

**1882**

[1882] Handelingen van de Synodale Vergadering der Holl. Christ. Geref. Kerk,  
gehouden te Grand Rapids, Mich., 26 April, e.v.d., 1882.

TRANSLATION:

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

**ASSEMBLED AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**April 26, ff., 1882**

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

The Acts of the Synodical Assembly, held at Grand Rapids, Michigan,  
On April 26, 1882, and the days following.

The Address of the Rev. Rietdijk, President of the Synod of 1881, to the Synod of 1882.

Page 1. Opening Devotions.

My dear Brethren: Since it falls to my lot to open these Sessions, as President of the previous Assembly of our Synod; I now bid you all a hearty welcome at this place and at this time; in which place our God caused us to assemble from various sections of our Republic, to be busy in the affairs of his Church.

Reflecting on the past, yes, even since our last Session, and considering what we have become as a Holland Reformed Church in the United States of America; then we have abundant reasons for gratitude and for confessing: "The Lord has been merciful!" In the midst of the conflict, and notwithstanding much opposition, the Lord has both built up and expanded his Kingdom, blessing us both spiritually and materially; in other words to put it plainly, "The Lord has increased us and made us to flourish in this good land." Our ecclesiastical life has been conspicuous in peace, love, and in co-operation in our intercourse with each other. The preaching of the Gospel has not been without a blessing. Here and there new souls were brot into Zion, the people of the Lord have been strengthened in our most holy Doctrines. Many have had their eyes opened in regard to God's calling, in maintaining the Truth, and in regard to their duties as confessors of the Reformed Doctrine. They have shown by their actions that they were one with us in the confession of the Truth, in their discipline, and faithful to the tenets of our Reformed Fathers. The number of ministers in our denomination has increased to a marked degree. From the Fatherland, the Lord has sent us two servants who already see fruits on their labors, and who are working for the spiritual good of the Congregations. We extend to these brothers a hearty welcome. In our midst there are also brothers, who in our previous Assembly were still students, whom we now also address. Your presence as servants of the Lord, also gives us cause for joy and gratitude. The Church in the Netherlands, the Christian Reformed, views our ecclesiastical existence in a wholly different light, from what it did at first. Their affection and goodwill towards us has now been openly shown, which is a cause for rejoicing

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since the unity with all who have acquired also so precious a belief, and those who have the same ecclesiastical point of view, is sought by us and offered by the Lord.

Our Theological School has not sprung into existence by itself, but it has been a blessing from the outset. May the Lord look upon our School with favor, as well as upon our dear and beloved Professor, the Rev. G. E. Boer, so that the School arising as a "pillar of smoke" in this barren land, may fill it with the sweet scent of frankensence and myrrh and all the sweet perfumes of the Apothecary, so that it may survive thru the Ages.

Take note that the Lord has cared for us in the midst of all that might have overwhelmed us, and now we can cry out, "Ebenhaezer". For this we humbly give him thanks.

The fact that the True Ref. Prot. Dutch Church in the East still feels a bond of union and affection towards us, does not stem from the friendly and fraternal reports of our delegates to their Classis, but also in their sending of delegates, as even now a brother is present in such a capacity. May the Lord bring about a closer union with more and more fruitful results, and a closer co-operation in the growth of the Kingdom of Christ, that the honor of the Lord may thereby be advanced, and that the designs of the enemy be put to shame.

We are gathered to discuss weighty matters. The Agenda shows that there are problems that demand our earnest attention, and a careful consideration.

Our calling is the expansion and the upbuilding of our Church. The forces are many and powerful that oppose the Kingdom of Christ. Increasing licentiousness and a denial of the existence of God are signs of this. Elending truth with falsehood, light with darkness, these are becoming increasingly apparent in our land. The immigration, which is very great at this time, brings in a great number of persons and Church members. To turn our attention to them and to serve those who wish to come to us for union with our Church, is, me thinks, to be sanctioned very much. and that such methods are chosen or pointed out, by which many who are not of our number, may safely and propitiously attain their aims with our support and good advice.

Loyalty and love for the truth, and to each other, is a necessity in our Assembly. so that peace may rule, that wisdom may be present, that matters may be clearly understood and

prompt and correct decisions be made, well prepared and lasting, and giving satisfaction to all, who seek such for the satisfaction of Zion.

When the work of this Synod will have been completed, the decisions will be put into print, which is always proper and to be sanctioned. The decisions are then apparent to both favorable and unfavorable critics; so that this calls for great care on our part, as the Apostle so aptly states, "Tread carefully" an urgent necessity for the Synod, so that Love may not be grieved nor the lack of it be a cause of offense. Be therefore, O Christ our Lord,

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in our midst. The work of the Holy Spirit is a prerequisite if this gathering is to answer to its calling. It is promised and granted to the Congregation of the Lord, and in addition it is the spirit of truth, wisdom, and strength. Therefore, my dear Brothers, meditating on the words of our Saviour: "All that you shall ask from the Father in my name, that will he give" awakens a need in us and gives us freedom to come to God. We may live in that trust that we shall receive all we then need.

In the surrender of the Mandates, the following Brothers are present:

Congregation	Ministers	Elders
Rotterdam, Kansas		H. Schroeder
Oostfriesland, Neb.		C. Okones
Ackley, Iowa		D. Zwagerman
Steamboat Rock	H. Bode	
Orange City	J. Stadt	
Ridott, Ill.		W. D. Ammerman
Chicago, Ill.	(Miss. Pastor) T.v.d. Bosch	G.J.v.d. Burg
Lansing Ill.	E. Mollema	
Roseland	G. Broene	W.Prins
So. Holland	D.L.Meinders	A. Van Drunen
Graafschap	R.T.Kuipers	B. Fams
Collendoorn	H. Douwstra	H. Dobben
Niekerk	C. Rode	H. Van Dommelen
Overiesel	W. Coelingh	L. Vredeveld
Vriesland	G. Hemkes	J. Meengs
Zeeland		A. Naaife, J.De Jong
Holland		H. Kracht
Noordeloos	H. v.d. Werp	P. Heyboer
Jamestown		J.Zwiers, R. Creuse
Jennisonville		M. Alberda, S.Bos
Allendale		D. Moor, A. Dijk
Lamont		J. Lievers, S. Langeland
Grand Haven	E. v.d. Vries	J. Glerum
Muskegon	G. Hoeksema	M. De Vries
Grand Rapids, Spr. St.	J.H.Vos	J. Gelok
" " East St.	J. Post	J. Stelma
" " Alpine Ave.		H. Datema, W. Naber
Kellogsville	P. Schut	M. Boersema
Kalamazoo	J. Noordewier	W. Hoek
Vogel Center	J. Schepers	
Alto, Wisc.		J.W.Bruins
Cleveland, East Side		M. Dekker
Cincinnati	W.H.Frieling	J.De Later
Sayville		A. Bibbe
Paterson	L. Rietdijk	
Rochester	H. Tempel	
Passaic	W. Greve	

A delegate from the T.R.P.D.Church in the East, the Rev. J.Y.De Baum.

