

**1886**

[1886] Handelingen van de Synodale Vergadering der Holl. Chr. Geref. Kerk, gehouden te Grand Rapids, Mich., den 9den Juni, en volgende dagen, 1886.

TRANSLATION:

**ACTS OF SYNOD  
OF THE  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
ASSEMBLED AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN  
June 9, ff., 1886**

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.

Note: Synodical Sessions become biennial until 1939, after which the Synod met annually.

Art. 1. The Reverend L.J.Hulst, President of the previous Session of Synod, opened the Session with a short discourse, as follows:

My dear Brothers, Ministers and Elders, and others who are present: We are assembled here, in the providence of God to carry on a weighty task, for the purpose of advancing the well-being of his Kingdom.

I had in mind an appropriate expression of Christ, which He uttered to his disciples, and I had considered it as an appropriate text for my sermon last evening. I am referring to his statement, "Possess your souls with patience". This I shall discuss for a few minutes. It should be to your advantage also. One need not say that this expression is especially necessary, since each one controls himself otherwise, and thus masters himself so that no one overrules or lords it over him.

Through sin, however, man has become falsely independent over against the Lord, but there are those who through grace have withdrawn their independence and have taken over the dependence of Christ our Lord. There is much that differs in these two types. If you do not possess this independence in Christ, then the world and the devil are in possession of your being. This is also the case with us

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now that we are assembled as a Synod. We must also possess our souls in patience. As Ministers and Elders we must answer to the Lord. He can call us up to his throne tomorrow to answer to him for a settlement of our accounts. Do we not possess our souls in patience we are lost for God's Kingdom, and thus taken up in the world.

Now the question is, "How shall we do this." There are two ways open to us. The first is by the use of force and by domineering, the way of the "Ego" which is non-Christian. Harsh words are spoken, fists are doubled, the opposition increases. Cannon, as it were, are placed on the wall. But Jesus points the other way, when he said to Peter, "Put thy sword back in its scabbard, those who use the sword shall perish by it. "Possess your souls in patience" Keep on this path; he who uses force fails. The devil may rave, people may cause an uproar but the Christian who possesses his soul in patience is unswerving. His way of life is in God's hand, and he exclaims, "Lead me, O Lord, as it pleases thee; teach me, speak to me for thy servant heareth." Then let death overcome us, we die but to live.

This application can again be applied to us; that we as a synod are set between two rocks, Rationalism and Mysticism. Against either, one could easily justify his existence but in the deed the best is the most difficult. Only then can we do this when we, as Christ has said: "Possess your souls in patience."

Let us join in prayer.

Art. 2. Here are listed the delegates, (not necessary for the translation)

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The list of delegates continues thru entire page.

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Article 3. The officers of the Synod:

Pres: Rev. L Rietdijk  
V.P. " R. Duiker  
Clerk, " P. Schut  
Asst. Cl. J. Noordewier.

Art. 4. The Rev. L.J.Hulst, the retiring President, with a few well chosen words surrenders the Chair to the Rev. Rietdijk, extending to him the blessing of the Lord in his so weighty and all important task. Rev. Reitdijk answers, that only with his eye fixed on the Lord dare he undertake this task.

Art 5. The Vice President, in the name of the Synod bids the delegates from the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church a hearty welcome and asks their help in the interests of the Synod.

The Rev. J. Voorhis replies in the English language, which when translated is as follows:

"My Brothers and co-workers, who labor together in one common cause and belief,

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It will be difficult for us to address you since there are some among you who do not understand the English language. We were present at your Sessions some years ago in Chicago, Illinois, and we find that many persons whom we admired for the cause of the Truth are no longer present with you. Our continued acquaintance with the members of Classis Hudson, and the ministers occupying our pulpits time and again, has done much to strengthen the bonds between us. It gives us much pleasure to be here with you, and we hope and pray that your acts will tend toward a more complete union of these two branches of the Church which was so dearly purchased by the blood of Christ"

Art. 6. More delegates arrive and they are seated.

Art. 7. The President now reads the Articles of Agreement, and all the delegates pledge allegiance to these with an affirmative answer.

