

1884

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TRANSLATION:

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

ASSEMBLED AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

June 11, ff., 1884

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.

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The Acts of the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church
Held on the 11th of June, 1884, and the days following,
In Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Page 1.

The President of the previous Session opens the Synod with a discourse, after the usual period of devotions, as follows:

Until June, 1885, that was the decision at the last Synod. In spite of this we are assembled a year previous to our regular Session. This reminds us of the well known, "My thoughts are not your thoughts!" God's thoughts higher than our thoughts? No one doubts that Man draws a line and prepares the task which He sets for him. Man considers the honor of his holy name, and the welfare of his Church. I repeat, His thoughts higher than ours! that is certainly the way it is, and to whom is it a matter of secrecy that we often hew to the right or to the left of the line and find ourselves at our wit's end? Yet sometimes our thoughts seem to appear to be in line with the Lord's, but this very often only appears to be so. And one often sees that his thoughts and ours often cross, and yet at times seem to run concurrently, until they unite in an unpleasant conflict. All these matters are, without a doubt, to His good purpose. Should we have a clearer vision, we would take thought of the line which the Lord draws, to discover what his will is on most circumstances. Less egoism and more trust would work wonders. The person "I" should recede into the background, and be replaced by the All wise and the All good. As a companion to belief and trust, love walks at its side.

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Love should be present in every sphere, first and foremost toward God, but also to the Church of the Lord, toward each other as members of one household, toward the Synod in which we shall carry on our work, and finally the love toward all mankind.

And if these things are known and felt by us, then we shall realize more clearly what God's thoughts for us are, and matters will be lined up for us correctly. A haughty heart even during the time of our Congregational labors, is missed by no one, since it leads us to the statement, needful for each one of us, that no one regard another less than he does himself.

Weighty are the matters for our discussion, especially those pertaining to our School and to our Home Mission work, for which reason we have called this Assembly. May God grant that our decisions have better results than those of the previous session. On the Sabbath prior to the Sessions, there was a prayer service for the needs of the Synod, and a thoughtful consideration of these needs. Will the Lord hear us? He has promised he would, and he is true to his promises.

May He so lead us by his grace, that we may discover his thoughts for us, and that our decisions be unanimous, so that we can be assured of the work which we have accomplished, and that we can see that his thoughts and ours have trod the same course.

The Mandates are read and delegates are present from all the Classes.
(Names of delegates are omitted as of minor importance here.)

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This page lists the delegates, as well as one half of the previous page.

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Art. 2. After noting from the Mandates that the most distant Churches have sent only one delegate, the Synod requests the reason for this.

The reply is that due to finances and the large amount of work on the farms at this time of the year, it was possible to send no more.

Art. 3. The officers for this Session:

Pres. L.J. Hulst
V.P. L. Rietdijk
Clerk, G. Hemkes
Asst. Cl. J. Noordewier.

HOLD FAST
NEAR
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Art. 4. The retiring President extends the blessing of the Lord to his successor, and wishes him success in the conduct of the Sessions. He, in turn, thanks the retiring President, and with a few words to the delegates and a prayer, he begins his task.

Art. 5. The President reads the Formula of subscription, and requests an answer from the delegates. Standing the delegates answer in a body, in the affirmative.

Art. 6. Sessions run from 8:00 - 11:45 A.M. 2:00-5:00 P.M.
There will be a fifteen minute break during each Session.

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Art. 7. As much as possible the Synod asks the delegates from each Classis to sit together, if this can be done.

Art. 8. The Revs. Schut and Vos are asked to recheck the Minutes of the previous Session, to see if any of the Articles need more discussion.

Art. 9. Devotions

Art. 10. It is announced that a Committee from the Reformed Church, which is also holding its Synodical Sessions in Grand Rapids at this time, is present and wishes to address our Synod. This request is granted, and the Rev. H. Dosker introduces them. The Rev. I.S. Hartley reads the following in the name of their Synod:

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America

Grand Rapids, June 11, 1884.

Whereas, There is at present a Synod of the Christian Reformed Church convened in this city:

Resolved, That this General Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in America appoint a delegation of three ministers and three elders to....

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express our kind and fraternal feeling toward them, and hope that the Divine Spirit may bring all these into union who hold the common faith, and the principles of the Reformed Church.

Resolved that the Committee consist of the Revs. Hartley, Bishop, Dosker, and the Elders, Crosby and Pyl.

Signed, Paul Van Cleef, Stated Clerk.

The Reformed brothers each address the Synod in a few well chosen and gracious words, and they are answered by the President and the Rev. Boer, after which all join in singing Ps. 134:3.

Art. 11. It is moved that the Officers of the Synod, accompanied by the Rev. Prof. Boer, be sent to the Reformed Synod, to return the Greetings of our Synod with the following resolution,

The Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America.

Grand Rapids, Mich. June 11, 1884.

Extract from the Minutes of the Synod.