Letters containing the best wishes are entered from Lafayette, Oostburg, Cleveland, (W.S.) and Pella, in which the reasons are set forth why no delegates have been sent.

e Mandates are found satisfactory and are accepted.  
e Rev. Prof. G.E.Boer is present, and also a few other brothers.

t. 2. In the election of officers for this Assembly, the following are chosen:

ge 4.

President: W.H.Frieling  
Vice Pres. J.H.Vos  
Clerk G.Hemkes  
Asst. Cl. J.Noordewier.

t. 3. The retiring President addresses the newly chosen officers, and wishes them the support and the enlightenment of the Lord. After this they are seated.

t. 4. The brothers: J.H.Vos, H. v.d. Werp, C. Bode, P. Schut, J. Post, H. Tempel, who are present at the Sessions for the first time, are installed by the President with suitable remarks, and the respond with appropriate words in reply.

rt. 5. Referring to Art. 8. of the previous Session, it is pointed out that the Minutes need not be read, since they were accepted before the printing after inspection, agreeing with the copy accepted by the Synod. The brothers Boer, Noordewier, and Gelok are appointed to inspect the Minutes of this Session as well as to report on unfinished business. The Committee now leaves the Assembly for this purpose.

rt. 6. A communication is read from the Congregation of Oostburg, Wisc. informing the Synod that due to the illness of the Rev. De Rooy, and the labors of the elders, no delegates could be sent. The Synod expresses the sympathy for the indisposition of the Reverend, and will express this by advising the Clerk to send a letter to the Consistory stating that if Classis Illinois chooses delegates from that Congregation, then the delegates will be greeted at the following Session. (See Art. 66 of this Session)

rt. 7. A communication is read from the Consistory of the Congregation at Pella, and in addition a communication from the Rev. Baron. The Bros. E. v.d.Vries, H. v.d.Werp, and T. v.d.Bosch are chosen as a Committee to read these letters, and then to report such matters as must be discussed from the contents. (See Art. 22.)

rt. 8. Lafayette has sent a communication stating why no delegates have been sent. It is decided to send a challenging and encouraging letter, similar to the one sent to the Congregation of Cincinnati the previous year.

Art. 9. The report of the Synodical Committee, for which see Supplement I.

The Committee for the inspection of the former Minutes returns and reports:

Page 5. Article 10 needs to be discussed. The Missionary Pastor, the Rev. T. v.d.Bosch is asked to report on the conditions at the Church at Oostburg. The Reverend states that after communicating with the Congregation, he had not visited it. The Rev. De Rooy- by information in the letter- was not so ill as had been reported. Delegates Broene and Mollema, Church Visitors, state that there was some need of help and support there. After discussing this, the Synod decides that it is a matter for the Classis to bring assistance if needed, since up to this point the Classis has done nothing. With this the matter is transferred to Classis Illinois.

Art. 11. Devotions and Intermission and the wednesday afternoon Session.

Art. 12. Concerning the Articles 12 and 60 of the former session, the matter of F. Wieland, a former student at the Theo. School at Kampen, the Netherlands, coming to America now, and a student here since January is up for discussion. The Rev. Hemkes reports: Shortly after the Sessions of 1881, student Wilandt come to Grand Rapids under the auspices of Cleveland, W.S.)

and thus supported by that Church, is attending the Theological School here. In the interim he labored in Cleveland for a short time, and the Congregation hopes that he may speedily complete his training, pass his examinations, and then return to them because of the pressing need there. After more discussion on this, it is decided that the Curators give heed to the request and the needs of the Cleveland Congregation and act accordingly.

Art. 13. Article 15 is brot unfor discussion in connection with the stringent rule of Synod, that the Congregations shall take two collections each year for the Emeritus Fund. The President asks the Treasurer, J. Gelok, if this has been taken care of by the Churches. He states that matters have gone very well, but some Congregations need to collect a second time, and this may be due to the fact that the current year does not end until the end of June.

Art. 14. The Articles 16 and 63 of the year 1881, are brot to the attention of the Synod, in regard to a request by th e Congregation in Pella and already made in 1880. (See the last page of the Minutes of 1880, for a request of \$100.00-150.00 for unpaid salary for that Church. The Rev. T. vanden Bosch is questioned how the instructions of the previous Synod have been carried out.

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He replies that the Rev. Baron has been released from the Congregation, and that the Reverend is, at present residing with his son on a farm, four miles from the city and that he has received notes from the Congregation for the salary due him. Now the question arises, "Can we help the Congregation at Pella?" After the discussion, it is decided to contribute \$150.00 for the minister's salary, and the same amount the following year, if necessary. The Clerk will inform the Congregation of Pella concerning this decision.

Art. 15. The Rev. Henkes retires as a member of the Synodical Committee. He is re-appointed, however, with the Rev. J.H. Vos acting as alternate.

Art. 16. The Synod states that it would be appropriate if a Yearbook were published under the same conditions as formerly, and for the year of 1883.

Art. 17. Concerning Art. 22. of the Agenda, the Congregation of So. Holland asks if it were not desirable to use the monies collected for Foreign Missions, to educate a person from our Church in co-operation with the Chr. Ref. Church of the Netherlands, for Foreign Mission work. The Synod decides to continue as heretofore, viz. to support the Chr. Ref. Church in the Netherlands. A discussion of this in the Synod at Zwolle, shall be included in the mandates of our delegates to that Synod.

Art. 18. According to Art. 31 (1881) the delegate from Steamboat Rock is questioned on how the previous decision of the Synod has been carried out, and also what the state of affairs is there. The Rev. H. Bode replies that matters there are favorable at present. There is unity and love, and thru the goodness of God he has labored in peace and with much pleasure, and he can see fruits on his labors as a result of his work in the Congregation. The Congregation now numbers 43 families. This is gratefully accepted by the Synod as information.

Steamboat Rock asks: the Synod expressed its goodwill at the last Session, that the brothers of Steamboat Rock would be justly dealt with, as far as contributions were concerned. They do not wish to put this trust to shame but they find no quota for the Theological School assigned to them. It is asked, since they have forty three families, would a quota of \$40.00 be satisfactory? The Synod answers this in the Affirmative. the Trustees shall add this amount to their budget.

Art. 19. At the request of the President, the Committee in regard to the communication from Pella reports

that hhe letter from the Rev. Baron reports why he is not present at the Synod. The reasons: the expenses, both due to his illness and that of his wife. In addition the Reverend asks if he may have complete emeritation, because of the infirmities of the flesh and a decrease in his intellectual capacities, which is making a gradual progress; moreover in strengthening his request, he states that there has been little interest shown concerning him, since no Congregation has asked him to serve during the entire year. The question before the Synod now is how this can and must be solved. After the discussion, it is decided to continue with the provisional Emeritation for one more year. (after all the communications on this matter had been read.) The Synodical Committee will start an official investigation, and this matter will be reported at the next Assembly.