Art. 8. After the delegates have seated themselves according to Classes, the time for the sessions is set: 8:00-11:45 A.M.; 2:00-5:00 P.M.; with a 15 minute intermission during each session.

Art. 9. The rule which has been observed before, is again in force, that no one unless it pertains to his person, shall take the floor more than twice on any topic, and then with a five to ten minute time limit.

Arts. 10, 11, Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 12. It is decided that the Professors are present in an advisory capacity.

Art. 13. Reporters of the Dailies are permitted to be present, but to prevent any misunderstanding, their notes shall be reviewed before they are submitted for publication by the two Clerks of the Synod.

Art. 14. The omission of the signing of the oath against Simony by the Rev. J. Plesscher is discussed. The Reverend, formerly in the Old Reformed Church in Germany, was called by the Holland Chr. Ref. Church in Lincoln Center, Iowa, and examined and installed by Classis Iowa, But the signing of the Oath had been overlooked. The Synod declares that this is not within their sphere, but it will be done if Classis Iowa desires it. The Rev. Boer carries out the completion of this.

Art. 15. The Rev. Baron sends his greetings to the Synod, expressing his interest and wishing them the blessing of the Lord. Received as information.

Art. 16. The President now welcomes the new ministers who are present at the Synod for the first time. They are the Revs. P. Kosten, J. Geulker, Jno. Vander Werp, J. Riemersma, W. Heyns, and J. Plesscher.

Art. 17. The Minutes of the Session of 1884 are to be read. However it was decided to transfer this task to a Committee, which Committee can scan the Articles of that year which need further discussion.

Art. 18. A communication from the Church of Passaic, N.J. is read...

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stating the reason no delegates have been sent. The Rev. Drukker had just arrived in their Congregation,, and they did not relish his absence so soon and for such a long time. The elders were unable to leave because of working conditions.

Art. 19. The Mandates are discussed which still bear the letter heads of the "True Holland Reformed Church". It is explained that this is an oversight, and these should be put aside and the new name now be used.

South Holland does not accede to this, however, and the Rev. Meinders presents an Article to the Synod which nullifies the above reason. The delegates are seated, nevertheless in the status in which they have appeared.

Art. 20. Classis Illinois presents the question appearing in the Agenda, in close connection with the irregularity of the Mandates of South Holland. The question is this:

"If the Rev. E.L. Meinders, who doubts before the Classis Illinois, whether the Holland Christian Reformed Church still stands on the grounds of the Reformation or not, in other words: whether the Holland Ch. R. Church is a continuation of the former Reformed Church in the Netherlands, and thus has returned with his Congregation to the original grounds with the intentional retention of the old name, the True Holl. Ref. Church; does not by this step break the bonds of the congregation, which have bound him with the Holland Christian Reformed Church up to this time?

The matter appearing in the Agenda, in Art. 19 bears on this very matter, and this reads as follows:

It is entitled "An Explanation"

By the Consistory of the True Holland Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois to the Synod of the Holland Chr. Ref. Church, to be held June 9, 1886.

We greet this most honored Body.

Since our explanation was presented incorrectly by Classis Illinois in the Agenda and also in the Wachter, this

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explanation is made again, as well as the reasons for same, which are as follows: I do believe that the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America, is actually an historical continuation of the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands in regard to its present existence, but doubt very much if it is an actual continuation, historically of the Netherlands Reformed Church in regard to its Confession of Faith, and the Articles of the Synod of Dordt, 1618-1619, and Elder Van der Aa is in accord with this. The ground on which this explanation rests is as follows:

Art. 1/ In the previous section, noting the whole part of it, namely that the Holland Christian Reformed Church is an actual continuation of the Christian Reformed Church, which is doubted by the Netherlands Reformed Church, leads to two permissible conclusions, namely a) that the Holland Chr. Ref. Church and the Christian Reformed Church are one in essence, and b) that from both of these Church organizations, there is a doubt if the actual historical continuations are from the Reformed Church in the manner in which it is stated; and for this reason the Congregation of South Holland, with an overwhelming vote thought it the safest course to return to the original position; and that is of the True Holland Reformed Church, under the name and title of which, it is incorporated in the state of Illinois.

