952-'53), to be used by the Committee on Education in beginning the work of having these textbooks prepared;

b. Requesting the Committee on Education to present to the Synod of 1953 a detailed budget of the outlay of funds needed to set up the entire proposed curriculum; and

c. Instructing the Committee on Education to submit samples of its work to the Synod of 1953

*Ground:* Action on this problem is long overdue. Our children use textbooks in school which are pedagogically up-to-date. Their catechism textbooks should similarly reflect the best pedagogical methods. Other denominations have embarked on programs of this sort years ago. Voices are being persistently raised within our denomination for better catechism materials. This program must be started at once!

## II. SUNDAY SCHOOL

A. MANDATE: The Synod of 1952 decided "That both the *Comrade-Key-Instructor* series and the *Good News* series as such be discontinued, and one new series be designed to combine both the evangelistic and covenantal functions of the Sunday School". It further decided "That the Committee on Education be charged to give further consideration to its proposal to have graded lessons", and "when dealing with Sunday School matters to call in as advisers the Editor of the Sunday School papers, and also some member of the Publication Committee". (*Acts*, 1952, pp. 48-49)

Through appropriate consultation full agreement has been reached between the Publication Committee and the Committee on Education.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee on Education and the Publication Committee make the following recommendations jointly:

1. That Synod authorize a semi-graded system of lessons, along the lines of the suggestion of the Synod of 1952, that is, graded lessons in which unity can be retained by having the same general subject but with different Scripture passages whenever necessary; and further that at least three different pupil papers with suitable teacher's guide be published to cover the various departments. (*Acts*, 1952, p. 49).

### *Grounds:*

a. This will accomplish the purpose of graded lessons in avoiding either undue repetition of simple stories for the older classes or unduly difficult lessons for the younger classes.

b. This will permit the continuation of Sunday School teachers' meetings as they are ordinarily conducted among us.

c. This will be no more costly than the present system of two different lesson series for covenantal and mission Sunday Schools respectively, with two distinct pupil papers for each.

2. That Synod create a new standing committee of five members, to be known as the Sunday School Committee, including in its membership, among others, a qualified educator, a member of the Publication Committee, and a member of the Committee on Education. The task of this Committee will be:

a. To supervise the preparation of all denominational Sunday School materials, including the appointment of all writers except the editor-in-chief, who is to be synodically elected.

b. To create the new single series of Sunday School materials ordered by the Synod of 1952, including the proposed semi-graded lessons specified above, and pedagogical aids as suggested in the report of the Committee on Education last year, and to inaugurate this new series in January, 1954.

c. To carry out "lesson planning" as one of its functions, thus terminating the work of both the "Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee" and the "Mission Sunday School Lesson Planning Committee". It should be understood that the new Sunday School Committee will thus have authority to revise the schedule of lessons already adopted by Synod, at its discretion, for the period after January 1, 1954.

d. To work in consultation with the Publication Committee in respect to publication and distribution of materials, and with the Committee on Education in respect to the function of the Sunday School as related to other educational agencies.

*Grounds:*

a. Such a special committee is needed to develop properly the Sunday School materials already authorized, and to provide the denominational leadership which a successful Sunday School system requires.

b. The establishment of such a committee will eliminate the need for a special lesson planning committee.

3. That Synod retain the present editor-in-chief, the Reverend John Schaal, for at least one year.

*Ground:* In this time of transition it is very important that the work be conducted by an editor who has had maximum experience.

4. That Synod grant the request of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for cooperation in the publication of our Sunday School materials. (*Acts*, 1951, pp. 51-52) by inviting the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to have two of its representatives meet with the Sunday School Committee (proposed above under "2") in a consultative capacity.

*Grounds:*

a. The theological outlook of the two denominations concerned is the same. We can cooperate in bearing our Reformed witness.

b. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church has already used our Sunday School materials for some years by adding its own supplementary pedagogical aids for evangelistic purposes. Through consultation the experience of our Orthodox Presbyterian brethren with the evangelistic Sunday School can be used for the common good and the new Sunday School materials can be so designed that they will properly serve the needs of both.

c. By such cooperation the financial resources of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for Sunday School materials can be used to supplement our own.

### III. YOUTH BIBLE CONFERENCES

In compliance with the instructions given to your Committee by Synod (*Acts*, 1951, p. 57), we submit the following informational re-

port based on the questionnaire referred to on p. 431 of the *Acts*, 1952. Some twenty-five replies, representing nearly every section of the Church, where Bible Conferences of various kinds have been held during recent years, were received.

Having studied and evaluated the replies to these questionnaires, the Committee feels that the benefits to be derived from such conferences can be divided into two main classes. Primarily the emphasis at the conferences is on Bible Study, bearing in mind that in addition to acquiring a knowledge of Bible facts, our youth should receive a lasting inspiration to continue studying God's Word. Opportunity is given to discuss life problems which aids in bringing about a greater degree of spiritual maturity on the part of our youth.

In the second place, youth conferences afford an opportunity for a period of pleasant vacation among Christian companions, thus developing a Christian fellowship which may grow into a more meaningful thing in their lives. This end can be realized through guided recreation such as athletics and music.

The most serious danger apparent at this time is the possibility of a Fundamentalist approach to Christian living. Other minor issues arise in regard to the age of conferees, time for conference, leaders, sponsorship, etc.

The committee feels that at present it is not in a position to advise Synod as to the place of Youth Conferences in our educational structure. After the exact curriculum of the catechism classes has been adopted by Synod, your Committee will be better able to clarify the position of our various youth activities and to suggest material which they may profitably study.

#### IV. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

1. Two members of the Committee must retire this year, according to the six year tenure rule. They are Rev. N. J. Monsma and Mr. Sidney Van Til. The Committee is prepared to present a nomination to Synod for filling these two vacancies.

2. Three members of the Committee have now completed a first term of three years and are eligible for reappointment. They are Mr. Sidney Bangma, and Revs. N. H. Beversluis and A. Hoekema. Their reappointment to a second three year term is hereby recommended.

Your Committee wishes to be represented at Synod by its secretary, and requests that he be given opportunity to elucidate and defend this report.

May God graciously guide you in all your deliberations, including those pertaining to the communication of His truth to children and

young people, both within and without the Church. We are grateful for the opportunity to labor with you for the coming of God's Kingdom to rising generations.

Respectfully submitted,

NICHOLAS J. MONSMA, *Chairman*

HAROLD DEKKER, *Secretary*

SIDNEY BANGMA

NICHOLAS H. BEVERSLUIS

ANTHONY A. HOEKEMA

RHINE C. PETTINGA

WILLIAM VANDER HAAK

SIDNEY VAN TIL

## REPORT NO. 34

### CALVINIST RESETTLEMENT SERVICE

#### ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN CHRIST:

The Synod of 1952 altered the original mandate of this Committee. As first constituted, it was charged to serve as one of the voluntary agencies, representing our Christian Reformed Church, for the procurement of its proportionate share of Displaced Persons to be admitted into the United States under Special Act of Congress.

Under the provisions of this Act the Committee with the co-operative aid of our churches obtained sponsors for a number of Hungarian families and single persons.

When the Law expired, and the program operating under it was terminated, your Committee considered also its task, and its mandate, finished.

However, by providential conjunction of timely, new legislation, which was then in prospect, we did not recommend that this special Committee for Calvinist Resettlement be discontinued. In April of 1952 the President proposed a special Extra-Quota Immigration Act for enactment into law by the 82nd Congress. This would provide for an additional 7,500 non-quota (extra) immigrants from The Netherlands for three consecutive years—22,500 in all. The Bill stipulated that for obtaining visas these immigrants would require sponsorship with assurances of a place to live and employment.

In the expectation that this new measure to help meet the basic condition of overpopulation in Holland would be passed in Congress, the Committee was continued.

It was given a new mandate to serve as a voluntary agency representing the Christian Reformed Church in the procurement of its proportionate share of the extra-quota Holland immigrants by providing sponsorship with the assistance of our churches.

At the same time Synod enlarged the Committee membership with two additional deacons. According to the appointment as authorized by Synod the membership of the Committee was constituted as follows:

- Rev. C. Huissen — Chairman
- Rev. J. M. Vande Kieft — Secretary
- Mr. Gerald Lyzenga — Treasurer (West Leonard Church)
- Mr. John Vander Meer (Dennis Ave. Church)
- Mr. Edward Mersman (Neland Ave. Church)
- Mr. John Brondsema (Alpine Ave. Church)
- Mr. Arthur Kuizema (Oakdale Park Church)
- Mr. Wilbur Posthumus (Grandville Ave. Church)

Miss Agnes Flonk was retained as Assistant Secretary.