Art. 20. Seeing that most of the Congregations, which because of distance, have sent no delegates to the Synod, but generally reported on the state of their Congregations by letter; are now represented, the Synod exoresses its joy at their presence and so now requeste reports from these delegates concerning their Churches.

a/ Brother Okones from Oostfriesland reports that there is a feeling of goodwill between the Congregation and the Consistory, and a mutual expression of same, also that peace and unity rule and that there are no signs of any ructions at present. The Congregation is served by reading services each Sunday. Catechism Classes are held regularly. There are 70 members in the Congregation, and they have a Church building 16X32, which will seat 80 persons. It was also recently decided to collect for the Foreign Mission Fund.

b/ The delegate from Rotterdam, Kansas, Brother Schreuder, informs the Synod: as to the status of his Congregation, there is reason to be thankful. The Congregation is progressing slowly, and at present, numbers 17 families. They have a house of worship, 16X28, completely built, with less than \$100.00 debt. According to their strength they are doing very well in spite of the fact that in 1881 the crops were very poor. The Catechism classes are well attended and the youth are eager for instruction. Church attendance is also very good. They are thankful for past blessings and they hope the Lord will continue to bless them. They certainly would appreciate two sermons a year, as well as a celebration of the Sacraments, as well as some financial support if a minister did come to them, because the distance would make travelling expensive.

In connection with these remarks, Classis Iowa makes a motion and requests that one half of the funds of the Congregations of that Classis

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for Home Missions may be used for defraying the expenses of preaching services in the far-cistant Congregations. After this is discussed, it is decided that Classis Iowa may use any or all funds collected for Home Mission Work.

c/ Delegate Bruins reports on Alto, Wisconsin and he states that all goes well there. There was a difference of opinion where the Church should be located, but this has been settled, the location has been decided upon and the funds for building are on hand. Brother Iruins, deceased, had made provision for such funds. The Congregation is small and has an urgent need for the preaching of the Gospel and the celebration of the Sarcaments. The motion is made and passed that Alto has the right to ask ministers to came and preach for them by permission of the Synod, and the Brothers who are invited shall note the great need of the Church there, and elders from other Churches shall also keep this in mind.

d/ The delegates from Chicago, Missionary Pastor, the Rev. T. Vanden Bosch and Elder v.d. Burg, inform the Synod that the Rev. Vanden Bosch has labored there for eleven weeks, that the Congregation is well-organized and at peace, former differences having been eliminated. The house visitation with the Reverend had been nearly completed. Sixteen or seventeen members have joined the Church. The Church id full. There are 130 catechumens. The pastor, called from the Netherlands, has as yet sent no reply, (The Rev. Kuiper) but the Church is hopeful and it has a great need for a leader.

Art. 21. The Synod takes up the matters pertaining to the Home Missions Board. By acclamation the Committee members, the Revs. Meinders and Broene and Elder Prins are re-elected.

Art. 22. Article 36 is now up for discussion in regard to the evangelization at Grand Rapids in the English areas, by the brothers of the T.R.P.D. Church in the East. In connection with this, the Revs. Rietdijk and Greve, report on their delegation to the above-named Church in Ramsey. The regular delegate chosen for this, was in Pella at this time. It was both difficult and expensive to travel to the East from this distance. Therefore the Rev. Vanden Bosch had asked his alternates to go in his place. As a result of their visit, they had found the Church in a better condition than at first. In connection with this, the Rev. De Baum

Page 9. a delegate from that Church, is given an opportunity to address the Assembly. He says: Mr. President, Brother Ministers and Elders, It gives me great pleasure to bring greetings once again, even as up to 13 years ago, personal visits from our Brothers, conveyed their heartfelt greetings to you. It gives me much pleasure also to gaze into your sincere and friendly faces again, not only in a physical sense, but rather in a narrower and spiritual sense, as Brothers of one house, companions in arms for that precious belief, once delivered to the Saints. At present we are at peace, with unity of Spirit, and a show of God's boundless love for us. In some of the Congregations there is more prosperity than in others. In our vacant Churches especially, more activity seems to be apparent. Membership is increasing and attempts are made to call additional ministers. In one of our Mission stations, a Committee has been named to organize a Church, as soon as all matters in connection with the organization can be arranged. We again have two students, which has been the case four times in the last two years. Two and two,

Our Classis has considered with interest the invitation to preach in English in this area. But since the "how and when" was not clear to them, a Committee was named consisting of the Rev. Cooper and me, to correspond with your Synodical Committee concerning this. This was brot about. But we hope to get more information about this matter at this Session. Must we begin this? Do you consider this necessary for the coming generation? Do you recommend and support this project that we come to your assistance in the preaching of English? If a congregation were organized, then I think much more ought to be done. We do not consider the bonds between us to be composed of sand. Can a union be advanced in this matter? Can it lead to a general union as is desired for the strengthening of the Faith? and a spreading of the Truth, as opposed to the show of religion of many in our times, who have forsaken the true and proven tenets of religion and seek a union with anything but the real foundation?

The President thanks the brother for his information and assures him in the name of the Synod, that the bonds of affection are also ours.

Before the evangelization question is discussed, the question is asked who shall be delegated to their Assembly this year. Since it is an expense to the Church already, to send two delegates to the Netherlands this year, the Brothers

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Rietdijk and Greve are again chosen, as living the nearest to that Classis, although the appointed Brothers would gladly have wished that the other brothers from the West had been chosen so that other Ministers might learn to know the Church in the East.

Art. 23. The Congregation at Overiesel asks if their quota to the School might be lowered a bit. They are asked to wait until that matter is brot up for discussion.

Art. 24. Art. 48 of the previous Session is discussed, concerning the delegates to the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands. First of all the delegates need Mandates, in the name of the Synod. The requirements are discussed, and the clerk will present a copy of the mandates at the next session, so that all may be prepared for the delegates at this Session, and handed over to them. The remark is made that the expense will be \$100.00 more than has been collected. Travelling expenses had been set at \$400.00, but only \$300.00 had been sent in for this. The solution is that each congregation shall contribute one fourth more of the amount. This will take care of the matter.

Art. 25. Devotions and Intermission.

The Session of Thursday morning.

Art. 26. The Mandates for the delegates are read, and they are accepted after a few minor changes.

Art. 27. Article 51 is up for discussion, concerning the organization of Churches outside of Classis Michigan under the new Church law. The delegates from Classis Iowa state that nothing in connection with their Classis has been accomplished. The delegates from Classis Illinois state that they have made a draft at their last Classis and a lawyer has been contacted to continue the work. Classis Iowa asks Classis Illinois for a copy of the draft and the Classis promises to supply them with one. The delegates from Classis Hudson inform the Synod that they have referred the matter to a Notary, who is to work in co-operation with an attorney to procure such a law. Although other states have their difficulties, nevertheless progress along this line will be attempted.

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Art. 28. Since the Clerk, the Rev. Hemkes, could not remain at the Sessions because of circumstances at his home; the assistant Clerk takes his place for the time being.

Art. 29. Article 56, concerning Holland Christian Education comes up for discussion. Professor Boer asks permission to speak. The Rev. Kuiper also earnestly recommends a discussion of this topic. The Rev. Bode suggests that the reasons set forth by the Rev. Kuiper be published in order to stimulate the public.