Art. 2/ The doubt lies bound up in the origin of the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands, from which the Holland Christian Reformed Church is an actual historical continuation.

Art. 3. This organization under the name and title of the Christian Seceding Church, is a showy denial of the doctrine, discipline, and the rights of the Reformed Church; and although the Church now carries the name and title of Christian Reformed Church, because of more freedom in worship, the Church as far as is known, has never recalled this previous fact officially.

Art. 4/ And although the Church Order of Dordt was again established in the Christian Reformed Church in place of that of Utrecht, and for putting aside the Utrecht Confession of guilt; thus the whole matter is reviewed in every respect in the expression of the Rev. Littboij, and sanctioned by the Rev. Kleinendorst....

and yet by various Church organs, and as well as we recollect by the Theological School at Kampen, it is acclaimed with praise. And the "Wachter" the Church organ of the Christian Reformed Church, has done the same.

Art 5/ And even if the union of the Christian Reformed Church with the Reformed Church is weakened very much due to Free Masonry, she nevertheless displays this by keeping quiet in the matter out of reverence with the Doctrine of the Reformed Church. And from the addresses in the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church the desire for a suitable union on the part of the Christian Reformed Church, has been clearly shown.

Art. 6/ The acceptance by the Synod of the questions of the Reverends Smidt and Fles.

Art. 7/ Sanctioning the publications of the Rev. L.J.Hulst in the "Wachter" on Ephesians 5:14, and condemning the reports of this and that one along the same line, and of the Consistory of South Holland by the Synodical Committee, and the decision taken at the last Synod, which will to all appearances be sanctioned by the President of the Synod.

Art. 8/ The public accusations of Classis Holland by means of the "Wachter" for the manner in which the Rev. Meinders has written in the "Grondwet" without previous warnings and reprimands.

Art. 9. Various articles which have either a direct or an indirect bearing or air of the Remonstrants to them, which have been published in the "Wachter" are honored or justified. Nor is the Consistory in agreement with the type of preaching of the Rev. Hulst in the "Wachter" in regard to which the Rev. Meinders will publish a booklet in the near future.

Art. 10. Neglecting the preaching of the Catechism and omitting the reading of the Law, bringing corpses into the Church, and then conducting funeral services, as well as the presence of this or that minister at the ceremony in other Churches, as it was reported to us, and in every sense is assumed to be the truth.

Art. 11/ Our doubts rest on these grounds which have been stated, and we hope that they may be considered by the Synod in a prayerful manner, both the question from Classis Illinois and the other points presented by South Holland. And we intend to embrace the doctrine and the discipline of the Reformed Church of the Netherlands. "Here we stand, we can not do otherwise, and may the Lord help us, and let this be so."

And should the Synod answer the question asked by the Classis Illinois in the Agenda, in the affirmative, we hope in spite of this, to honor and cherish the Holland Christian Reformed Church, and may the Lord give us the strength to pray for each other.

In the name of the Consistory,

E.L.Meinders

L. Vander Aa.

Now it appears that this is the "bone of contention" of the matter stated in the Agenda, with a much more detailed explanation. Therefore this is considered to be a true report from South Holland, and it will be examined article by article. Thus the discussion begins.

Art. 21. Devotions and an intermission.

The Thursday Morning Session.

Art. 22. The Minutes of the previous Session are read, corrected, and accepted.

Art. 23. Mandates are read of delegates whom have just arrived at the Assembly, and they are seated.

Art. 24. Because of the death of Mr. M. den Bleyker at Graafschap, the delegates from there ask to be excused from the morning session of Friday. The Synod grants permission if their alternates are present to take their places.

Art. 25. Articles 1,2,3 are now to be discussed concerning the matter with South Holland.

The entire discussion centers about this point: Our Church is now formally one with the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands. This Church has, by assuming the name of the Christian "Seceding" in regard to the doctrine, discipline, and rights of the Netherlands Reformed Church, 1618-1619, denied her before the eyes of the world. Taking unto itself the name of the Christian Reformed Church....

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has not changed the matter, as she has never officially confessed her guilt in accepting the name of the Christian "Seceding (Church)

From the explanation of the delegates from South Holland, it becomes plain that these seem to mean that earlier our Church was not formally one with the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands, but should have sought after this and should have become so.