Whereas, The Synod of the Reformed Church has kindly sent to us a delegation to show their feeling toward us;

Resolved, that the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America, in turn appoint a delegation to express the wish, that the Almighty God for the sake of Christ grant a blessing to you in your Assembly, and with a prayer to him above, that all, having the same faith and based on the same fundamental principles, become one

Resolved that this Committee consist of the revs. Hulst, Rietdijk, Noordewier, Boer, and Hemkes. Signed G. Hemkes, Clerk

Art. 12. The Committee on unfinished business reports and points to Art. 18, 1883 concerning the Rev. Smidt and the German Churches.

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and permission for him to continue in that work. In connection with this point 3. of the Agenda is discussed, relating to this matter, and with this a request from Vogel Center.

The Synod express itself on the use of German Hymns in the Church services, and see that this practice is not abused. The Rev. Smidt considers that more freedom has been given him than is stated in Art. 18. That Article mentions tentative arrangements, and he considers it to mean more than that. He has permitted no German hymns to be sung at all in his Church, although he has told the German people who have joined the Church that they might retain their Hymns. The Synod had mentioned the German Hymns in connection with this, since the Rev. Smidt was working outside the Congregation, but the Rev. wished to have this applied to the Congregation of Ridott, since many of the members had migrated to Nebraska, Dakota, and to Steamboat Rock, for financial reasons, and the influx of Germans, who knew little of the language, resulted in the fact that the population of the Church is now nearly all Germans. Thus German is used for the morning Service, and Dutch for the services in the afternoon, agreeing with him that one cannot make Germans out of the Dutch, and especially not in Music. Nevertheless some fear that what we gain in Church expansion among the German people, by permitting German Hymns, we would lose within; since some, nodoubt, would say, "If the Synod gives the Germans freedom in the use of Church Music, then we may also sing some of the Hymns.

Since letters have also been received from Ridott concerning this matter, a Committee is appointed to investigate, and to report at the next Session. (See Art. 14)

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Art. 13. For this, see the Supplement.

Art. 14. The Committee on Ridott reports (See Art. 12, above) The letters contain protests against preaching in German. The reading of these letters should not influence anyone in his voting. The following was decided: The Synod having heard the motion of Vogel Center concerning the singing of Hymns, makes no new rule concerning this, with an eye to a delicate situation, so that Art. 18 stands and synod proceeds to other matters.

Art. 15. Since it is time for the Committee to visit the Synod of the Reformed Church, the Rev. Noordewier ends this Session with a word of prayer.

The Afternoon Session. June 12.

Art. 16. A Rule of Order is now put into effect, after having been passed by the Synod.

"No one, unless the matter regards his person, and unless extraordinary circumstances cause the Synod to extend the time, shall hold the floor more than twice, nor speak longer than 5-10 minutes on any one topic.

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Art. 17. Art. 45, 1883, is recalled, concerning the time of Classical Sessions in connection with those of the Synod, in which it was asked if the Classical Sessions could not be held during the first of May in a Synodical year, so that all matters for Synodical discussion can be listed in the Agenda. The Synod of 1883 considered this very suitable. Point 5, of the Agenda from Classis Grand Rapids, has reference to this, viz. that important matters to be discussed at the Sessions be clearly stated. And also this: "If the time is spent in the discussion of less important matters, then the Synod will not have the right to carry out the above rule. The following is decided upon: Whenever a Classis neglects sending general Church matters to the Agenda for discussion in time for the printing, the Synod may refuse the consideration of such a matter.

Art. 18. Article 53 (1883) states that the officers of the Synod shall prepare a paper on Emigration, for publication in the Netherlands papers. This has been carried out.

Art. 19. Article 54, (1883) a discussion on Home Missions: Point 6 of the Agenda is taken up in connection with this: Classis Grand Rapids requests that the Synod take the matter of Home Missions very seriously. Douglas, Dakota, has taken advantage of the offer of a recent Synod. The congregation has received the sum of \$400.00 interest free for four years for the purpose of building a parsonage. This has now been completed. It also is the recipient of a sum amounting to \$200.00 until June 1885 in the support of a Minister. The Congregation is now growing. As to Oostfriesland, Nebr. the Synod is informed that there is little opportunity for growth there and that the Congregation has grown weaker....

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but there is a request for \$200.00 annually for the support of a Minister whom they wish to call, and who could also serve the Rotterdam Church, since that Congregation is unable to call a Minister at this time. The motion is now made to offer Rotterdam the \$200.00 which Oostfriesland has requested, as this would permit Rotterdam to call a Minister, who then could visit Oostfriesland under the direction of the Missionary Committee. It is decided to give the \$200.00 to Rotterdam until the next Session of Synod. Richland also makes a request for financial support in the construction of a Church building, as well as New Era. These requests will be considered later.

Art. 20. The Congregation at Rochester, N.Y. supported by Classis Hudson, asks for financial assistance, amounting to \$100.00-150.00 per year, for ministerial expense; the minister then might supply Clymer and other Eastern churches along with the Rev. De Vries.

It is also brought to the attention of Synod that there are numerous Churches, both in Michigan and Illinois which can be served by the Rev. Coeling and other Ministers if the Synod could assist that Congregation financially to some extent.