Later it was developed that Chairman Rev. Huissen accepted a call from Northwest Iowa and consequently was prevented from meeting with the Committee.

In the meantime the new administration came into office; the 83rd Congress convened; the revised Immigration and Nationality Act was duly enacted into law over the presidential veto.

But there was delay in re-introducing the extra-non-quota special immigration bill in the new Congress. This effectually hindered our Committee from activating its program of sponsor procurement.

### THE GREAT FLOOD

Then swiftly, with a sudden stroke of an Act of God, the disastrous, storm-driven, tidal flood poured over and through the dikes into the Lowlands.

Spontaneously and immediately a stream of relief and help began to flow also from our country to the stricken lands.

As it became evident that many thousands were left homeless, their dwellings swept away; their live-stock victims of the raging torrents; their fields and pastures submerged under salt water, three separate emergency bills were introduced in the U. S. Congress to allow from 25,000 to 50,000 of the flood evacuees in Holland to immigrate to the United States, without regard to the normal quota, but under the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. This would help to provide permanent relief, rather than only temporary, to a part of those who have suffered most directly and most severely from the flood catastrophe. It was hoped and expected that those bills, perhaps unified with amendments, would soon be reported out of Committee and quickly passed. They were presented in the form of Resolutions of Relief and were in harmony with the spirit and sentiments of the resolutions of sympathy which were passed in both houses expressing the deep and genuine sympathy of our nation for the stricken peoples and which were substantiated by the liberal contributions to Relief and Rehabilitation Funds. In order to be ready for action as soon as Congress had acted, our Committee addressed a letter to our Consistories and to the Classes informing and alerting them with respect to the inauguration of a sponsorship procurement program and enlisting their cooperation in its execution.

The Committee also addressed communications to the Christelijk Emigratie Centrale; the Deputaten voor de Emigratie van de Algemene Synode der Gereformeerde Kerken, and to the Algemene Kerkelijke Bureau der Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands. The Committee has requested them to cooperate in supplying our churches, through the Committee-channel with a roster of eligible immigrants of our common faith, qualified to receive sponsorship under the special Act.

This list would form the basic source from which the Committee would then match the applications from the Netherlands with the assurances given in the United States throughout our churches.

We have as yet not worked out the details of this cooperative program. These must be determined in the light of the specific regulations and stipulations of the bill when it is passed.

Hence your Committee is not ready to report further on the matter at this time, the beginning of March.

In a supplementary report when Synod meets, we hope to be able to present this program of Christian mercy and service, not as "in spe," but "in working" under the special guidance and blessing of God.

We also reserve the Committee's recommendations to Synod until then, D. V.

Respectfully submitted,

THE CALVINIST RESETTLEMENT SERVICE COMMITTEE

REV. C. HUISSEN, *Chairman*

REV. J. M. VAN DE KIEFT, *Secretary*

GERALD LYZENGA, *Treasurer*

JOHN VANDER MEER

EDWARD MERSMAN

JOHN BRONDSEMA

ARTHUR KUIZEMA

WILBUR POSTHUMUS

## OVERTURES

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### 1. *Jurisdiction of Paterson Hebrew Mission.*

Classis Hudson overtures Synod that the Paterson Hebrew Mission be placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis instead of two Classes as at present. *Grounds:*

1. The two Classes meet at different times.
2. One Classis meets three times per year, while the other Classis meets only twice per year.
3. Sometimes there is a lapse of two months or more between the meetings of the two Classes to which the same matters are submitted for approval. Because of this, the possibility exists that one Classis approves of a matter, and that, after two or more months the other Classis does not approve of the same matter. This creates an awkward situation for the Board.
4. Being under the jurisdiction of one Classis, a much closer and direct co-operation could be arranged for mutual satisfaction and efficiency for this Kingdom work.

Rev. J. P. Smith, S.C.

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### 2. *Jurisdiction of Christian Seamen's Home.*

Classis Hudson overtures Synod to have the Hoboken Seamen's and Immigrants' Home placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis, rather than two. *Ground:*

1. The home can be more efficiently operated by one Classis.

Rev. J. P. Smith, S.C.

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### 3. *Centennial Celebration in 1957.*

Classis Zeeland overtures Synod to arrange for the proper observance of the centennial of the Christian Reformed Church in 1957.

Rev. H. Kooistra, S.C.

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### 4. *Centennial Anniversary.*

Classis Grand Rapids East overtures Synod to appoint a committee to make the necessary preparations for the proper celebration of our One Hundredth Anniversary as a denomination in 1957.

Rev. M. H. Faber, S.C.

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### 5. *Mileage Remuneration for Canadian Ministers.*

Classis Eastern Ontario requests Synod to instruct the General Home Missions Committee that ministers of churches in Canada, which receive support from the Fund for Needy Churches, shall receive six cents per mile for all travel in their field of labor. *Ground:*

1. It costs far more to buy and operate a car in Canada than in the United States.

Rev. C. Witt, S.C.

**6.** *Refund of Moving Expenses.*

Classis Sioux Center overtures Synod to interpret its own rule found in Schaver's, Polity of the Churches, Vol. II, page 94 regarding refund of moving expenses.

Rev. B. Bruxvoort, S.C.

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**7.** *Suspension of Church publications.*

Classis Sioux Center concurs in the protest of the Consistory of the Hull, Iowa Christian Reformed Church, which reads as follows, "The consistory protest against the suspension of the publication of the *Banner* and the *Watcher* for two weeks during the summer months. *Grounds:*

1. These papers occupy a very important place in the reading program of the families of our church.
2. By suspension of publication for two weeks families are deprived of vital church news and information to keep them posted on the up-to-date developments in our denominational life.
3. Secular publications such as newspapers and magazines arrange to have an uninterrupted publication schedule."  
Classis decides to add a 4th ground, namely:
4. In view of the decreasing religious interests during summer months, these religious publications ought not to be discontinued for two weeks during such a critical time."

Classis Sioux Center

Rev. B. Bruxvoort, S.C.

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**8.** *Dutch Version of Bible in Public Worship.*

Classis petitions the Synod of 1953 to recommend for the use of public worship in the Holland language the "Bijbel in de Nieuwe Vertaling" (1951) upon the following grounds:

1. The 1952 Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands has unanimously recommended this version.
2. It has been accomplished with the aid of much labor by Prof. Grosheide, Prof. Aalders, Prof. Gispens and other leaders in De Gereformeerde Kerken.
3. As the number of churches making use of the Netherlands tongue is increasing in Canada it is desirable that one Bible version be used as much as possible.
4. It is desirable that our Synod should express itself on this matter, as it has also recommended the American Revised Version for public worship in 1926.

Rev. E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**9.** *Tenure Of Appointments.*

Classis Hudson overtures Synod to change the term of office of all permanent committees or offices whether elected directly by Synod or through the Classes, to three years instead of the present variation of two, three and four years. *Grounds:*

1. This will create uniformity in the term of office for all functionaries.
2. At a recent Synod the term of office was set at three years for all committee members serving on permanent committees elected directly by Synod.

Rev. J. P. Smith, S.C.

**10.** *Tenure of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary.*

Classis Chicago North overtures Synod that the term of office for members of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary be changed from four years to three years, to bring it in line with Synod's rule that no one shall serve more than six years in succession.

Rev. H. J. Triesenberg, S.C.

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**11.** *Praeparatoir Examinations of Seminary Graduates.*

Classis Hamilton overtures the Synod to transfer the work of examining our Calvin Seminary graduates (who desire to become Candidates for the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in our Christian Reformed Church) to the ministerial members of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary; this to begin in the Spring of 1954; this work from then on to be subject to the approval of each following Synod. *Grounds:*

1. The Board of Trustees has known the Seminary Students for several years and is therefore better qualified for this work.
2. In the last few years Synod has had too heavy a program to take care of this important work in a satisfactory manner.
3. Curatorium has done this work before; and, (1) has done it well, (2) can devote sufficient time to it.

Rev. E. Kooistra, S.C.

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**12.** *New Revised Standard Bible Version.*

Classis Hamilton overtures Synod to express itself on the new translation of the Bible recently published, and known as the New Revised Standard Version. *Grounds:*

1. Even though there is much improvement and many favorable things that could be said about this new version, nevertheless there is very serious and objectionable reason for this expression of disapproval.
2. In case the Synod should grant this request to disapprove of this new version, Classis requests Synod make provision to make its own translation in co-operation with other Denominations.

Rev. E. Kooistra, S.C.