Brother Gelock remarks that our Church at all times had sought to be one with the Church in the Netherlands, which can be proved by complaints and requests, submitted by dignitaries of the Dutch Reformed Church. That our secession never meant anything else, can be proved from the Acts of our Church in the Assemblies from 1857-1860, the "seceding" Church.

Further attempts are made to make it plain to the delegates from South Holland, that the Christian Reformed Church had the name Christian "Seceding" thrust upon it by the government, and we have seceded to remain Reformed, as we have done here now. The Christian Reformed Church has never released its hold on the principles of the Synod of Dordt, as the Acts of secession of 1834 show, and also the Synodical Acts of the Christian Seceding Reformed Church, from 1836-1857, page 17 c, Nos. 1,2,3. There are eye witnesses here in our presence who have lived thru this secession in the Netherlands and so can verify it as the truth.

After a lengthy discussion on this matter the Synod decides to discontinue it, and to transfer the whole matter to an appointed Committee, who will discuss the matter point by point, and submit at a later time a complete report to the Synod.

Art. 26 The Synod proceeds to a discussion of Art. 4. concerning the acceptance of the Church Order of Utrecht, and Art. 5. concerning the relation of both Churches to the Reformed Church, and then to Art. 6. concerning the protest of the Acts of Synod of 1884, in connection with the Revs. Smidt and Fles. The discussions are long and the delegates must exercise their patience, and every method is put into play to convince the delegates from South Holland. The discussion of Art. 6. is not completed before the time of adjournment of the morning session.

Art. 27. Intermission and devotions.

Art. 28. The discussion of Art. 6. is discontinued, and Art. 7. is now taken up. This deals with the article of the Rev. Hulst on Ephesians 5:14.....

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and then to Art. 8. concerning the complaint of the article to the Rev. Meinders, in the "Wachter", and then to a discussion of Art. 9. concerning the spirit of some of the articles appearing in the "Wachter". From there the discussion proceeds to Art. 10, concerning the statement that there was neglect in the preaching of the Catechism, and the reading of the law, of bringing the bodies of deceased persons into the Church and the preaching of funeral sermons.

The Assembly continues in the spirit of great patience and fraternal admonition, leaving no stone unturned in an attempt to convince the delegates of South Holland that their presumptions are false and groundless, and it makes every possible attempt to remove all the offenses as speedily as possible, since the Synod wishes to be reformed and maintain the good order of the Church.

Art. 29. The Assembly comes to Art. 11, which is the conclusion of the entire protest and now a complaint. It is now decided to appoint a Committee to investigate and report on the whole matter, and this Committee is to be prepared to report on the matter on the following morning.

The Committee: the Revs. J.H.Vos, Douwstra, Bode, Schut, Noordewier, and the Elders, Gelock and Boswinkel.

Art. 30. A motion is made to begin the Monday afternoon session at one o'clock, after the work of this week is completed, with a Friday evening session. This gives the delegates living some distance away an opportunity to return to their homes over the week end. The ministers of the various Churches shall make this known.

Arts. 31,32. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 33. (June 11) The Assistant Clerk informs the Assembly that the Committee in the matter of the South Holland church is not yet fully prepared to render its report, but it hopes to be prepared very soon. The Rev. Noordewier proposes in name of the Committee that the reading of the Minutes of the former Session be delayed, since they have the Minutes and the report and they include all the matters that were discussed on the day previous, so that the synod can wait for the report. This is satisfactory to the Assembly.

Art. 34. The Assembly considers what should be done during the interim. It takes up the Agenda and the request of the Hardewijk Congregation, "The Synod is asked to consider the quota of the Hardewijk Church, in connection with the Theological School. It is decided to postpone this matter until quotas are discussed.

Art. 35. The Rev. T. v.d. Bosch asks permission to ask a question concerning Art. 58,59, 60, of our general regulations in the acceptance and the installation of members who come to us from other Congregations. The Synod decides to make no changes in these, and proceeds with the order of the day.

Art. 36. The Committee is now prepared to report on the matter pertaining to South Holland. The Committee met to discuss this matter on the previous evening. After the Pres. offers a word of prayer, the Committee discussed each point earnestly and carefully, point by point, and now briefly states the complaints and the possible solution of each.