Art. 21. The Assembly feels that in order to regulate the work of Home Missions, there should be a Committee for this, and as a result a motion is passed that each Classis choose a Committee of three, in the interest of Home Mission Work; also that one member of each Classical Committee be chosen as a member of a general Mission Committee, for the purpose of regulating the work of Home Missions, and to pay the workers from the general treasury collected and provided by the Mission Committee. The President of the Home Mission Committee will function until the new Committees are chosen. The Classes present appoint tentative Committee members to support the Home Mission Committee from now on. The new Mission Comm. will bring out the reports concerning the requests from Rochester, Richland, New Era, etc. (See Art. 27 below)

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Art. 22. Point 2 of the Agenda is brought up for discussion at the request of Vogel Center: The Synod review Art. 60, 1883, concerning the matter of the Ackley Congregation. It is decided to review the whole matter, and a Committee of 6 delegates is chosen, with three delegates from the Congregation of Ackley.

Art. 23. Art. 64 b. (1883) is brought up for review, concerning a communication from Alto, WI with a request that the Churches take offerings for a Church building. Classis Illinois supported this request at the 1883 Synod. The Revs. Douwstra and Noordewier were to fill Classical supplies there and to investigate conditions, and then report to the Rev. G. Broer so that a general collection might be taken. But because of the prosperous condition of affairs at Alto, this offering was omitted.

Art. 24. The Consistory of Drenthe requests that Synod end the irregular celebration of the holidays, and thus keep the peace and good order in the Church by formulating a general rule. The President reads Article 20 of the Church Order of Dordt, concerning holidays in general. This discussion is postponed, until a later session.

Intermission.

Page 12. The Session of Friday Morning.

Art. 25. The Minutes of the previous Session are read and accepted.

Art. 26. The Synod returns to a further discussion of Art. 20 of the previous Session And an additional statement is added: that the delegates from each Classis choose three persons as a Classical Mission Committee, and each Classis will designate one of these as the Member of a general Mission Committee, who at the same time will function as the Chairman of the Classical Mission Committee. Then the General Mission Committee will carry on the work of the present existing Committee, and meeting during the Synodical Sessions, at which time the existing committee on Missions will be dissolved.

Art. 27. The Committee which had been chosen to investigate the requests of the various Churches for financial support, reports as follows:
Lafayette, Indiana. The committee sanctions the request of this Church, supported by Classis Illinois, and decided to give the Church \$100.00 from the Home Mission treasury, with the understanding that it be repaid if possible.

Richland: a/ This Church is to receive \$200.00 toward the construction of a Church building for a period of five years, and without interest.

b/ As to preaching services, Classis Grand Rapids will give this their special attention.

Rotterdam, Kansas. Since the request for \$200.00 which was made by Oostfriesland has been transferred to the Church at Rotterdam, and since both the Rev. Stadt and Classis Iowa wish that the Rev. Smidt work at Rotterdam, the Committee wishes that the Rev. Stadt be transferred to Rotterdam as a Minister, with Mission responsibility toward Oostfriesland, and with the financial support of both places.

New Era: Since some Congregations have already collected for this Church, the Committee hopes that other Churches will follow suit, and should the Church need further help, she will be referred to the Mission Committee and to Classis Grand Rapids.

Charles Mix: This Congregation is badly in need of a Minister, and the Committee would gladly wish that \$400.00 be made available to the Church for this purpose. The Committee suggests that this amount be taken from the Foreign Mission Fund.

Rochester: The Committee would very much desire to present this Church with the \$100.00 it requests.

Art. 28. The discussion concerning the celebration of two feasts: A ruling is read which was made in 1836 by the Church of the Netherlands in regard to the holidays in general. "Since the Bible strongly warns the believers to abide in the freedom with which Christ has made them free, and that they also have regard for the holy ordinances; so shall one be on guard in the Church of Christ for the consistent attempt in keeping his Day holy, as well as obligating the people to celebrate the feast days, which the Lord has not ordained in his word.

The Sabbath was sanctified by the Lord, and we cannot add any other holy days to the same by human ordinances.

Six days have been given for labor. On any of these days we can assemble for being strengthened in the faith, and the consciences of the people cannot be bound down to the celebration of definite annual feast days which reoccur regularly."

With this the Synod permits the matter to rest.

Art. 29. The Assembly returns to the discussion of the conditions at, and the needs of New Era, namely the request of \$200.00 and earlier the same amount. After the Assembly had been informed of the circumstances, it decided to loan New Era \$150.00 without interest, and that this amount was to be taken from the Dollar Fund, and then return this amount by offerings from the several Congregations, through the Home Mission Committee.

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Art. 30. Art. 70 is discussed concerning the delegation to the T.R.P.D. Church, at Hackensack and the question is asked if the last visit to the Church has been carried out. The answer is in the affirmative, and by the Revs. E. v.d.Vries and Elder Beeuwkes.

Art. 31. In connection with Art. 46. of the previous Synod, the present Synod states that another Yearbook is desirable.

Art. 32. Article 45 is discussed concerning the acceptance of the Rev. Fles by Classis Holland, concerning this, an article is presented by Classis Illinois, which will be

discussed by a Committee, so that the Committee can report at the afternoon session. The Committee: The Revs. T. v.d. Bosch, J. Noordewier, Eluers: S.S. Postma, A. Van Bree.