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**13.** *Pronouncement on Revised Standard Version.*

Classis Muskegon overtures Synod to make some pronouncement regarding the use of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. *Grounds:*

1. This R.S.V. was officially authorized by the National Council of Churches.
2. This R.S.V. has been severely criticized by conservative scholars, e.g. Dr. Oswald T. Allis.
3. Synod has made pronouncement with respect to another version when in 1926 it decided "to recommend the American Standard Version to our churches." Cf. Acts 1926, Art. 44, p. 46; Acts 1934, Art. 105, p. 103.
4. The American Bible Society, supported by our churches also, proposes to use this R.S.V. in the printing of its Bibles.

Rev. I. D. Couwenhoven, S.C.

**14.** *Nominee for Seminary Chair.*

Classis Alberta proposes the name of Rev. Jan Karel Van Baalen as nominee for the chair of Dogmatics to the Board of Trustees and to Synod.

Rev. E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**15.** *Transfer to Another Classis.*

Classis Minnesota South approved the request of the Consistory of Saskatoon, Sask. Canada, and submits it for Synod's approval:

"The Consistory of Saskatoon requests the consent of Classis Minnesota South for the church at Saskatoon to be affiliated with the Classis Alberta, for the following reasons:

1. It is very difficult for us to send delegates to Classis Minnesota South because of the great distance and because of the difficulty in securing permits for crossing the border;
2. We are situated closer to Classis Alberta, which would make travel expenses appreciably less."

P. Van Tuinen, S.C.

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**16.** *Statement of Philosophy of Education.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to instruct the Board and Faculty of Calvin College and Seminary, that a definitive statement of the philosophy of education of Calvin College be prepared and printed in the Agenda of Synod at a *stated time* within the very near future. *Grounds:*

- a. The Church should be informed of the educational philosophy in our school as soon as possible.
- b. The Synod did not set a time when the Board and Faculty's statement should be made public.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

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**17.** *Nominations for the Seminary.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to declare that nominations for a chair in our Seminary made from the floor of Synod, shall not be considered for a definite appointment at that Synod. *Grounds:*

- a. This is in accordance with the policy that names of nominees shall be made public sometime before Synod for consideration by the church.
- b. Hasty and immature appointments may have undesirable results.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

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**18.** *Appointments to the Seminary.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to revise the system of appointment to the chairs of the Seminary:

- A. Appointees to the chairs in our Seminary shall serve as instructors without faculty status for a minimum of three years, and a maximum of five years before such appointees are granted full professorships; and that this rule shall not apply to those men from other Reformed Theological Seminaries, whose stature as professors in their fields is fully established. *Grounds:*

- a. This will tend to prevent hasty filling of the vacancies we now suffer.

- b. This will give the church adequate time to satisfy itself regarding the qualities of an appointee.
  - c. It will tend to further the much needed development of a thoroughly respectable theological faculty which has the unquestioned confidence of the whole denomination.
- B. When the chairs shall be filled, there shall be instituted a system of instructorships for each chair in the Seminary. The duties of such instructors shall be to labor under the professor in a given field. When the instructor has done satisfactory work for a period of three to five years he may become eligible for appointment as assistant professor in the field on an inactive or active basis thus making room for another instructor. *Grounds:*
- a. This will provide for a constant search for, and development of professor material for our church.
  - b. This will provide adequate time for thorough teaching and guidance of prospective ministers since it is quite beyond the capacity of any single professor to do justice to the linguistic, exegetical, critical, comparative and practical aspects of his field, especially in such fields as Old and New Testament, Dogmatics and Apologetics.
  - c. This will provide more time for each professor to develop his peculiar field and reduce the validity of excuse for non-productivity of scholarly literature.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

### 19. *Back to God Hour Radio.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to define the purpose of our Reformed witness on the Back to God Hour Program and to determine the relationship of the work of the Radio Committee to that of Home Missions and Church Extension. *Grounds:*

- a. The present possibilities of further expansion into television makes imperative such definitive action.
- b. There is already an overlapping of activity in connection with the work of our minister of Radio Evangelism.

R. H. Haan, S.C.

### 20. *Re Decision of the 1952 Synod.*

Classis Ostfriesland desires to take exception to the decision of the 1952 Synod, see Acts 1952, Art. 93, page 40, 2c, "Synod sustains . . .", in which Synod declared the overtures of Classis California and Classis Ostfriesland out of order. We therefore overture Synod to declare that the 1952 Synod was itself out of order when it declared the overtures of Classis California and Classis Ostfriesland out of order. *Grounds:*

- 1. Synod confused an overture with a motion.
- 2. The rules regulating a Synod cannot be made to apply to a Classis bringing an overture before Synod.

K. Tebben, S.C.

### 21. *Decision of 1951 Synod re N. A. E.*

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to declare that the Synod of 1951 was wrong, in the main, when it tabled the report of its advisory committee, see Acts 1951, Art. 147, p. 78, C1. In the abstract, Synod had the

right to table the advice of the committee reporting at the time. However, in so far as this report involved and included the report of a study committee the Synod was not justified in tabling, by inference, the report of this committee, and leave it there. It is the more to be regretted when we remember that previous Synods had (1) confessed their inability to come to any decision on the NAE matter until a thorough study of the principles of ecumenicity had been presented, and (2) warned future Synods not to attempt any decision with regard to our affiliation except in the light of those principles. We therefore also overture the 1953 Synod to take up this report for proper consideration. *Grounds:*

1. It is wholly unwarranted to ignore a report drawn up by a committee on mandate of a previous Synod, and
2. It is unjustifiable to table indefinitely by inference.

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to furnish carefully formulated grounds to be printed in the Acts of Synod, for our decision of 1951, see Acts 1951, Art. 151, p. 79, "after lengthy discussion . . .", if such decision can be sustained in the light of the foregoing study. *Grounds:*

1. The action, seemingly unsupported, has given rise to misunderstanding and unrest in the church. The two overtures presented to the Synod of 1952, see Acts of Synod 1952, page 521, Overture 12, and page 525, Overture 20, are an evidence of such disquiet.
2. We owe this indication of respect to the NAE.

K. Tebben, S.C.

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## 22. *Report of the Board of Trustees in Agenda.*

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to remind the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary, that its recommendations must, if at all possible, be included in the Agenda. If matters cannot be prepared at the February meeting, but must be sent to Synod from the May meeting, such matters must be accompanied by the reasons for this.

*Grounds:*

1. This decision of Synod (Acts 1946, p. 3) is accompanied by valid and cogent reasons, as valid today as when adopted, matters of Calvin are just as vital and important to the church as matters from other boards.
2. A comparative study of the Agenda and Acts of recent years shows an alarming trend. The Board submits fewer and fewer of its recommendations through the Agenda, more and more in a final report which the Synodical delegates do not get to see until they are at Synod, and the churches do not get to see until the Synod has acted on them.
3. Room for emergency recommendations must be allowed. But then the Board should realize it is incumbent on itself to prove the emergency nature of these recommendations.

K. Tebben, S.C.

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## 23. *Separation of Calvin College from Church Control.*

Classis Ostfriesland overtures Synod to take steps towards separating Calvin College and Seminary, in order that the College may be turned over to a parental society, established just for that purpose.

*Grounds:*

1. It has been admitted that running a college was not the business of the church. The church might do it, but not as a matter of principle, simply as a matter of expedience.
2. The line of expedience which has determined our policy hitherto is once again leading us into serious complications. A number of years ago we had to drop the Preparatory Department because of the rise of Christian High Schools in our midst. Now we face the awkward situation of seeing Junior Colleges trying to rise, but our tie-up, as church, to Calvin College jeopardizes this natural and proper development of our school system.
3. Church control is increasingly placing the college at an unfair advantage over our local day schools and high schools. Synodical quotas, synodical drives constitute most unfair competition with local effort.
4. Parental societies, both on the grade and high school level, have shown sufficient ability and permanence to be entrusted with the control of the college. Development on such a voluntary basis will undoubtedly prove much better to the whole Christian School system, and gain much wider favor with our people.
5. The church, as church officially, should and could continue some support and control for the sake of those preparing for the gospel ministry.