Articles 1,2,3, of the protest of South Holland concedes that the Consistory believes that the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America is an historical extension of the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands, but sincerely doubts if both the Churches actually are a historical continuation of the Netherlands Reformed Church of 1618-1619.

Therefore they have returned to the old name and the old grounds under which our Church was originally incorporated.

The ground for this doubt, advanced by the Consistory of South Holland, lies in the organization of the Church in the Netherlands, of which the Holland Christian Reformed Church is an extension. She has assumed the name of the Christian "Seceding" Church and by so doing denies, the doctrine, the discipline, and the rights of the Reformed Church....

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and has again taken on the name "Reformed" but according to the delegates of South Holland, has never officially recalled the former fact.

The Synod has an answer to these circumstances, and the removal, if possible, of this protest, answered yesterday, that the adoption of the name Christian "Seceding" Church occurred because we could not obtain the freedom of worship, because of government regulations, but that she had never in name nor in meaning relinquished the word "Reformed" which is very apparent in the fact that various Congregations call themselves Reformed, and as an example, Professor Van velzen always poses as a Reformed minister. What concerns the change in the name, the Committee for the rest, leaves this to the account of the Church in the Netherlands.

In America, the Church dropped the name of the True Dutch Reformed Church, and instead took on the name of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, but by this step she did not wish to abandon the old Reformed church of the Netherlands, of 1618-1619.

Again the delegates from South Holland say, At an earlier period, the True Holland Reformed Church was not formally one with the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands, but later she sought union with and became one with it. And this would be considered an error by our Church here in America.



Now it appears however from the Acts of the Synod from 1857-1860 of the Seceding Christian Reformed Church, and from the explanation of Brother Gelock that the secession of our Church never signified anything else but a continuation of ecclesiastical intercourse with the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands.

Thus, in the opinion of the Committee, the Consistory of the South Holland Congregation in grasping and interpreting the facts, is most unjust.

As to point 4, that the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands has exchanged the Church Order of Utrecht for that of Dordt; it is the opinion of the Committee, that according to a brochure by the late Rev. A. de Vos, onetime Minister of the Church at Zwolle, Netherlands the Church Order of Utrecht had for its aim the omission of those matters which were not applicable to present circumstances, and which had never come under its protection, from the Church Order of Dordt. And although these changes in no way affected the essence of Church rule, and no one perceived an ulterior motive, nevertheless, many objected to these changes so that in order to keep the peace, they, at the Synod of Amsterdam in 1840, dropped the whole matter.

From this it must follow that the Church Order of Utrecht is characterized by no other spirit than that manifested by the Synod of Dordt, as is shown by the cancellation of any proposed changes already prepared in 1840.

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Concerning the statement of the delegates of South Holland that the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands, is not positive in the judgment and in the rejection of incorrect views in the Church, the Committee considers it best not to entertain any judgments concerning this statement.

That our Church at the Synod of 1884 has shown in any way a desire to reunite with the American Reformed Church, is per the perusal of the Minutes of that session very unjust. Our Synod was at that time, as well as now, thoroughly convinced that the platforms of the two Churches differed too greatly, rather than that an earnest consideration could be entertained toward a union. The Synod demonstrated at that time, and now wishes as well that if the differences of both Churches could be removed, and both Churches could Scripturally become one; then the sooner the better, with the promotion of the prayer of Christ "That all who call upon his name may be one".

In regard to the objection of South Holland against the acceptance of the Rev. Fles, the Committee judges that; seeing that the Classis Holland has explained that the Rev. Fles at the Classis in question, confessed his hearty agreement with the Articles of Confession of the time-honored Reformed Church, the 37 Articles, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the 5 Articles against the Remonstrants, and that he rejected everything contrary to these, -even in his own writings, your Committee need not return to these.

But seeing that the Rev. Fles, in one of his three lectures, uses an expression which might lead to the conclusion on non-recognition of the divinity of Christ, -so your Committee considered all such expressions out of order, and dangerous besides, and though they were not meant to be taken amiss, they were nevertheless stated so that they might be.