The proposal of the Rev. Kuiper

The Synod being convinced that our people have too little conception of the need and profit (of Christian education) calls this to the attention of our Congregations, thru the medium of the "Wachter". Our Ministers shall also see what the best means may be for carrying out this project in the Congregations. The Rev. Kuiper also has documents concerning this matter, which the Synod suggest he publish. He sanctions this, and the Synod promises its co-operation.

Art. 30. The Rev. Van Leeuwen, Emeritus, being indisposed, nevertheless sends his greetings and best wishes to the Synod, which is accepted as information.

Mr. N. Van Baalen also sends a communication to the Synod, mentioning the cordial reception by the Chr. Ref. Church in the Netherlands, and he also mentions the feeling of goodwill of the above mentioned Church to our Church. This is also accepted as information.

Art. 31. The term of office of the Rev. W.H. Frieling as a Trustee expires and he begs the Assembly not to re-elect him. The Rev. J. Vos is chosen with 37 votes.

Art. 32. Article 37 is brot up for discussion, concerning general rules and decisions of Synod, which are published, but the Synod feels it necessary to return to an Article, (p.22) The Synod decides to change this in this way: This page is to be removed and the following is to be substituted for it; "that our Church abides by that which the Chr. Ref. Church of the Netherlands stated in 1872, to accept the proposal of the Rev. Kuiper"

No further mention shall be made of this until we have acquainted ourselves with the State law, This is accepted.

It is resolved to name a Committee to investigate the laws of the State, and that this Committee report at the next Synod.

The Committee: J.W. Garveling and W. H. Van Leeuwen, Jr.

Art. 33 Closing and Opening Devotions.

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Art. 34 The Rev. P. Schut is chosen as assistant Clerk to the Rev. Noordewier, who will act in this capacity until the return of the Rev. Hemkes.

Art. 35. The President asks if travelling expenses are to be divided as they were at the previous Session in Art. 74 of the former Minutes. The Synod replies that this is still in force. A Committee, the Revs. Hoeksema and Meinders, will function for this, and report later.

Art. 36. The Congregation at Allendale requests offerings from the Churches for the construction of a Church building. The Congregation can supply \$500.00, with an additional \$400.00 at interest. The Synod recognizes this request and informs the delegates to keep this in

mind in their Congregations. Mention of this shall also be made in the "Wachter" Professor Boer will receive the monies for this project.

Art. 37. Classis Illinois brings up a question to the Synod in connection with the fourth Commandment. How must the work done in "hothouses" be considered? Is work such as this permissible for Christians as church members? The Synod refers the Classis to Art. 76. of the general regulations of the Church. Chicago would rather have the Synod make a ruling on work in "Hothouses" whether that work is a necessity or not. The Synod states that this is stated in the above-mentioned Article; since this is very similar to the work in gas-manufacturing establishments.

Art. 38. A discussion concerning the division of the Classes in in order. The requests from both Classes Michigan and Illinois read as follows: Classis Illinois in a calm and earnest request beseeches the Synod to reconsider Article 53 of the Acts of 1881 for a second time and divide Classis Michigan into two Classes. Classis Michigan also requests a division according to Article 53, dividing the Classis and forming the Classes Grand Rapids and Holland. The Rev. Vos reads the lists of the Congregations which would belong to each Classis. Synod sanctions this division and mandates Classis Michigan to bring it into being.

Art. 39. Classis Hudson brings to the attention of the Synod per the Agenda, that Synod express itself, after a consideration of the matter, concerning marriages on the Sabbath Day. The Synod states that marriages may be conducted on the Sabbath Day, but must be in complete accord with State laws.

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Art. 40. Classis Hudson, thru the Agenda, again requests that the Synod procure a better type and a more suitable quality of paper for the publication of the "Wachter" A Committee is chosen to look into this: the Revs. Hemkes, Vos, Boer and Elder Fleune.

Art. 41. For auditing the Books of the Business Manager of the "Wachter", the Revs. E. v.d. Vries, Douwstra, and Elder J. Gelok are chosen.

Art. 42. The matter mentioned in Article 38 comes up for discussion which deals with an invitation to the Brothers in the East, by Classis Michigan, to preach in Grand Rapids and vicinity in the English Language, and all the more so since they are considered a Mission Church. The Spring Street Church at Grand Rapids thru the Rev. Vos states that with all due regard for the Brothers, he does not consider this a propitious move at this time. The results of this project up to now seem to be dubious. The matter is postponed for a year.

Art. 43. Classis Michigan petitions the Synod thru the Agenda: The Synod consider the request of the Missionary Pastor, the Rev. T. Vanden Bosch, who asks for his release as Missionary Pastor. The Synodical Committee received this request, informed the Classis Michigan of same, and the Committee was of the opinion that this request be presented to the Synod; since the Reverend had received his mandate from the Synod, and that furthermore this Assembly was capable of dealing with the matter.

The Rev. Noordewier suggests that the Rev. Vanden Bosch present reasons for his request altho he would very much wish that the Brother continue in his labors, since the Lord is blessing him in his work, and the field is rapidly expanding. Many of the delegates feel as the Rev. Noordewier does, but the Synod decides to postpone this matter and the Reverend will be heard from at a later session.

Art. 44. The Consistory of the Church at Palla desires a discussion of Art. 65. concerning the acceptance of the Church Order of Dort: Since there are no funeral sermons, none should be formulated, and since some have already been accepted, diligence should be used in removing them quietly and with all dignity, and sensibly. The Rev. Bode elucidates this matter. After a discussion by the delegates, it is decided not to review this Article, but to leave it with all dignity to the discretion of the Congregations.

Art. 45. The Transportation Committee reports. The costs of Transportation amount to \$600.00. Ten Congregations will contribute \$20.00 each, totalling \$200.00

Eight	"	"	"	\$10.00	"	"	80.00
Twenty	"	"	"	\$15.00	"	"	300.00

This brings the total to \$580.00. The Congregations not represented here will also be asked to contribute to this.

Art. 46. The question is put to the Synod if the matter of representation of the Congregations could not be changed. Many suggestions are brot up. The motion is accepted that the representation of the Churches be as follows:

Classis Grand Rapids	will send	6 delegates:	4 ministers,	2 elders.
" Holland	"	"	"	"
" Hudson	"	3	"	1
" Illinois	"	4	"	2
" Iowa	"	"	"	"

Art. 47. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 48. The Rev. Hemkes has returned and again takes his place.

Art. 49. A communication is presented to the Synod from the Congregation at Saugatuck, Mich. informing the Synod that due to pressing reasons, the Congregation no longer desires to remain in the Reformed denomination. It further request a union with the Holland Chr. Ref. Church in America. The letter reads as follows:

To the honorable Synod of the Holland Chr. Ref. Church in America:

Honored Fathers and Brothers: We have become thoroly convinced that it is necessary for us to leave the Reformed Denomination, and thus we humbly beg you to accept us in a proper and orderly way, that we may be united with and taken into the fellowship of the Holland Christian Reformed Church.

In the name of the Congregation,  
 (Signed) M. De Vries, Pres.  
 J. Ensing, Clerk.

The delegates from Saugatuck, the signers of the communication, are asked to bring more light on the subject. Brother Ensing states the reasons for their request. The Church numbers fourteen families, and has four Consistory members. They consider the present status of the Congregation wholly untenable and unlawful. (It is self supporting) This matter is transferred to a Committee for the purpose of carrying this out.