K. Tebben, S.C.

**24.** *Indefinite Appointments of Professors.*

Classis Pacific overtures Synod to rule that before a professor of our Calvin College be given an appointment of indefinite tenure he shall submit to an examination before Synod to satisfy the Church that he is sufficiently orientated in the Reformed truth to fill a position of such strategic importance. *Grounds:*

1. This is a denominational institution of learning and it is fitting that each and every professor give evidence of adequate knowledge of the doctrines of this church and their implications for his field.
2. Such orientation is essential and proper for the interpretation of instruction in a school of this kind.
3. Since Synod in its constitution of Calvin College and Seminary (Art. 4) and in the rules for the Board (Art. 2) repeatedly states the demand for instruction to be in harmony with our doctrinal standards, it would appear equally urgent that Synod should assure itself that those who are to teach permanently should give full satisfaction on this score.

Raymond H. Haan, S.C.

**25.** *Neutral Labor Unions.*

I. INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION:

At the January 1952 meeting of Classis Ontario, the Consistory of Sarnia asked advice how Consistories were to deal with those who had affiliated with the so-called "neutral labor unions". In the interest of a satisfactory answer, a study committee was appointed; this committee reported at the May 1952 meeting of Classis Ontario, but this report was re-com-

mitted for further study and elaboration, especially in reference to Scriptural defense of the advice given.

This committee, in deference to what Classis expected of them, returned to Classis Ontario with a studied and Scripturally-serious report. Finally, after division of Classis Ontario into three Classes, after Classis Chatham, among them, had offered ample opportunity to its consistories for consideration of, and comment about, this report and its advice, at its January 1953 meeting, adopted its materials with minor alterations, and decided to submit them to our June, 1953 Synod for their adoption. Thus, with humility, we offer a report and advice, in that order.

## II. REPORT PROPER:

At the outset, two remarks are in order: First, this report makes no mark unless we accept the stand which our advice offers, that membership in the neutral labor union is something objectionable. Secondly, since our concern here is to establish the kind of attitude a Christian, who would follow God's Word and who has a Calvinistic world and life view, must take over against these so-called neutral labor unions, we raise and answer four questions which necessarily follow in attaining our goal. They are, and we pursue them in that order: "What is a Christian? What is the task of a Christian? What is the nature and purpose of a so-called neutral labor union? What attitude should a Christian take over against such organizations?"

### 1. *What is a Christian?*

In connection with the question "Who and what is a Christian?", obviously all Christianity is not agreed as to its answer. There is the Anabaptist; he considers it the Christian's calling to withdraw himself from the world; he allows for a great deal of life as having nothing to do with the service of the Lord. Again, there is the Arminian who also believes that much of life is neutral and composed of portions where the rule of the Lord does not penetrate; thus, for an Arminian also, there is the belief that in many things in the world, he need not reckon with Christ. But, conversely, the Reformed Christian who confesses the creeds of Calvinism, believes that always he must live out of the principle of regeneration; that, with body and soul, he belongs to Christ; that there is nothing of his life in the world which lies exclusive of the lordship of Christ. Thus, even in social life the Reformed Christian acknowledges the ruling rights of his Lord.

This Reformed world and life view is based on God's Word. Paul says in I Cor. 6:20, "for ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body . . ." Peter calls the Christian one "redeemed through the precious blood of Christ." Thus the believer belongs to the regiment of his Redeemer-King. In Eph. 2:10 it is written: "for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Further, the apostle of the heathen says that Christians are "elect . . . so that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love" (Eph. 1:4). Yes, the Christian doesn't even belong to himself; Paul says: "Know ye not . . . that ye are not of yourselves?" (I Cor. 6:19); therefore this same apostle, in Rom. 14:8, also says: "Whether we live, or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

It must be clear from all these texts that the Christian cannot and may not ever speak of neutrality. A Biblical or Calvinistic Christian is never neutral; he is a servant of the Lord, one purchased through the precious

blood of Christ; he is one regenerated through the Spirit of the Lord, a renewed person; he is inseparably allied with his Lord, without Whom he can do nothing; he must show this always and everywhere, in his walk and work. His relation to Christ must always decide his other relations in life. Since the honor and the demands of God are at stake, neutrality for the Christian is always improper. His Lord taught him to pray: "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven."

## 2. *What is the task of the Christian?*

From the foregoing it naturally follows that the Christian has a definite task in this world. Since he belongs to Him Who said: "all power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18), therefore, always and everywhere, he must "show forth the praises of Him who called him out of darkness into His marvelous light." Neither did the Lord Who purchased His people neglect to inform them about the task He had committed to them; no, His Word is very clear about this: "Ye are the salt of the earth; . . . ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16). Christians may not hide their Christianity, but they must let their light shine before men, "so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Therefore, everywhere, where a Christian is, there is to be evidence of the principle of new life; there is to be display of a clear light in the middle of a dark world.

In this connection, again, it is of the utmost importance that we understand the task of the Christian to be applicable to every part of life. Dr. A. Kuyper said: "The members of the body of Christ must, in a spiritual sense, conquer the whole world for Him. All the treasures which God has created in our human race must be sanctified in the name of Christ. Not a single power of the original creation may be ruined or put to naught. Therefore the Kingship of God's only begotten Son cannot but be a kingship over the whole kingdom of humanity in the full sense of the word" (*Pro Rege*, I, 322, 323, 332). Never may the power of Christ be limited to mere spiritual spheres.

In the execution of his task, the Christian is ever reminded of God that he may never attempt to loose himself from Him, to whom he belongs, and Whom he must serve and glorify in everything. Thus, also in his relationships in society and community, the Christian may never seek to sever himself from Christ, his Lord and King; rather, in every sphere, the Christian ought to be busy as a servant "of Christ, doing the will of God" (Eph. 6:5-9).

Christian laborers, therefore, also have their first obligation to Christ. In Titus 2:9, 10, Paul warns servants that they be subject to their own lords so "that they adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." Peter enjoins servants that in the midst of their difficult service, they look to Christ, "because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps." Everyone, whether he be servant or lord, man or woman, parent or child, must count and exercise himself according to the words: "ye are Christ's," and "ye are servants of Christ" (Rom. 14:8; Col. 3:22). God's Word is still God's Word today as well as nineteen hundred years ago.

It may be, that such faithfulness to Christ will incur conflict with the world. Yes, let us remember that this conflict is not merely a struggle among mere men. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness

of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). That conflict continues today. Thus, in the midst of the many relations of life, there remains that spiritual Christian strife, even in social spheres. Never may a Christian give up that struggle so that he may take a so-called neutral standpoint. Kuyper once said significantly: "In social mingling there are many hidden dangers for a Christian. We easily slip by permitting society to set our standards in her worldly forms. But that which society permits, a Christian may not permit. The danger is then that the Christian tides down an irresistible stream. And, unconsciously, thus, the Christian exchanges his Christian principles for the impure principles of worldly society" (*Pro Rege*, III, 289).

Thus, involved in a Christian's task, is the determination of all secondary relationships according to, and in the light of the primary relation to Christ. There can be no fellowship, no agreement, no joining together of two camps of which the one acknowledges and confesses God, while the other ignores and eliminates Him, or even often denies Him. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness,? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part he that believeth with an infidel? and what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:14-18).

The Christian then, who is called to live out of the principle of regeneration, is also in possession of a clear mandate concerning his position in the world. He cannot, and may not, renounce or neglect his principle for the sake of those who live out of another principle, namely, to strive after a so-called general righteousness. It is true, God's Word is no law book, consisting of precept upon precept; yet it clearly shows out of which principle God's people must live. The Christian must always be a salting salt, a lighting light, a witnessing witness, a serving servant, a willing possession of Christ, a pure temple of the Holy Spirit. Here all neutrality is excluded. Every relationship of this life is governed by primary relationship to Christ. And, that relationship to Christ covers, not only part of the Christian's life, as the Anabaptists say, but according to our Reformed confessions, all of life, with all its variegations and spheres. Neutrality in social life, in which rules and principles are laid down, then, is once for all impossible for the Calvinist; he desires to live according to God's Word.

### 3. *What is the nature and purpose of the so-called neutral labor union?*

The so-called neutral labor union, as far as its nature is concerned, is an association which seeks to unite laborers in an organization without raising questions as to doctrine or confession. Therefore, the so-called neutral labor union operates under a constitution which does not reckon with Christ and His Word. It is an organization which claims to be neutral, and through its neutrality, it seeks to attain its goals and practices, not first of all as determined by the demands of God's Word, but as decided by the desires and will of the majority of its members.

The chief purpose of the so-called neutral labor union is merely: to promote the material welfare of its members. Further, in its attempt to attain its goals, it is led by the principles of humanism, and uses only such means as the majority of its members decide. Therefore, when we evaluate the means by which such neutral labor unions use to gain their goal in the light of the standards of the Word of God and Christian principles based on that Word, we must often condemn them.