Since the Rev. Fles has even stated very clearly at this session, that he believed in the divinity of Christ with all his heart, and as his preaching has always shown; the Consistory of South Holland should now rest in this explanation, seeing that these writings had already been distributed before this matter was taken up.

In regard to the objection of South Holland in connection with the booklet of the Rev. Smidt, the Committee decided that the Synod of 1884, acted rather indulgently in regard to permitting German Hymns in prospective German Churches, and since the Rev. himself considered some of them unsuitable, and of insufficient motivation in a tender problem, as he stipulated in his booklet that he pushed their use somewhat, as well as pushing their use in the Holland Church too much; - this urging their use was to be discontinued.

The sixth point of dispute that the Classis of Holland publically censured the Articles of the Rev. Meinders does not hold, since Classis Holland stated in the Synod in this case to have dealt according to Matthew 18 before it made its writings public.

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In connection with point 7, in which the Consistory of South Holland objects to the explanation of the Rev. Hulst, of Ephesians 5:14, the Committee reports that the Rev. withdraws the



Article in the abstract as untenable, but that he as to its meaning has certainly never meant and does not now mean that a person in the smallest measure, can add anything to his salvation, as the Reverend confesses openly in the Synod. The Committee feels that objection to this point thus falls away.

In regard to point 9, that there appears in some writings to be a strain of the Remonstrants; the decision is:

1/ this has to be proved.

2/ that the "Wachter" as such is yet no repository for our Confession of Faith.

3/ that the Committee strongly advises that the Editor be as diligent as possible, and constantly on guard, that even anything in the slightest measure, which smacks of the above spirit, be kept from publication.

As to point 10, in the neglect of reading the law in the Sunday morning services, or failint to preach sermons on the Catechism, bringing corpses into the Church and at that time preaching a funeral sermon, the Committee herewith presents the following resolution to the Synod:

The Synod having heard the complaints of the Consistory of South Holland, that the Church Order is being neglected here and there, hereby declares that this has been noted, and that all Churches shall observe all points in the maintenance of good order in the Church.

Now that all has been said on all points, the Synod fervently expresses the wish that the Congregation of South Holland can rest in this report, and can now live with us under the same name, The Holland Christian Reformed Church, and thus "fight the good fight of faith." We are thoroughly convinced that we embrace the whole truth of the Word of God, according to the Reformed Confession, and we shall do that so long as we live.

Now that the report had been heard, it was accepted by the Synod after a short discussion.

Art. 37. The Rev. Meinders is asked if he has anything to say concerning the matter. He replies, "Not at present".

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Since the first part of the explanation of the Committee is not clear, the rest of the explanation is not understood. Therefore the delegates from South Holland are asked to put their objections in to writing and to report later, which they promise to do.

Art. 38. A motion is made and passed that in the future delegated bring their Classical Minutes with them when they come to the Synod, since this will facilitate and enlighten matters under discussion very often.

Art. 39. The Committee to investigate the Acts of the Synod of 1884, for Articles needing further attention, states that all matters are in good order, and presents a list of Articles that need further discussion.

Art. 40. Articles 12, 14, 59, are brought to the attention of the Synod. These have to do with the protests against the Rev. Smidt, in connection with the use of German Hymns. The Synodical Committee will report on this, so it is omitted for the time being.

Art. 41. Articles 19, 20a, 21, 27, in the Agenda point 3 of Classis Hudson is brought up. This concerns Home Missions. This is postponed until Monday, hoping that the Rev. Kuiper can be present by that time.

The Clerk of the Home Mission Board gives his report. (See Supp. II)

The General Treasurer of Missions reports: Receipts-\$ 1010.46, Disbursements-\$894.06  
Balance and assets- \$1791.40.

Art. 42. Art. 20b, 61, of the Acts of 1884, with Agenda point 4, Classis Holland: A better arrangementshould be made for the salary of the Rev. Coelingh.

The Synod judges that the Rev. is responsible for his own finances, although he will receive \$100.00 annually until the following Synod, as has been the case since 1884.

Art. 43. Elder G.W.Mokma is present as an alternate for the delegate from Graafschap.