The Rev. Kuiper states that since this is a critical problem and it should be thoroly discussed. If there are any Brothers present, and if they have anything on their minds and wish to express themselves or to ask questions; they may do so now and speak freely and openly so there can be no objections behind one's back.

The question is how must we proceed if an entire Congregation wishes to join our denomination. After some discussion of this, it is decided to appoint a Committee to bring a plan into being, a permanent set of rules including appropriate questions to:

a/ Congregations without Ministers

b/ Congregations with Ministers, in case they request to be taken into the Holland Christian Reformed Church. The Committee will have this set of regulations prepared by the afternoon session, so that the matter can be discussed at that time.

Art. 50. Seeing that there are brothers present, not members of our Church, and among them, the Rev. L. J. Hulst, who was present yesterday and again today; the President asks if he would wish to make a few remarks. The Reverend then gives a short talk, stating that both he and the seceded Congregations are really one fundamentally, that the present status of the seceding Congregations, (Being thoroly independent) is not desirable in the long run; and that he and others wish that another solution might be worked out, and that the day might come in which a union might be formally brot about, that also in either case it would not revert into a political problem, but being convinced of our duty,

that on our part was not anticipated thus, and that because of pride a stumbling block had been put in the way towards a reunion, he foresaw that there had to be a separation between us; although on their part a stumbling block had also been put in the path toward a reunion, and therefore he could not nor did he wish to have any part of it. In addition the Holland population, in this movement, as regards the Church, was shaken to the very foundations: many became independent, many others wished to follow, but waited for the Meeting of the Synod of the Reformed Church; for a reunion both sides must be ready for such a step. May the day of such a re-union and unity soon break. The President expresses his thanks to the honorable speaker for his brief and understandable explanation.

Art. 51. A problem in the Agenda is now up for discussion. The Synod consider this question: What lines must be drawn in the present ecclesiastical situation, in regard to public installations? After reading decisions from the Church Handbook

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of previous Synods of the Reformed Church, concerning the confession and acceptance of members, and after a discussion, it was decided: One will remain by the decisions of 1880 and uphold that ruling as much as possible, but if Consistories must decide that, because of weighty reasons, members be installed who have made a previous confession, without a public acceptance, such Churches will not be troubled because of it.

Art. 52. The Committee for the acceptance of the Congregation of Saugatuck into our Church is on hand, along with the ministers from Collendoorn and Graafschap, with elders from their Consistories; for the organization of a Church at Blendon; the ministers from Noordeloos and Vriesland, with their elders, J. De Jong from Zeeland and P. Karsten from Vriesland.

Art. 53. It is now the time for the answer to the question, which was put to the Missionary Pastor by the Synod. The answer is that he remains by his previous decision, namely to be relieved of his task, and the reasons for same. Altho the Synod would very much desire to see him continue as a Missionary Pastor, it nevertheless, will grant his request, and he is thus honorably released from his task, and thus placed on call for the Congregations of the Church. The Clerk shall insert this inserted in the "Wachter". The Rev. Riëtdijk desires to have the Rev. Vanden Bosch take charge of his Congregation during his absence as a delegate to the Synod of the Netherlands.

Art. 54. Another matter in the Agenda needs the attention of the Synod: The Synod consider, with an eye to the expansion of our Church; if it were not advisable to call a second Professor, since there are too many subjects in the Literary and the Theological departments so that the teaching of all of them, and of giving the proper time to each subject is becoming too much work for one Professor. After a suitable time for discussion, it becomes evident to the delegates that a second Professor cannot be considered at this time. The delegates, however realize that the work is getting to be too much of a task for one person, and while Synod decides that each one do the best he can under the circumstances, the Curators broach a proposition: that a Mr. G. Vos, at present a Theological student at the Seminary and who has completed all the grammar school work in the Netherlands, might be employed for a reasonable sum to assist in instruction. A motion is made to discuss this with Mr Vos. This motion is passed. The Curators are now requested to attend to this, viz. the subjects, the hours, and to set the remuneration in conjunction with the Trustees.

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Art. 55. In connection with the foregoing, the Curators present a motion that the Synod will see to the instruction. As to increasing the time for study for the Professor, this is an attempt to make it easier for him, but there is a constant request by Churches for the services of both the Professor and the students, so that too much heed is given to these requests. It is suggested that it be fitting for the Synod to make a ruling as to the number of times a student or the Professor may preach. The distant Classes read in the daily papers that the Congregations in Michigan have the privileges of the services of either students of the Professor, while they are deprived of them. Their studies must suffer because of this. This further incapacitates them.

At the theological School in Kampen, the Netherlands, the students may conduct services twice from one vacation period to the next, which makes it approximately eight times in one year.

After the discussion ends, the proposal is that each Theological student in the first year of the Seminary may conduct services once every six weeks; students in the second year and the Professor may serve once every four weeks.  
This is passed.

Art. 56. A request comes to the Synod: The Synod consider and investigate the request presented by Mr. J. v.d.Werp, with a temporary leave of absence, due to illness and severe head pains, altho now much improved, that he be permitted to resume his studies at a slower pace, and at his own expense and after the completion of his studies to take his examinations, preparing him for the task of a Missionary Pastor, work which he ardently wishes for himself. (This request is presented thru the Curatorium.) The Synod considers both his request and the qualifications of a Missionary Pastor, and the decision is to cast a vote on this matter, and the results of the voting show that the Synod does not accept the request of the brother; the President informing him.

Art. 57. Devotional Period and intermission.

Art. 58. The Agenda: The synod express an opinion on the question whether it is permissible for the Consistories of our Congregations to invite Ministers to occupy our pulpits, who agree with us in both Doctrine and Church Order and are opposed to Secret Societies. After a discussion the Synod decides that they may,

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and that Article 73 of the previous session have this phrase appended to it, "Such Ministers may preach to us.

Art. 59. The question is now discussed: How shall the Church proceed when an entire Congregation requests permission to join with us. The Committee which has been chosen to submit the written rules for this, for Synodical consideration, now reads what it has accomplished.

A Formula for the Union of Churches with the Holland Christian Reformed Church who are outside of the sphere of the said Church.

The Synod shall decide that in every Classis of the Holl. Chr. Ref. Church, a Committee shall be named, which has the power to act in case any Congregation wishes to join up with the Church:

a/ In Congregations without Ministers

If a Congregation expresses a desire to join our Church, it will make its request known to the Committee appointed for this matter, which Committee will then make an appointment with a Committee from the Congregation making the request, so that the reasons for the request may be thoroly understood for the union with our Church. If the Committee approve the request of the Congregation and the acceptance of it, a day shall be set with the Consistory for the completion of the request.

After this has been announced by the Congregation on two consecutive Sundays, the acceptance is in force in that Congregation.

On this occasion, a sermon shall be preached by one of the Committee members, and at the conclusion of the sermon, the male members will be asked if they recognize the Elders and Deacons of the Congregation as the lawful office-bearers of the Church (naming each office bearer individually) and if they by this empower the Consistory to complete the negotiations of union with the Committee of our Church, and if they promise to abide by this union if it is brot into being. After all the questions are answered in the affirmative by all the male members of the Congregation, one of the Committee members will direct the following words and questions to the members of the Consistory.