Art. 33. The question is asked who shall preach the pre-Synodical Sermon. It is to be done by the President of the previous Synod, who will also offer prayer for the coming Sessions.

It is also decided that the separate Congregations will have a session of prayer, and all these matters will be published in the "Wachter" at the proper time.

Art. 34. Point 2 of the Classis Grand Rapids reads: Students may be accepted for enrollment only at the beginning of a course of study. The Synod sanctions this, altho there are exceptions.

Art. 35. Classis Hudson voices a request that the Seminary students be reminded by the Synod to accept preaching engagements in the East, also.....

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Professor Boer states that there is a Praetor Among the Students, and that requests be made thru him, and Synod adds that he should have regards for the needs of the East also. It is also stated that a period of four weeks must elapse after a student's final examinations before he may receive a call.

Intermission and the Afternoon Session.

Art. 36. The Minutes are read and accepted.

Art. 37. That the Professors may preach only once a month, brings up the question if this applies to preaching in Grand Rapids Churches? The answer is "No".

Art. 38. The Committee named in Article 31 reports that in regard to the matter concerning the Rev. Fles and Classis Holland, a protest entered by Classis Illinois has been read, as well as one by the Rev. E.L. Meinders and the Consistory of So. Holland. Both have been carefully read and considered, and since the Committee has been asked to report on this, it now does so as follows: The Committee would gladly have seen that one point mentioned in his Question Book and published in the "Wachter" had been retracted. Now however, it would be pleased if Synod abided by the decision of Classis Holland.

The Revs. T. v.d. Bosch, J. Noordewier.

The question is asked if Synod can rest in the decision of Classis Holland. The Synod advises, to give Classis Illinois satisfaction that the protest of Classis Illinois be read in the Assembly, which is done.

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After this Classis Holland states that the Rev. Fles, at the Classis of Holland, has stated that he is in hearty accord with the Articles of Confession of the Old Reformed Church, the thirty seven articles, the Heidelberg Catechism and the five Articles against the Remonstrants--stated this in his own writings-- and rejected that which was in conflict with this. This explanation is acceptable to the Synod, and it lets the matter rest, as in accord with Classis Holland.

The South Holland Consistory, however, continues its protest.

Art. 39. Mr. W. Benjaminse from Holland was present with the financial records on the advertising in the "Wachter". The audit found the books in a satisfactory condition.

Art. 40. South Holland protests against the Synodical decision in the matter concerning the Rev. Fles, unless the matter is explained further in the "Wachter". This is received as information.

Art. 41. The Consistory of South Holland also protests against the use of a book of the Rev. Smidt in regard to the singing of Hymns. The Rev. Smidt states that he had presented one to the Rev. Meinders in all good faith. This brother had made remarks about it, and then complained to Classis Iowa about the Rev. Smidt.

The Revs. Bode, Kuiper, and Douwstra are appointed to report on this at a later session.

Art. 42. Point 1 of the Agenda: The Synod make no change in the location of the Theological School. Point "c" of Classis Holland is discussed along with this. Holland and Niekerk propose the transfer of the Theological School to Holland for financial reasons.

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After a long discussion, the matter is put to a vote with a result of 40 in favor of the Schools remaining in Grand Rapids, and 24 votes in opposition to it.

Art. 43. Since the various Classes have chosen their Mission Committees during an intermission in the sessions, the members of the General Mission Committee are announced. The Rev. Duiker, Pres. G. Broene, Clerk, Rietdijk, Treasurer, T. v.d. Bosch, E. v.d. Vries.

Art. 44. Monday's Sessions will begin at 9:00 A.M.
Devotions and adjournment.

Art. 45. A communication is received from the Congregation of Beaverdam, asking a review on the matter on which the Synod made a former decision, regarding Mr. E. and his wife. A committee is named to review this: Revs. Kuiper, Douwstra, H. v.d. Werp, Counsellor. They will report at a later Session.

Art. 46. The Committee on the matter concerning the book of the Rev. Smidt states that it has read the book and reports as follows:
Honorable Brothers: Your Committee, meeting on Friday evening, and after a prayer asking for light and guidance; has read the protest by South Holland in regard to the book of the Rev. Smidt, and considered both the book and the protest carefully.
Each article was carefully discussed and explained, so that in conclusion your Committee found it best to accept the decision of Classis Iowa, and reads as follows:

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that the Classis considers the reasons of the Consistory of South Holland, explained and elucidated by the Rev. Smidt, as not to be in conflict with God's word, and as for the rest, that the Classis leave the matter to the responsibility of the writer. This is the opinion of the Committee and it hopes that the Synod will agree, and that it consider any further discussion useless and a waste of time.

H. Bode, Pres. H. Douwstra, Clerk.

The question now is: Will the Synod accept this report. It does. The Rev. Meinders now requests that the book be read, but the Assembly considers the report satisfactory. The Rev. Meinders and Brother Van der Aa, however continue their protest.

Art. 47. A communication is received from the Rev Coelingh and read to the Assembly. He requests his emeritation, with permission to preach to congregations which are vacant. He asks for the usual amount of emeritation stating that the remuneration for any preaching services will be put into the Emeritus fund (with the exception of his travelling expenses)
The Revs. Kuiper and Duiker, and Elder Gelock are a Committee on this.