These, for instance, are some of the condemn-worthy means employed by the so-called neutral labor unions:

1. The advocacy of the so-called "union shop" or "closed shop", without acknowledgment of the convictions of those who conscientiously cannot join their organization.

2. The use of "jurisdictional strikes" and "boycotts" by which laborers are compelled to join a certain labor union, or by which the employers are compelled to close a contract with that labor union, even though that labor union has no right to make such demands.

3. The acquisition of their ends through means which sometimes endanger public welfare, and frequently set aside governmentally instituted bureaus for the settlement of disputes between employer and employee.

4. The misuse of the Sabbath in that especially that day is used for labor union gatherings (local, sectional, national); and the protection of Sunday labor if it involves extra pay.

4. *What attitude should a Christian adopt over against such so-called neutral labor unions?*

Having been quite explicit in regard to the Christian and his task, and, concerning the nature and purpose of the so-called neutral labor union, we need not elaborate widely in regard to the attitude which the Christian should have over against such an organization. Our judgment or opinion must already be evident.

The governing principle here is this: The Christian, because of his relation to Christ, his King, can never be neutral. In all relationships of life he must be faithful to Him, to whom he belongs, both with body and soul. Consonant with this basic principle, we draw the following conclusions:

1. Christians may work with non-Christians in the promotion of such goals which agree with the law of the Lord; but they may do so only when such cooperation does not damage or violate their relation to Christ as Lord and King, and thus actually makes their Christian testimony in word or deed, impossible.

2. Therefore, for a Christian, there is no place in an organization (such as a neutral labor union), which gives abundant evidence in its constitution and practice that it is in conflict with the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures.

3. Christians, therefore, because they are obligated to give joint witness to the principles of God's Word, should form such organizations (labor unions) which acknowledge the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures.

### III. ADVICE (OR RESOLUTIONS):

1. For the Christian who would live "principally" ("principeeel" in the Holland language) according to the principles of God's Word, there is no place in a labor union which gives clear evidence that it is in conflict with

the authority of Christ and of the Holy Scriptures, such as "The American Federation of Labor" and "The Congress of Industrial Organization".

2. All laborers are urged to join a Christian labor organization (such as the Christian Labor Association) wherever possible; and to make attempts to organize locals of the existing Christian Labor Association where they do not yet exist.

3. The Consistories shall see to it that, in the proclamation of the Word the scriptural principles relevant to social and communal life shall be expounded; and that our ministry warn against the weakening of the Christian's influence in social spheres in the adoption of a so-called neutral standpoint.

4. The Consistories, by means of personal contact (such as, in home-visiting and in other pastoral work), shall instruct those who plan to join or those who have joined the so-called neutral labor unions, with patience and love and warn them concerning their error; thus, they shall teach them the content of the stand of our church in connection with these labor unions.

5. In instances where certain deeds, in connection with membership in a so-called neutral labor union, appear to be plain transgressions of one of the commandments of God, ecclesiastical censure shall be applied.

6. The Consistories shall see to it that those who persist in their membership in that sort of labor union shall not be considered for leading positions in congregational life.

7. That members of the congregation shall be prevailed upon to join the existing Christian Labor Unions, or to organize such if they do not yet exist; and that the Consistories shall support such unions in all possible ways.

Classis Chatham urges Synod to adopt these instructions as its own.

Humbly submitted,

Jacob Hoogland, S.C.

## 26. *Nominations for Seminary Chairs.*

The Consistory of the Kelloggsville Christian Reformed Church having given consideration to the matter of appointments to be made for Professors in our Seminary proposes the following names for the respective departments:

1. For the New Testament Department, it proposes the name of Dr. W. Hendriksen. As far as the Consistory knows there is no other man in our denomination so well qualified for this field. It is a known fact that Dr. Hendriksen is an excellent linguist. We do not believe there is another man in our denomination who has such a mastery of the Greek, Syrian, Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin language as he possesses. Moreover, he reads the Dutch, German, and French with ease and facility. He has taught the N. T. field for nine years at our Seminary and is judged by all those who are conversant with the N. T. field to be thoroughly at home in this technical department of theology. An examination of his academic record for the four years at our Seminary reveals the very highest standard, in fact we doubt whether there is any minister in our denomination with a comparable academic record. Barring a few rare exceptions, he is one man who has produced written material in his field and is still producing. His books have been judged to be scholarly and have been widely received within and without our denomination. His written works, his sermons,

and many popular lectures demonstrate that he is thoroughly, enthusiastically and progressively Reformed; the emphasis in his works is consistently Reformed. During the nine years at our Seminary he has built up several carefully prepared graduate courses and the records will reveal that these were some of the most popular and most asked-for P. G. courses in our Seminary. More ministers in our denomination and of other denominations have taken these courses than those offered in any other department in our Seminary. The records will reveal, moreover, that there is scarcely a semester during those nine years that some students and ministers did not avail themselves of these P. G. courses offered by Dr. Hendriksen. Barring rare exceptions, all those taking these courses spoke enthusiastically about them. With such a man available the Consistory feels that it is irresponsible to farm out the important N. T. department to a few visiting lecturers, who at best would be on our campus for a very short time. The Consistory is convinced that Dr. Hendriksen has the confidence of our people as being a man thoroughly and whole-heartedly committed to the Reformed faith, and consequently for these several reasons mentioned above strongly urge his appointment as professor of the New Testament.

2. For the Chair of Practical Theology it proposes the name of Dr. L. Greenway. Dr. Greenway has had several years of teaching experience. He is known to be an excellent pulpiteer; a man of great industry, and a man with genuine love for the Reformed faith. He is an accomplished musician, and his knowledge and appreciation of church music would be of much benefit in the department of Practical Theology. The large congregation he now serves would testify to his wise leadership and sanctified counsel in the many practical problems the minister meets with in the active ministry.

3. For the Chair of Dogmatics it proposes the name of Dr. W. H. Rutgers. Dr. Rutgers taught systematic theology at our Seminary for eight years. Not once during these eight years has the Board of Curators offered an official word of criticism relative to the method of teaching or of the material presented. The Investigating Committee appointed to study the Seminary Situation upon examination of his class lectures judged that these class notes gave evidence of much hard labor, that the material was well organized and that it was thoroughly, enthusiastically and consistently Reformed. The Consistory is not aware of any complaint registered during those eight years as to the Reformed character, emphasis and consistent Reformed thrust of his teaching. His pulpit work reveals a warm, passionate zeal for the Reformed faith. Both Dr. Volbeda, the president of the Seminary, and Prof. L. Berkhof, who occupied the chair of Systematic theology at our Seminary for many years, urged his reappointment at the Synod of 1952. The consistory is convinced that Dr. Rutgers has the confidence of our people.

4. For the Chair of Missions the consistory proposes the name of Rev. H. Evenhouse. The Consistory believes that the Rev. H. Evenhouse possesses the gifts and character which would eminently qualify him for that department. As president of the Mission Board for some years he distinguished himself by giving wise, understanding and appreciative leadership. The Mission Board saw fit to send him on several inspection tours of various mission fields. He has a wide acquaintance with the fields and with the problems involved and has proven himself to be deeply interested

in Missions. His love for the Reformed faith is beyond question. With our rapidly expanding missionary endeavors the consistory is convinced that an appointment for this chair should be made without delay. The consistory is convinced that barring exceptions, it is highly preferable that an appointment for this chair, as well as for any other chair in our Seminary, that the appointees be men who have for some years served in the active ministry.

May our God richly supply you with wisdom in all your deliberations.

Done in Consistory,

C. Van't Riet, Clerk

Adrian Spee, Vice-President

## 27. *Nominations for Seminary Chairs.*

Dear Brethren in Christ:

The consistory of the Byron Center Christian Reformed Church, having examined the 1952-1953 Calvin Seminary Catalogue and having compared it with the catalogue of the preceding year, calls your attention to the following facts:

a. That there is an alarming decrease in the number of courses described in several of the departments;

b. That, except in the Old Testament Department, opportunity for graduate study at our school has been virtually wiped out; ever so many courses that had been carefully prepared over the course of many years having been completely cancelled;

c. That for the very strategic Dogmatics Department no full-time professor has been provided, its courses having been distributed among three men on a part-time basis as a kind of side-line to their regular work;

d. That even for a temporary term no ordained man with desirable pastoral experience has been provided for the Department of Apologetics and Ethics;

e. That the chair of Practical Theology will soon be vacant;

f. That the Department of Missions has been virtually obliterated, one solitary course remaining, and this one taught by a professor of another department.