Beloved Brethren:

Do you believe the Holy Bible to be the Word of God, and the only rule for your faith

and life?

Do you comprehend the three Articles of the Confession of the Netherlands Reformed Church namely the Heidelberg Catechism, the thirty seven Articles of the Confession, and the Canons of the Synod of Dortt as the confession of your faith?

Do you recognize the Church order of Dortt as a rule of conduct for your religious life, besides taking into account the general Synodical rulings of the Holland Chr. Ref. Church in America?

Do you promise to co-operate in every way

Page 19. with the Holland Chr. Ref. Church in America, in keeping its Doctrine pure, and in leading a Godly life; and should you deviate from this- which we hope, newer may occur- will you submit to the discipline of the Church?

Finally, are you willing to set your hand to the above named Confessions?

After an audible "Yes" has been heard, the Committee states: We declare the union of the Congregation..... with the Holland Christian Reformed Church to be in existence.

b/ Congregations with Ministers, or Ministers alone.

1. If a Minister alone wishes to come into the Church, the Synod judges that this be done according to Art. 73, Synod of 1881, which reads as follows: In what way can our Church call Ministers from the Reformed Church. After the discussion, it is decided that Congregations may call such with the consent of the Classis, and if the Minister in mind has expressed a desire to join up with our Church. If they have previously served in our Church they will thoroly inform the Congregations the reasons for leaving. and even as well as with others be open for a period of questioning concerning their orthodoxy.

2. Should a Minister and his Congregation decide to join, then the procedure shall be according to letter "a" with the Consistory and the male members of of the Congregation. the matter with a Minister, will be according to "b" 1.

This formula is accepted by the Synod.

Art. 60. The Missionary Pastor is now asked to report on his work for the past year. He reports as follows: The Synod of 1881 sent me to Pella, first of all and after laboring there for a short time, I completed my assignment. At once on the first Sunday, during the morning services, I relased the Rev. Baron from his charge, according to my mandate. The Reverend delivered his farewell sermon in the afternoon. We found the Congregation in a weakened condition in almost every respect. Opinions differed between the Reverend and the Consistory concerning the salary still due him. However the matter was finally settled. It was impossible to settle all matters. The attendance at services was very satisfactory during my twelve week stay there, taking all matters into consideration. House visitation was carried out with the help of the Consistory, and many were contacted on whom we hope the Lord has laid a hand of pardon, for their own good. In the middle of October, we departed for Alto, Wisconsin, and remained in Ridott for one Sunday while on the way. Everything was found to be satisfactory there.

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At Alto we found the Congregation as we had previously left it, small, weak, and surrounded with difficulties. Church attendance while we were there was very poor, due to the great amount of rainfall add thus the poor condition of the roads. This was also a reason for not visiting the Congregation regularly.

After six weeks our itinerary took us to Chicago to labor in the Congregation there for a time. However, before we began our work in Chicago, we returned to our home in Zeeland for two weeks, and on the Sundays conducted the services there in the Church.

Our Chicago work began shortly before the New Year. The Congregation was in an exceptionally fine condition, and our work there was carried on with much joy. Church attendance was very satisfactory, and Catechism classes are well attended. House visitation was not completed, since it was necessary for us to return to Pella once more. We would have enjoyed working in Chicago for a longer period of time. On the way to Pella we tarried for one Sunday in Ridott, whwre I preached, served the Sacraments and took charge of the Congregational Meeting for calling a Minister.

Upon our arrival in Pella, we noticed much improvement in conditions, certainly much better than upon our recent departure. The Rev. H. Bode, counsellor of the Congregation,

had visited there twice, and labored with good results, so that existing differences were wiped out, and members who had left the Church returned. The Church attendance was not too satisfactory there, for the three weeks of our stay due to the impassable roads. We left Pella, convinced that there was still hope for it, but that the support of the Church ~~there~~ was needed there in every respect.

From Pella we travelled to Steamboat Rock, and on the day following, leaving Mrs. Vanden Bosch in Steamboat Rock, the Rev. Bode and I left for Dakota, with the idea to see what prospects there were there for a Church, and also for a Holland Colony. On the way we visited Orange City, remaining there only for a few hours however. A Mr. D. Vanden Bosch joined us here who directed us to Douglas County in Dakota, where he and others had found a fine opportunity for a colony. We visited the County and were convinced that this was an excellent place for a colony. On our return we stopped in Turner County, Dakota. Here we found seven members of our Church, and accepted two more by confession. We formed a small union of this group and joined them to the Congregation at Orange City. For them and others who wished to hear us we delivered two sermons.

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Then on Good Friday and during the Easter season, we preached in Ackley, Iowa, and following that two more weeks in Chicago. In general we must confess that the Lord blessed our witness and all our feeble attempts. To him be all the honor.

The President thanks the Reverend for his report.

Art. 61. The Classical supplies must be arranged for the period in which the delegates are absent from their Churches, as they travel to and from the Netherlands to attend the Synod there. The Missionary Pastor, the Rev. Vanden Bosch will have charge of the services, in the Church at Paterson for that period. Graafschap will be supplied as follows: The Revs. C. Bode, G. Hemkes, W. Coeligh, J. Noordewier, P. Schut, J. Post, J.H. Vos, G. Hoeksema, E. v.d. Vries, H. Douwstra, and then The Rev. C. Bode, etc. if necessary. The travelling expenses will be charged to the Home Mission Fund.

Art. 62. The Reports of the various financial Boards follows. These will not be listed from now on. If a party is interested, this report is found on Page 20 under said article in the Dutch Acts of Synod, 1882.

Art. 63. The Rev. Meinders is re-elected as the General Church Treasurer.  
The Rev. L. Rietdijk will act as Comptroller.

Art. 64. The Rev. G. Hoeksema retires as Curator.  
The Rev. J. H. Vos is chosen with the Rev. Hoeksema as alternate.

Art. 65. The Churches are asked to increase their contributions to the Home Mission Fund. And since the Synod ardently desires a new Home Missionary, the delegates to the Netherlands are admonished to give this their special attention

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since they will contact so many of the brothers. There is also a motion to the effect that the Synod, after gathering all the necessary information, call a Missionary Pastor for Home Mission work from the Netherlands, and after an acceptance to bring him with them as soon as possible. Free transportation will be provided, with a salary of \$600.00, as our former Missionary Pastor received.

Art. 66. The committee chosen for the printing of the Minutes is as follows: The Revs. T. Vanden Bosch, J. Noordewier, G. Hemkes.

Art. 67. The Rev. W. Coeligh suggests as a suitable project that the Church confine itself to Borstius as the booklet to be used for Catechetical work, as well as a short Compendium of some kind. The Synod considers this advisable since there are a number of publications available. The original publication is obtainable at Mr. Meengs at Holland, Michigan.

Art. 68. A letter from a certain Mr. L.N. is referred to the Curators.