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Art. 44. The delegates from South Holland are now prepared to answer the Synod as follows:  
The delegates from South Holland declare that after a careful consideration of the whole matter, they cannot accept the decision of the Synod in regard to their affairs, because their doubt of the actual condition of the Holland Christian Reformed Church does not lessen, but on the other hand increases; therefore we cannot continue in an ecclesiastical manner with the Church unless it returns to its original point of view.

Signed: E.L.Meinders  
J.Meeter.

Professor Boer now addresses the delegates from South Holland in the name of the Assembly.

My dear Brothers:

It is with great sadness in my heart that I now address you. Having heard your complaints and considered them seriously, seems to have had no effect in your decision regarding them.

As you now state, you can no longer continue with us and are now prepared to leave. This causes us much grief. We have done what we could to convince you, but all to no avail.

The warning of the Apostle Paul comes to mind in his Epistle to the Church at Corinth, when he heard of ructions in the Church.

If you have valid reasons for leaving us, and if they are based on the Word of God, and on our Formularies; then I would also have the right to leave. There will be a rupture in the Church, since you have no cause for your actions. You are leaving on mere conjecture, and this certainly cannot be pleasing to the Lord.

Therefore, we ask you at this time not to leave us. Reconsider the steps you are taking. Remain with us. Turn back.

May the Lord give you the light and the wisdom to remain faithful, and to continue laboring with us.

In answer to this, the Rev. Meinders states: It grieves me to depart, but I cannot remain with a clear conscience. My prayer is that the Lord may bring the Church back to the original point of view. Elder Meeter is in accord with the Reverend's remarks, and both delegates with a hand shake of farewell, leave the Assembly.

Art. 45. Intermission.

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Art. 46. The Rev. Schepers brings a request to the Synod from a certain Mr. F. Victorie, a member of the Church at Vogel Center, the father of a large family, and he is nearly blind. He asks if the Synod can not give him some assistance in a financial way, so that he can be put under a doctor's care. An offering is taken at once and the sum of \$31.65 is collected which the unfortunate man accepts with gratitude.

Art. 47. Art. 44 of the Synod of 1884 is up for discussion, which concerns the last minister coming from the Netherlands. A ruling has been made that this Reverend shall take charge of the preaching services some evening while the Synod is in session. The Rev. Plesscher is designated, and he is asked to conduct the services in the Spring St. Church on Monday evening, which he promises to do.

Art. 48. In regard to the question if there is to be a Yearbook in 1887, the answer is in the affirmative, and this is added, that it should be as complete as possible.

Art. 49. Art. 49 of the Synod of 1884 is brought up for discussion with point 6 of the Agenda by Classis Holland, as follows: The Synod earnestly consider if a method cannot be found to institute English preaching services in those areas where there is a demand for same, and this with the purpose of saving the youth of and for our Church. The motion on this is: the Synod make an earnest effort to institute English services and Catechetical instruction in those areas where it is deemed necessary. This is accepted.



Art. 50. Point 1 (Classis Hudson) and point 5 (Classis Holland) of the Agenda. The first statement reads: The Synod is asked, with an eye to the future of our Church, to consider seriously the appointment of a third Professor for the Theological School, preferably one who is capable of teaching English. Point 5 reads: The Synod see to it, if at all possible, that the Faculty at our Theological School be increased. A motion from Classis Grand Rapids follows this at once.

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(see the Agenda, point 11) that is: to unite completely with the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church.

These three matters are all bound up together with the idea of preaching services in the English language, (see previous article) and the whole matter is transferred to a Committee who will report on it the following week.

The Committee consists of: Professor Boer, Revs. T. v.d. Bosch, E.v.d. Vries; Elders, T. Keppel, H. Beeuwkes, J.H. Boswinkel..

Art. 51. The Treasurers for the Dollar Fund, Emeritus Fund, and the Theological School are reappointed. The Rev. Frieling asked to be relieved of his task as Treasurer of the Fund for the distribution of Bibles. The Rev. P. Schut is his successor.

Art. 52. The members of the Synodical Committee: The term of the Rev. R.T. Kuipers expires at this time, and that of the Rev. Frieling in 1887. The Rev. Kuipers is reappointed. Professor Hemkes asked to be relieved of his duties on the Synodical Committee, since the work of the Theological School demands all his time and effort. The Rev. J.H. Vos is chosen to replace him.