Art. 48. The report of the Synodical Committee is in order. See Supplement I.

Art. 49. Point 4 of the Agenda is in order, from Classis Grand Rapids: The Synod take note and give its attention to the marked increase in the use of English by the youth of the Church, and state how to deal with this. After a rather heated discussion, the Assembly decides to vote on a previously made motion. This is voted upon and reads as follows: The Synod recognize that the trend toward the use of English by the youth of our Church, and the danger of being estranged by the use of it from the Church, is worthy of a serious consideration but.....

. it is most difficult at this time to make a ruling on this. The matter is referred to the Mission Committee, and Synod proceeds with the order of the day.

Art. 50. Point 3 of the Agenda, Classis Grand Rapids. The Synod will give its judgment on the following question. Does an elder have a deciding vote at a Classical Examination? Forty two delegates affirm this; fourteen oppose it.

Art. 51. Point 4, Classis Hudson: The Synod reduce the quota for the Theological School for Classis Hudson has been assessed too highly. Point "f" is taken up at this time referring to Special Congregations, Graafschap and Niekerk, who ask for a re-examination of the quotas for the Theological School, and as a committee, Gelock, Heyboer, and the Rev. Moordewier will report on this.

Intermission

Art. 52. Point "a", Classis Holland: that the decision made earlier concerning the return of funds for transportation costs from ministers of foreign countries, who at a definite time leave their Congregations, after a short stay; be taken up in the general regulations of the Church, and should this ruling not be available now, then the Synod formulate a new ruling concerning this. This is under discussion and the motion is accepted that the following will be the rule. The transportation expenses of a Minister to our Church from a church in a foreign country, will be paid with this understanding, that the transportation charges will be repaid if said Minister leaves his charge before the lapse of a reasonable length of time. If the Minister should remain for only one year in a charge, three fourths of the transportation expense will be paid to the Congregation which he is leaving, one half will be repaid if he remains for only two years, one fourth if he remains for three years, and at the end of the fourth year the amount is cancelled. This information will from now on be included in any "Letter of Call".

Art. 53. Point 7 of the Agenda: Classis Holland also wishes to call to the attention of the Synod the need of calling a second Professor for the Theological School. The question is asked what names there are on a former list. There are four names on the list: the Revs. Bos, Door Van Hoogen, Vander Sluis. Since the Rev. Hemkes has also been considered, he absents himself. The motion is made and passed not to consider the names of the four ministers, mentioned above. Professor Boer proposes the Rev. Hemkes as a desirable prospect. He bases this on the pleasant co-operation and good order in his work, and also in his manner of instruction. The students also desire the Rev. and submit a petition to the Synod to this effect. A motion is made and passed that a trio be formed. Voting shows the following: The Rev. Hemkes, 64 votes; Cand. G. Vos, 42; Wielenga, 39.

Art. 54. Point 3: The Consistory of the Vriesland Church asks the Synod if it would not be more appropriate and suitable if the Day of Prayer for plantings and Harvest be held the second week in April, since it was held earlier. The Spring season comes later here than in the Netherlands, and now the Day of Prayer is held when it is still winter and the ground still covered with snow. Nevertheless Synod decided to leave the date the same as spring-time comes at different times in different areas.

Art. 55. The Synod discuss the request of Noordeloos, that the Synod reconsider a former decision, in the use of the pulpit by the Elders in reading services, and if this rule is not now in effect that it then be reinstated.

Art. 56. A request from the Congregation of Vogel Center: The Synod decide that the "Wachter" be no longer used for the publication of religious disputes; also concerning the matter of Apologetics.

by the Rev. Hulst in the "Wachter"; the following is decided: The Synod appreciates the articles by the Rev. Hulst on Apologetics and printed in the "Wachter" and asks him to continue with these, with a wise choice of words in each case.

Concerning Vogel Center: The "Wachter" will refrain from publishing personal and religious articles, and to refuse to accept articles which have not been written to stress or advance the truth, but rather injure a person. Nevertheless, the "Wachter" will not refuse to accept an exchange of ideas on future matters as long as they have a fraternal connotation.

Art. 57. Art. 67, 1883. The affair of N.N. in the Netherlands has been investigated. Proof has been received that there was a legal separation, also that the man lived in an unlawful way, and a more recent communication from the Netherlands, confirmed his guilt more than formerly. The Synod decides to leave matters as they now stand in the case of N.N.

An intermission.

Art. 58. The reading of the report by the Committee on the matter of the Theological School is now in order. It is stated that the Committee worked with the various Classis Correspondents in the preparation of the quotas for the School. The following motion is made and accepted: Since there has been very little objection against the quotas of the School

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and that this matter can be discussed much better in the individual Classes than at the Synod; it refers this matter back to the Classes, with the understanding that the Churches contribute as the Classis decides, hoping to reach the desired goal in this manner. The quotas for the Classes and the Churches in each Classis read as follows:
(Note: List of quotas omitted as of minor importance.)