Art. 69. The last Wednesday in June is set as the time for the examinations, as well as the time for the Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Art. 70. The Synod will meet in Grand Rapids, (D.V.) in 1883, on the third or fourth Wednesday in May if this does not conflict with the holy days.

Art. 71. The Brothers, delegates, who will preside at the services in the Grand Rapids Churches on the following Sabbath, are asked to thank the various Congregations for their kindly hospitality and the cordiality, shown to the delegates while the Synod was in session.

Art. 72. Since the work of the Synod has now been completed, the President closes the Sessions with a short discourse.

We are obligated, my dear Brothers, to give thanks to God, for his mercy and faithfulness shown and increased to us during these fraternal Sessions; we were given the privilege of greeting one another in a joyous mood, in good health, and with much pleasure. The matters discussed, some of which being of a very delicate nature, were discussed in a spirit of love, after all sides of the questions had been presented; and on these in the good way of the Lord, we may expect a blessing. During the sessions of the Assembly, discussions were kept peaceful and in unity so necessary for successful accomplishment. May I thank all the Brothers for their sympathetic support, and the affection shown me in the matter of conducting the Sessions. Also to you, my gratitude, Brother Vice President, for the co-operation as you stood at my side. May the Lord strengthen you in the great and worthy task in which you are engaged, and may you live and work with a great blessing in your field of labor for years to come. My best wishes and thanks shall also be conveyed to the Clerk.

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May the Lord always be at your side, in all the walks of life, and may he ever surround you with floods of his goodness. Our dear Rev. Professor, your needs are many, but for all these needs, there is an inexhaustible fulness with the Lord. May he be a blessing to you in your difficult task, and make you a great blessing in your work. Your task is of great benefit to the whole Church, so may the Church thus remember you in its prayers, and make you continually to taste the goodness of the Lord. Brothers, the time for departure is at hand. The delegates will soon be 1400-1500 miles apart, those living at great distances. May the Lord be with us and may we continue to think of and pray for each other. And my brothers, delegates to the Netherlands, may the Shepherd of Israel guard you and bless, on both land and sea, and in your Assembly with so many Brothers in the old Fatherland, as you journey to that country. According to the riches of his mercy may He give us the opportunity of hearing a good report from one another.

The Rev. J. Vos, the Vice President, expresses his gratitude to the President, in the name of the Assembly, for his calm deliberation in his guidance of the Sessions, and the way in which he conducted them; and it is a cause for much joy that not a single note of discord was noted in any of the Sessions, which he had the pleasure of witnessing, and of which he had the privilege of being a part for the first time, in this great land of ours. May the Lord strengthen you on your journey homeward to Cincinnati, Ohio, and may He, for days to come, cause you to be a blessing in a large sphere, and may He ever be near you with his presence which wish also applies to all the Brethren, near and far, in all the Congregations.

Professor Boer feels moved by the numerous expressions of good-will toward him, and his wish is that the Lord may bring them to pass. His dealings are with those who are trained to be Ministers, preachers of the Word; and he asks that prayers for his work be constant so that the Seminary, as a garden of the Lord, so to speak, may bear much fruit for the Church. There are many difficulties to be overcome, and there is a great need for light, strength and perseverance, and any helpful suggestions as to the School and the work will be gratefully appreciated.

The Rev. Rietdijk expresses his thanks to the Synod for their well-wishes to both him and the Rev. Kuiper, and he solicits the prayers of the Church, that the God of all grace and comfort, bless them in their mission to the Synod of the Chr. Ref. Church in the Netherlands, in the old Fatherland.

The Rev. De Baum speaks a few words of farewell: My Brothers, the hour of departure is here. It has given me great pleasure once again, both to see you and to spend these days with you, to take note of the best in your Church, and to convey your greetings to our Church. May the Lord cause you, and for that matter all of us, who have the welfare of his kingdom at heart, to be a continual blessing in and for his Kingdom. We have learned to know and to enjoy each other for at least thirteen years, and I have always harbored a feeling that we are brothers, members of one household. Our desire has always been for a closer union, and if there are difficulties in the way, nevertheless

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finally to come to a firm union; since this complete union is to be desired. Conducting services in this area needs more thought and a more careful consideration; matters in this have been postponed for a year, so that you can more clearly see what must be done. The Lord bless both you and us.

Art. 73. Closing Devotions.

Supplement I.

To the Honorable Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, meeting in Session On April 26, 1882 and the days following.

Our dear Brothers in the Lord,

The Synodical Committee wishes by this to bring the following to your attention: That communications have been received from the honorable Synodical Committee of the Christian Reformed of the Netherlands.

a/ A letter dated June 3, 1881, which reached the Synod during the last year, and was published as a supplement at once, in which the gratitude of the Synodical Board of Missions is expressed, concerning the interest in the mission work of the Church of the Netherlands, in the heathen world. (See Minutes of 1881)

b/ a letter, dated July 16, 1881 acknowledging the receipt of the monies sent, 2346 guilders, from our Church to the Netherlands Church. (Again see Minutes of 1881)

c/ a letter dated August 4, 1881, containing a fraternal communication from the Director of Missions, of the Mission Committee, meeting on June 28-30 at Appeldoorn, in which the Assembly stands prepared to surrender a specific section of its Mission work, in their Mission endeavors. They are convinced thereby that this will stimulate and create a greater ardor for the work in the Church. As special projects the following are named:

- 1/ The training of one or more Students at the expense of the Church.
- 2/ The support of a Mission post, or
- 3/ The support of the School

The Synodical Committee now requests that your honorable Assembly consider which project as the most suitable for her support and sympathy, and after a decision is made to send the result on to the Mission Committee in the Netherlands, so that the desires of our Church can be reported to their Synod, so that the desired end may be reached and that in an orderly way.

To the Honorable Committee of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America. You, no doubt, have by now received the tentative answer of the Mission Committee, written on May 4th last

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so that after the Sessions of the Mission Committee, we have the joy of sending an answer, and that officially, of the Committee. This Committee, meeting June 28-30 at Appeldoorn, received with joy the knowledge of the love and interest of your Church in the work of our Heathen Missions, and of your desire to take an active part in the work of the same. Your offer for financial support, which since your communications and the Sessions of the Mission Board, has now become a reality, and has succeeded our expectations by far and caused us much joy.

This will be a great support to our work which has already made so much progress, and is also a proof of the zeal of your Church, and of the common interests in relation to our Church. Truly, my Brothers, it was a cause for giving thanks to the Lord, and a sign of his special sanction of this division of the labor of our Church.

Our Church will gladly surrender to you a part of its Mission program; various projects were broached as being suitable to your desires, such as the training of one or more men for Mission work under your support, or the support of a Mission post or of schools. One can easily understand that it was most difficult for the Mission Committee to decide, since our Synod, which will be in Session the following year, will make a final decision.

Therefore, Brothers, the Assembly came to the following proposal: that it communicate with you, and leave the choice of a project which you desire to underwrite, to you. We shall then relay your choice to the next Synod, that the desired end in this matter be reached and that in an orderly way. Therefore the Committee awaits your approval in regard to this matter, and a speedy reply in regard to it.