The consistory, having taken note of this *deplorable situation* that has existed in our Seminary since the rash decisions of the Synod of 1952, proposes that the following remedial measures be taken;

1. For the Department of Dogmatics the consistory proposes the appointment of Dr. W. H. Rutgers.

*Grounds:*

a. He has several years of teaching-experience at Calvin Seminary, this in addition to his teaching at Grundy.

b. No less an authority than Prof. Berkhof, whom the Synod of 1951 wisely appointed to be the advisor for its committee to investigate the Seminary, and who himself occupied the chair of Dogmatics at our school for many years and is therefore competent to judge, urged the reappointment of Dr. Rutgers.

c. He enjoys the confidence of our people.

d. He has written an excellent doctoral dissertation, which shows that he is an able theologian.

s. He has an up-to-date knowledge of his field.

- f. With his knowledge of Dogmatics he combines excellent practical sense; moreover, his Dutch as well as American background fit him for this chair. See the document in which three of his colleagues urge his reappointment, giving ten grounds.
  - g. The Consistory is convinced that of the men in our denomination who might be considered for this chair, none is better qualified.
  - h. He is aggressively Reformed, and has prepared series of class-lectures which have been adjudged excellent both in quality (well-organized) and quantity.
2. For the Department of Practical Theology the consistory proposes the appointment of Dr. L. Greenway. *Grounds:*
- a. He is thoroughly and aggressively Reformed.
  - b. He has earned a reputation as a teacher.
  - c. His sermons are deeply appreciated by our people.
  - d. He is the type of man who could give prestige to the Department of Practical Theology, approaching the degree and the kind of prestige which it enjoyed when Dr. Volbeda was the incumbent of this chair.
  - e. He is known as a man who can do a great deal of work, is very industrious.
  - f. He has been (and is) very successful as a pastor.
  - g. His knowledge of church-music will add to his usefulness in the Department of Practical Theology.
3. For the Department of Apologetics and Ethics, the consistory proposes Dr. C. Van Til of Westminster Seminary. *Grounds:*
- a. He is well-known and highly respected in our circles.
  - b. He enjoys a reputation for aggressive orthodoxy,
  - c. He is thoroughly at home in his field; is known to be a real scholar.
  - d. He is the author of several excellent books (and sets of Notes) in his field.
  - e. He has proved himself to be a highly successful teacher both at Westminster and at Calvin (as visiting professor,)
  - f. He is thoroughly at home in Barthianism and is able to shed the necessary light upon it.
  - g. He is the kind of man who would add prestige to our school.
  - h. As far as the consistory is aware, he stands head and shoulders above anyone else who might possibly receive consideration for this chair.
4. For the Department of the New Testament, the consistory proposes Dr. William Hendriksen. *Grounds:*
- a. He was recommended for this chair by the standing committee which reported to the Synod of 1952, and this after very lengthy investigation. By majority-vote the committee recommended Dr. Hendriksen's reappointment, but this fact has never been given publicity. We, as consistory, feel that our people who support the school both financially and morally, have a right to know this.
  - b. No less an authority than Prof. Berkhof, whom the Synod of 1951 wisely appointed to be advisor for its committee to investigate the Seminary, and who himself occupied the chair of New Testament at our school for several years and is therefore competent to judge, urged the reappointment of Dr. Hendriksen.
  - c. His reappointment was also urged by several leading ministers of our denomination, including several members of the Board of Trus-

tees, and three of his colleagues (Prof. Volbeda, Wyngaarden, and Rutgers) in a document giving ten grounds.

- d. Not only was his reappointment urged by the majority of what is to-day the Middler class, in a well written document, but also by all the graduate-students who could be contacted in 1951. It is clear that he is able to impart instruction both on a graduate and post-graduate level, and that by teaching several courses which have since been eliminated, he would be able to restore the academic prestige of the New Testament Department.
- e. He has an earned doctoral degree in his field, and his transcript of Seminary credits contains clear proof of his scholarliness.
- f. He has written many works in his field, in which, according to one authority he combines, "real scholarship and simplicity of expression." He is currently writing a commentary on the New Testament, which speaks for itself and his extra ordinary ability.
- g. During the short time he has been in Bryon Center he already has demonstrated his gift of exegesis which is also evident in his catechetical instruction.
- h. Dr. Hendriksen enjoys our full confidence and by his personality he has won his way into the hearts of the young people as well as the older ones in our congregation.
- i. We propose Dr. Hendriksen for the New Testament chair because it is our conviction that he has the qualifications for it. As a matter of fact, we feel his services should not have been discontinued. However, we wish to have it clearly understood that his departure from our congregation would be keenly felt as a real loss locally.

Brethren we are convinced that by adopting this advice you will have taken steps which could lead to the re-establishment or enhancement of the prestige of our Seminary. It is an open secret that at present this school does not enjoy that degree of the confidence of our people which is desirable.

May the God of the covenant who in the days of Prof. L. Berkhof and Prof. S. Volbeda richly blessed our Seminary, give you the guidance which you will need in all your deliberations.

The Consistory of the Byron Center  
Christian Reformed Church  
Frank Wierengá, Clerk

Done in consistory February 20, 1953, by unanimous decision.

## 28. *Seminary Appointments.*

Esteemed Brethren:

The Consistory of the First Jenison Christian Reformed Church was greatly displeased with the drastic action taken by the Synod of 1952 re two of our Seminary professors — Dr. William Rutgers and Dr. William Hendriksen — and overtures the Synod of 1953 to re-appoint the brethren to resume their teaching coming September. *Grounds:*

1. Both of these men have earned doctor's degrees in theology in highly reputable schools of learning, viz., the Free University of Amsterdam and the Princeton Seminary.
2. These men have an experience of eight and nine years respectively teaching in our Seminary and have in consequence of that fact

gained a wide and intimate acquaintance with their respective fields of specialization, which a new beginner in the field would not have.

3. These men have distinguished themselves by their warm and enthusiastic appreciation and love for the Reformed faith, which cannot fail to kindle a similar appreciation and love for that faith in the hearts of our future ministers. In their written work, in their sermons and lectures they have proven themselves to be able and enthusiastic defenders of the Reformed faith and emphasized our Reformed principles in their teaching.
4. The Consistory is quite convinced that these servants of God have the whole hearted confidence of all our people and therefore overtures Synod to appoint them: professors in the branches they have taught.

May the King of the Church by His Holy Spirit give you the necessary wisdom in this weighty matter and in all other matters brought before your honorable body.

Respectfully Submitted by  
The Consistory of the First Christian  
Reformed Church, Jenison, Michigan  
Rev. B. Essenburg, Pres.  
Albert Oosterheert, Clerk

## **29.** *Modification of Rule Re Seminary Professors.*

The Consistory of the Calvin Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, overtures Synod:

- a. To modify its rule re the appointment of seminary professors to include the provision that nominations made on the floor of Synod shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Calvin College and Seminary for advisement and possible approval.
- b. To adopt this modification at one of the early sessions of Synod so that it may go into effect before the present vacancies in the Seminary are filled. *Grounds:*
  1. The Board of Trustees is charged with making such nominations, after a conference has been held with the theological faculty. Acts 1930, Art. 23, p. 20.
  2. Current practice gives a synodical delegate a greater authority in such matters than is invested in a duly appointed synodical board. Cf. Acts 1924, p. 32 which declares that Synod is not limited to such a nomination.
  3. If a Classis is concerned that a certain name be placed in nomination, it can instruct its delegate to the Board to present it. As a rule, nominations made from the floor of Synod are the result of individual preferences rather than instructions from a Classis.
  4. The probability exists that the majority of nominees suggested by Synod have already been considered by the Board of Trustees and rejected by this group for valid reasons. Synod should be apprised of these reasons in a proper manner.
  5. This in no manner violates the provision in Article 5 of the Constitution of Calvin College and Seminary which states, "the Synod

reserves for itself the right to appoint the members of the theological faculty."

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. C. Boomsma, President  
Gillus Otten, Clerk

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**30.** *New Revised Standard Bible Version.*

Classis Sioux Center, requests Synod to study the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible with a view to advising our people, whether they should support, or oppose its distribution. *Grounds:*

1. Amidst many extreme statements re this version, both pro and con, there is need for enlightened and uniform opinion among us.
2. Organization (s) which our people support may distribute it.

W. Vande Kieft, S.C.

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**31.** *Junior Colleges and Calvin College and Seminary Quotas.*

Classis Sioux Center, overtures Synod to allow Classis Sioux Center, and any other Classis which affiliates in an official manner with the Mid-West Junior College Movement, to hold back 20% of the Calvin College and Seminary quotas, to be used by this Mid-West movement for their current running expenses when the Junior College doors are opened.