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Art. 59. The Rev. Smidt wishes to have this statement appended to Article 14; this is to be added to Art. 14 concerning German Church Music: "yet Germans, recently arrived either in Congregations or as individual Church members, will be promised that in the future, as much as possible, German speaking Ministers will be provided, and in regard to Church Music, German spirit and tradition will be considered as much as possible!"

There is a protest on this as follows: The undersigned protest the above, and especially the last clause which reads "and in regard to Church Music, etc." since what Synod promised here, it dared not give in Art. 12. and therefore it should remain by the decision of Art. 18. of the Synod of 1883. (Signed by 14 delegates)

Art. 60 The report on the affairs at Ackley, Iowa. The Committee met on last Friday evening with the Rev. J.C. Greenfield, Zwagerman and Schaap. Since all the brothers had letters with them from both groups of those protesting, and the Rev. Greenfield also one from the Consist these were read. The letters of the protestants were signed by eleven persons all heads of families. The Committee listened patiently to the Rev. Greenfield, Zwagerman, and Schaap, and when all had time and again said what they wished to say, the Committee advised that the following proposal be accepted:

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that both sides desist in being so narrow minded, and also stop judging who is more or less in the right, to forget the past and to look ahead instead, and strive for the prize of the high calling of God which is above,

2nd. The term of the present Consistory expires at the end of the year, and then the Congregation can choose another Consistory,

3rd. The \$600.00 for the sale of the parsonage and the land, and the \$50.00 for the sale of the Church, by the members who left, will be considered later.

4th. The members who had left the Congregation, may return to it and resume all the rights of members of the Church.

5th. All that has been either written or published about this matter will be entirely forgotten as not having occurred.

The Rev. Greenfield accepts this report. The Synod does likewise and with a hearty wish for nothing but co-operation by everyone in this matter.

Art. 61. The Committee in connection with Art. 47 in the request of Rev. Coelingh reports: After reports and discussions on this matter, the Synod feels that it cannot grant the Reverend his request. But since the Reverend has asked to serve vacant Churches the Synod will recommend him and will support him to the amount of \$100.00 for one year, and that will be from the Home Mission fund. This will be a contribution for his work in vacant Congregations. The General Mission Committee will regulate matters.

Art. 62. The synod comes to the choice of a second Professor, and at this, the Rev. Hemkes leaves the room. The President offers prayer before the voting takes place. There must be a two thirds majority in this and if this does not occur, the voting will be repeated. When the votes are counted, the results are as follows: Hemkes 35; Vos 18; Wielenga 13.

Page 25. A second vote gives the Rev. Hemkes 48, and Candidate Vos, 18.

A second vote gives the Rev. Hemkes, 48 votes, and Candidate Vos, 18. After the Rev. Hemkes has expressed a word of appreciation to the Assembly, stating that he will consider the Call carefully, the Synod deems it necessary to appoint an alternate, should the Reverend decline, or be prevented by other unforeseen circumstances. Candidate Vos and Rev. Wielenga are considered as alternates, and the Rev. J.H. Vos motions to give the vote to the Rev. Wielenga.

Art. 63. A Committee on transportation costs is chosen, after which the Synod adjourns.

The Session of Tuesday afternoon, June 17.

Devotions.

Art. 64. The Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Committee now reports. \$13.86 was received for Bible distribution, which has been sent on to Mr. Muuse of Amsterdam, for the "Bibletent". Then a note amounting to \$500.00 was sent to the Missionary Board of the Netherlands, and in October there came a request for the payment of the note. This at that time amounted to \$514.58 and was sent on to the Netherlands. A letter acknowledging the receipt of this was received with words of appreciation for the remittance. The question now is how the Committee is to proceed. A motion is made to send \$600.00 more to the Netherlands since the Board is very much in need of that amount. The balance in the Mission treasury at present is \$1346.69.

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Art. 65. The Synod is informed that the Classical Mission Committees are formed, and that the general Mission Committee has taken over the Books of the Treasurer as well as the monies from the former Mission Committee, by which act the Art. 47, 1883 is nullified. The President expresses a word of appreciation to the Old Committee for its faithfulness in the work it has done.

Art. 66. The Mission Committee states that the monies needed by the Home Mission Committee which monies were given to Classis Iowa, have now been returned to the Gen. Missions Committee.

Art. 67. A matter is called to the attention of the Synod: Since the Rev. Hemkes is at present, the Editor of the "Wachter" and has now been appointed to a Professorship, and if he accepts the Call, it will be impossible for him to function as the Editor, and the question now is: What shall be done?

After this is discussed, it is decided to nominate four brothers for the task. After the vote was taken, the brothers L.J. Hulst, R.T. Kuiper, J.A. De Bruyn, H. v.d. Warp were chosen as editors. The first two mentioned brothers will receive a stipend of \$75.00 each and the last two, \$50.00 each.

Art. 68. The Classical Committee of Classis Iowa, at a recent meeting, (June 18) has come to the conclusion that there must be an end to the impossible situation in which the Congregation at Orange City finds itself, in connection with its minister, the Rev. Stadt, and the minister in connection with the Congregation. The Committee advises that the Reverend be relieved of his duties as a Minister of the Church at Orange City. This is discussed and accepted by the Synod.