My dear Brothers:

Before I was able to send you a Communication, having been instructed by our Committee to write to you, I was greatly surprised and pleased to receive three drafts, one amounting to 2000 guilders, for our Mission, one of 246 guilders for Bible distribution, and another 100 guilders for the Reformed Church in Prussia. This last draft has been sent on to the Rev. Strove, and the two remaining ones were deposited in the bank in Rotterdam. We continue to rejoice in the humble but abundant offering for the Mission work of our Church. The entire Church will rejoice at this, not only as an expression of the regard of your Church for us, but also as a sign of the material welfare of your Church, and we sincerely believe it was not contributed from your wealth. Receive, dear Brothers, the love of both us and our entire Church as a witness to your generosity.

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This is our wish in the name of Christ Jesus, the King of his Church in the Netherlands, in America, and throughout the entire world.

In the name of the Synodical Committee of the Church in the Netherlands,  
J. Donner, Dir. of Missions, Leiden, Aug. 4, 1881.

Letters were also received from the Classical Committee of the Old Reformed Church in Prussia.

a/ A letter dated August 1, 1881, acknowledging a receipt in answer to the request for funds, from the Brethren of the Congregation, for the support of the Lord's work in Germany. The inner being of these brothers was thoroughly refreshed by the interest of our Church in their work. The letters are as follows:

#### Supplement II

To the Synodical Committee of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America.

Greetings, my dear Brothers,

We have received the gift, which was sent by the Assembly to this Church, with rejoicing, the 100 guilders, forwarded by the Director of Missions, from the Church in the Netherlands, the Rev. Donner, and this gift gives us new courage for the work begun in our Church. Our Church is very weak and there are great forces of unbelief opposing her, which forces find support in the ignorance of the people. And if the ignorance of the Reformed faith is ever marked, then it certainly is here in Germany. Because of this, our Church decided to use these funds in the organization of a school for the training of Missionaries. In this the Lord has blessed our efforts. Our initial success is already apparent. On July 12, 13, two students, Potgieter and Guelker, after a four year course in the Literary Department, have passed their Examinations in the required subjects, and have been advanced to higher education. That the school is in need of financial support, hardly need be mentioned. If we did not have contact with a rich and all-powerful Providence, the future would be bleak indeed. But the Lord lives, the possessor of all wealth. We are cognizant of this in the gift from your Church; a Church, which though far distant, has not been unmindful of our needs. This shows us, not only that your Church is prospering, but also demonstrates

his good will on our youthful project. Supporting us financially; do not fail to remember us in your prayers. May the Lord bless your Church so that she may persevere in the confession of the Truth, once delivered to the Saints. From our hearts, we thank you for your gift, and I remain, after fraternal greeting and well-wishes, your Brother in the Lord.

L. Stroven,

Bunde, August 17, 1881.

In name of the Classis of the Old Reformed Church in Prussia.

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Supplement III

Bunde, September 16, 1881.

To the Synodical Committee of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America.

My beloved Brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ,

When I informed the Classis of our Church that your Church had forwarded a draft for 100 guilders, which funds were turned over to the Treasurer of the Theological School, the Rev. Smidt at Velzen, there was a marked expression of appreciation that we had not been forgotten by your Church, in spite of the fact that an ocean separates us. This gift was received with an expression of gratitude also to the King of the Church, trusting that he who stated that the wealth of the world is his, will continue to help us. Now in the name of our Classis, I have the honor, once more, of thanking your Church for its gift, which I do with this communication, hoping that we may from now on occupy a place in the hearts of God's people in America. Had we worked in our own strength, our School would have failed; in one way because of the unfavorable times at present, and in another because our supporters are of the poorer class. We rejoice in a wealthy Providence, who can turn nothing into wealth. (Who can make an abundance from nothing)

May the Lord bless you, my Brothers, and may you faithfully persevere in the struggle for the Truth, a one time gift of the Holy Spirit.

In name of the Classis of the Old Reformed Church of Prussia.

L. Stroven, Clerk.

2. That the correspondence with foreign Churches and with the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the East has been maintained.

From the last named Church, we received a communication, asking for advice and information concerning the decision of the Synod of 1881, viz. to invite ministers from their Church, to preach in Grand Rapids and environs from time to time. The question was and this question is now put to you, how and on what condition and when and where, can the Brothers labor? The question was directed to the Synodical Committee, and then it was discussed at a Committee Meeting, and a letter was dispatched to the Revs. De Baum and Cooper, that this matter would be discussed by the Synod.

The Committee also received a letter from our Missionary Pastor, asking a release from his task as a Missionary Pastor, a task in which he is presently engaged. He also states the reasons for his release. The Committee felt, however that it did not have the power to deal with this matter, since he had received his mandate from the Synod; thus the Committee presents this request as per the agreement for a discussion at this Synod.

May the God of all grace enlighten you in your deliberations, to the honor and glory of his Church; is the wish and prayer of this Committee.

W. H. Frieling, Pres.

R. T. Kuiper,

G. Hemkes, Clerk.

Mandates of our delegates to the Netherlands

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands

Greetings and Salvation

Honorable Fathers and Brothers in Christ our Saviour.

The Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on April 26, and the days following, 1882, has the pleasure of sending to your distinguished Assembly, to be held on August 20, D.V. and the days following, at Zwolle; as her representatives, the respected brothers, the Rev. L. Rietdijk from Paterson, N.J., and the Rev. R.T. Kuiper from Graafschap, Michigan, two men of good repute, willing to seek and advance the Kingdom of God with their best efforts.

Their mission is the result of an inner love, which our Church, as a daughter Church of the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands, her mother, still feels, has always felt, and will continue to feel.

She has cause for rejoicing and blesses the glorious head of the Church, and expresses her gratitude that she may survive with the Mother Church thru the Grace of God, may continue to stand on the unchangeable foundation of God's Holy Word, may continue to build on the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets, of which foundations Christ is the Head and the Cornerstone; these teachings in agreement with the doctrine of unity of the Old Reformed Church.

Sending our delegates is also in accordance with your well wishes and the honorable invitation by your Synodical Committee. To continue, my Brothers, our delegates, if questioned, will gladly state the condition of our Church; its relation to the State, to the Theological School, to the Home Mission work, and they wish to express a wish that some of your honored students or Ministers may join a group of Emigrants, with the intention of establishing new settlements in America; over the ideas of our Church in connection with the communications with your Mission Board for the support of a part of your Mission program, over the ardent wish of our Church, to see a delegation from your Church at our Synod in Grand Rapids, at its next Sessions; which without a doubt can lead to a strengthening of the fundamental union, and a love for him who is our common hope.

May you ever go "Forward, My Brothers" May the Lord bless the labors of love within your boundaries, the Netherlands, and do the same in the Heathen world, and with his Spirit and with streams of compassion in Christ, bring about the conversion of sinners, and peace for all who love the holiness of the Lord. May he be present at your Sessions, lead you, and give you the necessary light in the solution of weighty problems; to the honor of his name, to the blessing of the Church, and for much happiness to us. This is the sincere wish from your affectionate and honorable brothers in Christ.

In the name of the Synod,

W.H. Frieling, Pres.

G. Hemkes, Clerk