W. Vande Kieft, S.C.

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**32.** *Decision of 1952 Re Seminary Situation.*

Whereas confusion arose in several churches regarding the discontinuation of the services of four Seminary professors, to the point that some thought doctrinal differences to be at stake; and whereas that confusion seemed to be due largely to Synod's vague terminology and ambiguous reports; and whereas such confusion has detrimental effects upon the welfare and peace of the church as a whole, the Consistory of Neerlandia humbly overtures the Synod of 1953 henceforth to state with greater clarity the reasons for such drastic actions and to avoid in the future confusion in the churches on such important matters.

L. Mulder, Pres.  
J. Visser, Sec.

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**33.** *Candidacy of Mr. Martin H. Woudstra.*

Classis Alberta, having examined Mr. Martin H. Woudstra, in accordance with the decision of the Synod of 1952, Acts, p. 94, as to his views on Article 31 of the Church Order, and having received a favorable report concerning his work from the Consistory of Edmonton III under whom he has worked as stated supply;

1. declares that it is satisfied that Mr. Woudstra's views on Article 31 C.O. are sound, and therefore,
2. recommends to the Synod of 1953 that Mr. Woudstra be declared a candidate for the ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**34.** *Transfer of Saskatoon to Classis Alberta.*

Classis Alberta, having received a request from the Consistory of the church at Saskatoon, Sask., to come under this Classis, acceded to this

request, and advises Synod to approve this transfer. This was done in consultation with Classis Minnesota South to which Saskatoon now belongs.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**35.** *Additional Lay-Members on General Committee for Home Missions.* Classis Alberta overtures Synod that two members-at large, who are not ministers, be added to the General Committee for Home Missions, one from the Eastern part of Canada, and one from the West (the Ontario-Manitoba line the division.) Preferably these men should be members of the Classical Home Missions Committees of one of the Classes in these areas. *Grounds:*

1. Laymen who are residents of Canada will be better able to judge and advise in matters pertaining to Canada.
2. The rapid expansion of the work requires more representation for Canada.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**36.** *Membership Certificates for Absentee Members.* Classis Alberta overtures Synod to recommend to the Consistories the use of a membership certificate for members who are travelling or residing elsewhere temporarily, similar to those used by the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands for this purpose. These certificates would be valid for only a year or six months, and require endorsement by other Consistories regarding such matters as attendance at the Lord's Supper, family visiting, etc. *Grounds:*

1. With modern easy transportation more and more people are travelling. Such a certificate would make it easier for them to obtain admission to the communion of other congregations, and also enable the home church to exercise a measure of supervision over its members.
2. Our Canadian churches have difficulty with many of their young people who drift about working away from home, but do not establish residence elsewhere permanently.
3. Such certificates would also be useful for students at Calvin and other schools.

Should Synod decide to recommend such certificates, Classis requests that the Publication Committee be instructed to prepare them and make them available to the churches.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**37.** *Examination of Candidates by Synod.* Classis Alberta overtures Synod to devote at least two full days this year to the examination of students for candidacy for the Gospel ministry, instead of the usual one day. *Grounds:*

1. The number of candidates is too large to do justice to this highly important work in one day.
2. The welfare of the churches demands that proper attention be given to the examination of the candidates.
3. Unless at least two days are devoted to this work, we will have a repetition of what happened at the Synod of 1952, that just six

minutes were allotted each candidate for the examination in Dogmatics, and a proportionate amount of time in each of the other departments. It is obvious that such little time is altogether inadequate, and almost makes the examination a farce.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**38.** *Praeparatoir Examination of Candidates by Classes.*

Classis Alberta overtures Synod to refer the examination of students for candidacy to the Classes of the Church, and that each prospective candidate be examined by the Classis where he resided before he came to Calvin. Travelling expenses incurred by students to the meeting of such classes should be added to the quota for Synodical expenses since the interest of this work concerns the entire denomination. *Grounds:*

1. Classes will be able to devote more time to this work than Synod.
2. This arrangement will distribute the work over the whole denomination, and will not require the Classes within, e.g., a radius of 200 miles from Grand Rapids, to assume all the responsibility for this work.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

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**39.** *Student Fellowship Fund for Students.*

Classis Alberta overtures Synod to establish a Student Fellowship Fund for the purpose of enabling students from The Netherlands, who have completed their theological studies preparatory to entering the Gospel ministry and who have a desire to emigrate to Canada to serve the Lord in the Christian Ref. Church, to spend a year at Calvin Seminary with a view to orientation and to gain a ready use of the English language. The Fund should continue in operation for the duration of the emergency in Canada. This Fund could be established by (a) asking each of our 24 Classes to annually contribute \$100 toward this fund out of their respective Student Funds; and (b) appealing to our church public for special gifts for this purpose by people interested in giving voluntary support to this undertaking. *Grounds:*

1. The need for ministerial supply in Canada continues to grow more critical each year as the immigration continues.
2. Very few of our own candidates are able to use the Holland language.
3. The calling of ministers from the Netherlands can meet the need in a small way, but has its limitations.
4. It will take a number of years before the church in Canada begins to provide ministers out of its own bosom.
5. By getting young men from the Netherlands who have completed their theological studies it will be possible to draw on this source of supply without delay; we shall be able annually to increase the supply for Canada; and we will get men who can more readily adapt themselves to the change in language and customs obtaining on this side of the Atlantic.
6. It will become increasingly difficult for the Chr. Ref. Church to supply the need, because the number of available men grows smaller right along, and the majority of those available are men of middle age or older.

Assuming that favorable action is taken in the matter of the Student Fellowship Fund, Classis further overtures Synod to appoint a Committee, whose task it will be to put the plan into operation. The Committee will set up the necessary regulations governing the conditions for application, the screening of applicants, the amount a student shall receive conditional on serving the Chr. Ref. Church in Canada, etc.

Since each candidate who is eligible to call is free in deciding whether he wants to accept a call from one of our churches in the United States or a Canadian Church, candidates who received financial support from the Student Fellowship Fund, should be obliged to refund all the money received from this Fund, when they accept a call from a church in the United States.

E. H. Oostendorp, S.C.

#### 40. *Transfer of Title re: Property.*

The Christian Seamen's Home Board and the Eastern Home Mission Board recommend to the Classes Hackensack and Hudson that they overture Synod for permission to transfer title to the property now in use by the Christian Reformed Church of Hoboken located at 310 Hudson St., Hoboken, N.J. to the Executive Committee of Home Missions. *Grounds:*

1. This is the property of Synod. It is held now by the Christian Seamen's Home Board for Synod.
2. The Christian Seamen's Home Board should not hold title to this property, as it now does, simply because its province and work is the Seamen's Home and not the Church of Hoboken. The moneys which the Seamen's Home receives are not intended for the maintenance of the Hoboken Church property but specifically for the Seamen's Home and its work.
3. On the other hand, in view of the fact that it is the practice of the Executive Committee for Home Missions (in accordance with Synodical ruling) to purchase and hold properties of mission stations and therefrom developed small and financially weak churches until such churches are able and desirous of taking over such properties (by purchasing them according to rules set up therefor,) it appears to lie directly in the province of the Executive Committee for Home Missions to hold this property.

Signed: Thomas Van Eerden, for the Seamen's Home Board.

O. Holtrop, for the Eastern Home Mission Board.

P. S. It may be added that in our judgment the Hoboken Consistory is not able at this time to purchase this property and thus to hold title to the church property it is using.

Classes Hackensack approves the action of the Seamen's Home Board, and the Eastern Home Mission Board in this matter, and overtures Synod accordingly.

E. Joling, S.C.

#### 41. *Hoboken Seamen's Home under supervision of one Classis:*

"The Committee for the Seamen's Home Board humbly requests Classis Hackensack and Hudson to place the Hoboken Seamen's and Immigrants' Home under one Classis, rather than two, on the ground that the Home can be more efficiently operated by one Classis."

Classis Hackensack overtures Synod so to do, since the Hoboken Seamen's and Immigrant Home is under Synod's control.

Note: Classis Hackensack suggests placing the Seamen's Home under the supervision of Classis Hudson since "the spiritual work at the Seamen's Home is closely connected with the Hoboken Chr. Reformed Church of Classis Hudson.

E. Joling, S.C.

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**42.** *The Paterson Hebrew Mission under the supervision of one Classis.* "The Board of the Paterson Hebrew Mission respectfully recommends that the Paterson Hebrew Mission be placed under the jurisdiction of one Classis instead of two Classes as at present." *Grounds:*

Being under the jurisdiction of one Classis a much closer and direct cooperation could be arranged for mutual satisfaction and efficiency and with possible advantage to this Kingdom work."