Art. 69. Seeing that the Rev. v.d.Werp has resigned his Curatorship, and that the Rev. Mm Hemkes will also resign, if he accepts his call, the Assembly now proceeds to choose two men to succeed them.....

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PA The Revs. J.A De Bruyn and J. Post are chosen. The question is, which one shall function as a Trustee? This matter is left to the Trustees to decide.

Art. 70. Enumerates the Treasurers of the various funds.
Of no value in translation.

The Synod recalls the Emeritus Fund, and expresses a desire that the offerings for this fund be generous, as it asks the Congregations to recall Article 7 of the Synod of 1883, which see.

Art. 71. Since brother Gelock has functioned now for many years as the Treasurer of various funds, and has always kept the records and books in excellent order, and since this necessitated much time and labor on his part; it is decided to present the elder with a gift of no less than \$25.00 and no more than \$50.00 for his faithful work. A Committee will see that this is carried out.

Art. 72. The Rev. Hemkes is reappointed to the Synodical Committee. The Rev. Kuiper retires from this Committee the following year.

Art. 73. To improve the payments for the subscription of the "Wachter", the names of those who have paid their subscriptions will be published in the paper monthly.

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This account shall also be kept in the Customer's Book.

Art. 74. The Congregation of Beaverdam asks the Synod if it may borrow the sum of \$300.00 from any Church fund with good security and interest, for a period of two or three years. Allendale requests the loan of \$700.00 with the same terms as those of Beaverdam. This is to be used for the building of a parsonage. These matters are referred to the Treasurer, since Synod cannot take up such matters.

Art. 75. The Rev. Noordewier asks: Since the Church Visitors in Classis Hudson have used the same rules as those used in the Netherlands, would it not be a good plan to put those same rules into practice here in our Churches? The Synodical Committee is mandated to review these rules, and if they can be approved, they are to be recommended to the various Classes. But there are some which are not applicable such as the one on "Klopscholen".

Note: The word "Klopscholen" is difficult when it comes to a translation of the word. Permit this explanation: Nuns would go about the homes in a village or town and knock on the doors and ask the parents if the children might come to the Nunneries for study, training and handwork, in this manner, no doubt, attempting to win them over to the Roman Catholic faith. --Translator.

Art. 76. The next session of the Synod will be held in Grand Rapids on the second Wed. in June, 1886, (D.V.) with the same representation as at present. But should extra-ordinary circumstances necessitate a Session during the interim; the Synodical Committee in conjunction with the Curators, will have the right to convene the Synod in a special Session. The Rev. Greenfield closes this session with prayer.

An evening Session, the final one. Tuesday June 17.

Art. 78. The Minutes are read and accepted.

Art. 79. The quotas for the Theological School are to be published in the "Wachter" and that right soon.

Art. 80. Since it might prove embarrassing to have two Editors of the "Wachter" functioning at the same time, the Synod suggests that one may resign if he so wishes....

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but the Synod leaves this to the brothers to decide.

Art. 81. The delegates to the T.R.P.D. Church are the Rev. E.v.d.Vries and Elder Beeuwkes. It is brot to mind that the brothers of this Church have expresses a desire to join with our Church. The brothers delegates are to keep this in mind and give it serious thought, and to report at the next Synod, while keeping in touch with the Synodical Committee.

Art. 82. The REv. J.H.Vos will express the appreciation of the Synod to the Spring St. Congregation for acting as hosts to the delegates, for both food and lodging and for the the affection shown them during the Sessions.

Art. 83. The Synod also expresses its appreciation to the Editor of the "Standard" for the interest shown in the publication of the Acts and doings of the for the bebenefit of its readers, (altho there were some inaccuracies)

Art. 84. Since all the work has been completed, the President now addresses the Assembly. The delegates need not look for a learned discourse, my Brothers, rather just a word from the heart. I have thanked the brothers for the honor bestowed upon me when I undertook this task, but I paid dearly for this, and I ask to be forgiven for the many failings. Intentionally, I have offended no one; should anyone think so, may I be forgiven? Now you wish me to censure those who have left the Sessions before it adjourned. This is most difficult as I feel guilty for my shortcomings also. Let the delinquents ask for forgiveness. Let Him make right what is wrong and let him make each one to understand that he must carry out his mission in a proper way.

The Rev. Rietdijk, the Vice President, thanks the President in the name of the Synod stating that the Assembly also remembers its failings, if it has made the task of the President difficult, and the Synod thanks the President for his zeal and long suffering, and above is thankful to the Lord who has given him the strength to carry on. Much can happen to the delegates before the next session opens, many can be removed from this existence. The Lord bless you as the years advance in all your tasks, may he prolong your days, so that we may meet again. Thus the Lord be with you, with the Church, with our School and its professors, and with all believers thruout the world. with the best wishes and with a prayer the President ends the Sessions with thanksgiving.

Signed: The Revs. Hulst, Rietdijk, Hemkes, Noordewier.

Supplement I

The Report of the Synodical Committee to the Synod of the H.C.R.Church,
Meeting in Grand Rapids, on June 11, 1884.

Beloved Brothers in the Lord:

According to a decision of your honorable Assembly of 1883, in regard to English services by the Brothers of the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the East, Art. 62, Synod of 1883, which reads as follows:

Our Synod of 1883 recalls a point which it was impossible for them to discuss previously, namely the preaching in our Community in the English language. In a more complete review of this matter, it expresses its interest in your offer, and the Synod would be glad to see that you, in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Churches, could fulfill this request. Your Committee has this decision and it requests this of your Assembly, with letters accompanying it to those interested brothers, in the hope that this request can now be followed up by you.

We however received a reply from the brothers along this line, dealing especially with this matter:

The Rev. De Baum was present at your Sessions in 1882 and assured you at that time that they were ready to accept the invitation, to preach in Grand Rapids and its environs in the English language. Then it was not considered necessary to preach in the English language as yet. The Rev. De Baum suggested that by postponing this, it might become too late to do anything. And now, in 1883, it is too late. We have since received a request to preach in northern New York. We are now laboring there and a large field has opened up for us.

In addition to this, we cannot see how mission work in that vicinity can be accomplished. It would be necessary for us to send some one. Sending one of our Candidates would be out of the question for so weighty a matter, It would be a task for one of our ministers to carry out. And we could not expect them to be absent from their Congregations for more than two weeks. Transportation costs to Grand Rapids would be \$45.00, this is not excessive. Then another person would go, and another \$45.00. We would be doing this for a year. Nor do I think that our Ministers would have peace of mind, by engaging in a task with so much uncertainty, leaving their families, and not knowing where to go nor what to expect.

The question of Music must be considered. The song books which we use at present are out of print. To use the Reformed song book with seven hundred hymns is not desirable. The United Presbyterian Hymn Books are unknown to us.....

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and they are, furthermore, not authorized by our Classis. Singing Holland Psalms is impossible for our Ministers.

Then, also, our Brothers here do not consider preaching in your locality as Mission work by their Church, because they are not asked to preach in an area where there is no Evangelical preaching, or where there are Churches preaching false doctrines.

Church union was also desired with us. Acknowledging each others attestations, exchanging pulpits and an open Communion, do not seem to be sufficient grounds for union to them.

The Rev. De Baum desired to attend your Sessions, but illness prevented him from doing so, as we were informed by the brothers in Paterson.

A communication was also received from the Consistory of South Holland, on Sept. 5. another on Nov. 12, 1883, and still another on Jan. 1, 1884, in which the consistory returns to a Protest - submitted by Classis Holland earlier - in regard to the matter of the Rev. Fles, the present minister of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in Zeeland. The Rev. Fles has given this Classis satisfaction, and in connection with this it was written in the name of the Classis and sent to South Holland, namely that the Rev. Fles, on the the question of Eschatology in his published Question book, retracted this as being contrary to the Doctrines of the Reformed Church.

The Congregation at South Holland could not accept this answer of the Classis, no more than the article which the Rev. had published in the "Wachter," and it had requested the Synodical Committee repeatedly to bring this matter to the floor of the Synod. We note that Classis Illinois has submitted the same request, so now this matter will naturally come up for discussion.

The Consistory of our Congregation at Rotterdam, submitted a letter dated December 22 with a request for the \$200.00 which had been promised to Oostfriesland, and which the latter is not using. The Committee had stated to Oostfriesland to make no arrangements for this amount, but it wrote to Rotterdam to bring its request to the Synod.

The R^v. J. Stadt makes the same request in the name of the Consistory of Rotterdam and he has received the same reply.

HOME MISSIONS

The attempts by the newly formed Mission Committee to acquire a Home Missionary pastor, have up to this time not had the desired results. After the Rev. P. Schut declined, the Rev. P. Ekster was called. He also declined and the Rev. Kuiper was called, and we were again disappointed. The Rev. Greve had just left Passaic for Cincinnati, so he was unavailable, and since the designated students could not yet receive calls, the question arose, What now? Shall we make an attempt in the Netherlands or remain here and thus continue our attempts? No suitable solution to this question was the reason for letting the matter rest. The question to ask at the next Synod was, "What now?"

Letters from Ackley, Nov. 19, Dec. 12, 1883, and Jan. 11, 1884, were read containing a continual protest....

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concerning the acts of the Consistory there, and a desire to have the whole matter reviewed by the Synod. These were all submitted to the Synod in conjunction with the Curators. These brothers judged that a communication should be directed to the signers of the letters, that in case they could not let the matter rest, and a solution was found by letting the Synod review the matter, then it should be brot before the Synod.

All the letters are here with me as well as the protests.

The correspondence with sister Churches has been maintained. However, we have had no official reply has been received from any of these.

With a prayer that the benign countenance of our Lord may shine down on our Assembly, in all its discussions and all its decisions, we are your brothers

The Committee

W.H. Frieling

R.T. Kuiper

G. Hemkes

January, 1884

SUPPLEMENT II.

This is the rpeort of the Auditing committee and the statements of the various funds which it has audited. It is of no interest in the translation. A.B.L.

This ends the Acts of 1884. This has no index.

An index of all the Acts is to be found in the Library. A.B.L.