Classis Hackensack approves this Overture, and decides that it be forwarded to Synod for final action, since the Paterson Hebrew Mission is a denominational project. Classis suggests placing this Paterson Hebrew Mission under the supervision of Classis Hackensack, since the Superintendent of the Mission is also Associate Pastor of one of the Churches of Classis Hackensack.

E. Joling, S.C.

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**43.** *Centennial of our Denomination in 1957.* Classis Hackensack overtures Synod to appoint a committee composed of representative clergy and laymen, from all parts of the denomination, whose duty it will be to present to Synod of 1954 and following Synods a set of plans for church-wide observance of this milestone—incorporating such programs, celebrations, publications, and memorials as may be suitable and significant. *Grounds:*

1. The century of existence through critical years of our denominational and national history has been possible only by the providence of God, to whom the praise of our people should be directed in a special way.
2. Proper observance of this centennial will benefit young and old.
3. Previous anniversaries have been suitably commemorated; cf. 1907, 1932, and 1934 (also, Calvin Jubilee 1951).

E. Joling, S.C.

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## DELEGATES TO THE SYNOD, 1953

### PRIMI DELEGATES

### ALTERNATES

#### Classis Alberta

Ministers.....J. Verbrugge  
                   G. Van Laar  
 Elders.....H. Wierenga  
                   H. Ten Hove

Ministers.....P. Hoekstra  
                   J. Hanenburg  
 Elders.....O. Piers  
                   S. Wolters

#### Classis California

Ministers.....E. Tanis  
                   J. Petersen  
 Elders.....P. Hekman  
                   L. Bos

Ministers.....H. De Mots  
                   H. Kuiper  
 Elders.....L. Cook  
                   H. Vermeer

#### Classis Chatham

Ministers.....G. Vander Ziel  
                   J. Gritter  
 Elders.....B. De Jong  
                   R. Koning

Ministers.....J. Rook  
                   H. Venema  
 Elders.....H. Knapper  
                   C. Van Gorp

#### Classis Chicago North

Ministers.....R. Veenstra  
                   A. De Kruyter  
 Elders.....R. Rozema  
                   H. Wierenga

Ministers.....J. Putt  
                   M. Bolt  
 Elders.....J. Wigboldy  
                   W. Blauw

#### Classis Chicago South

Ministers.....J. De Kruyter  
                   B. Van Someren  
 Elders.....O. Schmidt  
                   A. Sluis

Ministers.....G. Hoeksema  
                   J. Bult  
 Elders.....A. De Boer  
                   L. Osterhof

#### Classis Eastern Ontario

Ministers.....H. Moes  
                   L. Van Laar  
 Elders.....J. Vander Vliet  
                   F. Masselink

Ministers.....A. H. Smit  
                   J. Rubingh  
 Elders.....J. Hofland  
                   J. Louwerse

#### Classis Grand Rapids East

Ministers.....C. Boomsma  
                   W. Van Rees  
 Elders.....M. Kulikamp  
                   M. Smith

Ministers.....E. Bradford  
                   G. Vander Hill  
 Elders.....M. Berghuis  
                   T. Dirkse

#### Classis Grand Rapids South

Ministers.....G. Goris  
                   J. Hasper  
 Elders.....F. Wierenga  
                   G. Heyns

Ministers.....J. Piersma  
                   W. Rutgers  
 Elders.....C. Van't Riet  
                   J. Vredevoogd

#### Classis Grand Rapids West

Ministers.....C. Buus  
                   R. De Ridder  
 Elders.....J. Langeland  
                   P. Brink

Ministers.....B. Pekelder  
                   E. Masselink  
 Elders.....P. Winters  
                   C. Faber

## PRIMI DELEGATES

## ALTERNATES

## Classis Hackensack

|                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ministers..... | H. Bossenbroek | Ministers..... | C. Holtrop     |
|                | E. Joling      |                | D. Van Halsema |
| Elders.....    | E. Heerema     | Elders.....    | J. Eisses      |
|                | H. Lagerveld   |                | J. Kamp        |

## Classis Hamilton

|                |                 |                |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ministers..... | A. Persenaire   | Ministers..... | J. M. Dykstra     |
|                | J. Vander Meer  |                | T. Van Kooten     |
| Elders.....    | A. Reitsma      | Elders.....    | (to be elected at |
|                | H. Vander Zwaag |                | May Classis)      |

## Classis Holland

|                |                |                |               |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Ministers..... | A. Hoogstrate  | Ministers..... | L. Dykstra    |
|                | H. Vander Ark  |                | J. Schuurmann |
| Elders.....    | T. Hoeksema    | Elders.....    | R. Van Til    |
|                | A. Klingenberg |                | J. Hulst      |

## Classis Hudson

|                |               |                |              |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Ministers..... | T. Van Eerden | Ministers..... | N. J. Monsma |
|                | H. Sonnema    |                | O. Holtrop   |
| Elders.....    | C. De Jager   | Elders.....    | J. Smith     |
|                | N. Prins      |                | J. Drukker   |

## Classis Kalamazoo

|                |               |                |             |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Ministers..... | G. Vande Riet | Ministers..... | J. Ehlers   |
|                | E. Pekelder   |                | A. Schuring |
| Elders.....    | A. Weesies    | Elders.....    | A. Dykema   |
|                | F. Nagel      |                | J. Elffers  |

## Classis Minnesota North

|                |              |                |               |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Ministers..... | I. Meuzelaar | Ministers..... | S. Viss       |
|                | W. Ackerman  |                | M. Keuning    |
| Elders.....    | W. Louters   | Elders.....    | A. Geurkink   |
|                | B. De Boer   |                | C. J. Taatjes |

## Classis Minnesota South

|                |                 |                |                |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ministers..... | R. Wezeman      | Ministers..... | S. Kramer      |
|                | H. Vanderaa     |                | R. Veldman     |
| Elders.....    | J. Overbeek     | Elders.....    | E. Tinklenberg |
|                | J. Vander Maten |                | J. Wallburg    |

## Classis Muskegon

|                |            |                |                |
|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ministers..... | L. Velkamp | Ministers..... | J. C. Scholten |
|                | C. De Haan |                | E. Tanis       |
| Elders.....    | J. Ellens  | Elders.....    | J. Holtrop     |
|                | G. Trap    |                | J. Tysman      |

## Classis Orange City

|                |             |                |              |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Ministers..... | W. Prince   | Ministers..... | P. Hondert   |
|                | B. Visscher |                | J. Zandstra  |
| Elders.....    | S. Elgersma | Elders.....    | R. Dykstra   |
|                | S. Weg      |                | H. Nibbelink |

**PRIMI DELEGATES**

**ALTERNATES**

**Classis Ostfriesland**

Ministers.....C. Ter Maat  
                   H. Zwaanstra  
 Elders.....S. Cannegieter  
                   J. Doyen

Ministers.....L. Bazuin  
                   A. A. Koning  
 Elders.....B. Abbas  
                   F. Janssen

**Classis Pacific**

Ministers.....W. Verwolf  
                   P. De Koekkoek  
 Elders.....J. Kruick  
                   W. Vander Griend

Ministers.....R. Haan  
                   J. R. Van Dyke  
 Elders.....E. Kok  
                   U. Otter

**Classis Pella**

Ministers.....S. J. De Vries  
                   M. Ouwinga  
 Elders.....H. Stek  
                   G. Rooy

Ministers.....P. Boertje  
                   W. Reinsma  
 Elders.....H. Hugen  
                   B. Schoolland

**Classis Sioux Center**

Ministers.....B. J. Haan  
                   P. Huisman  
 Elders.....N. Krediet  
                   A. Ten Harmseel

Ministers.....H. Van Deelen  
                   C. Toeset  
 Elders.....J. Terpstra  
                   G. Van Dyk

**Classis Wisconsin**

Ministers.....R. Rienstra  
                   G. Rozenboom  
 Elders.....H. Verhulst  
                   F. Voskuil

Ministers.....B. Huizenga  
                   W. Meyer  
 Elders.....W. Daane  
                   H. De Vries

**Classis Zeeland**

Ministers.....E. Van Halsema  
                   J. Breuker  
 Elders.....S. Wabeke  
                   G. Veenboer

Ministers.....H. Kooistra  
                   N. Beute  
 Elders.....H. Petroelje  
                   H. Sall

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2. Mr. Wm. Nyenhuis of Zutphen, Michigan

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