Art. 53. A request from Fremont Center is found in the Agenda: The Synod consider a change in the choosing of delegates for the Synodical Sessions, namely, one delegate from each Classis and thus according to the Church Order.

The Synod decides not to make any changes at this time.

Art. 54. Three protests are brought to the attention of Synod: the first from a Mr. H. Marling, a member of the Zeeland Church:

- 1/ Accepting members from other Churches without installation.
- 2/ Neglecting to preach on the birth of Christ at Christmas time, and not celebrating the second holiday.

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3/ Bringing deceased persons into the Church, and conducting funeral services in the Church as well as in private homes.

4/ Leaving it to the individual whether he wishes to carry Fire Insurance or not.

5/ An intermingling of Church members, and opposition among them when there are two Churches in one area.

The Second protest is from a Mr. G.G. Van Huttum, a member of the Spring St. Grand Rapids Church, who states that the Consistory of the Church hesitates to send his membership papers to the Coldbrook Church, because of statements that he made, "that the Minister by lengthy sermons preaches the devil into the Church, and in addition creates disorder by so doing, and he refuses to retract this statement".

A third protest is from Cleveland, East Side, concerning the actions of a deacon, who for a period of five years has deposited the Poor Fund in the Bank under his own name, and then refuses to include the interest on this fund in the Poor Fund, stating that he has been responsible for the funds entrusted to him.

A Committee is chosen to report on these protests at the evening session.

Art. 55. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 56. The Minutes of the Sessions of the last two days are read and approved.

Art. 57. The Committee which was chosen to report on the Protests in Article 55 now does so.

1/ The problem in Cleveland, East Side, The deacon was given no orders to deposit the funds in his care in the Bank, so he could not have disobeyed the Consistory by so doing. Thus he cannot be forced to return the interest to the fund, nevertheless the Committee considers it Both proper and Christlike for him to include the interest in the Poor Fund. The Synod accepts this solution after discussing it.

2/ In the case of Mr. G.G.v. Houtum, He is not innocent in making this remark....

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but this is no reason for not surrendering to him his membership papers. After a discussion, the Synod refers this matter to the Consistory, since the Synod must take care to give no cause for offense in the protection of recalcitrant members.

3/ Concerning H. Marling:

a/ Accepting members from other Congregations without a public installation is permissible in some instances. (See Articles 58, 59 of the General Regulations)

b/ Bringing corpses into the Church is not a matter of principle, and an appropriate discourse at that time is not in conflict with the Church Order.

c/ Concerning the sermons at Christmas time, the Church has stipulated no texts to be used on any occasion.

d/ Whether a person desires to carry Fire Insurance or not is a matter of his own volition. The Church binds no one in this.

e/ Concerning intermingling of Church members and other similar matters, no case of this sort has ever been reported, nor has any misuse of this occurred, so no judgment can be passed on this. After some discussion this report is accepted.

Art. 58, 59 Intermission and devotions.

Monday, June 14.

Art. 60. After a roll-call had been taken it appeared that some of the delegates had left. Others are still expected. Alternates have taken the places of the delegates in some instances. (The list is not given in the translation)

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Art. 61. Art. 27, of 1884 is brought up for discussion, concerning funds for the construction of a Church for the Congregation at Richland, Michigan. The sum of \$200.00 had been stipulated for this Church in 1884. Of this amount the Congregation had received \$100.00. The Committee had held the remaining \$100.00 in check, when it was discovered that Richland was building two Churches instead of one. The Committee feared that this would weaken the project, and that the funds would thus not be used for the purpose for which they were intended.

The delegates from Richland state that of the first \$100.00 received, \$75.00 was used for the building of a Church in the southern section of the community. With the \$25.00 remaining plus the \$100.00 still to come, they had planned another Church building in the northern section of the Community.

The Assembly comes to the conclusion that the Congregation of Richland erred in this matter, i.e. building in two places, but it is decided to give them the remaining \$100.00 the promised balance, since matters have gone thus far.

Art. 62. The Committee chosen to consider Art. 50 reports:

1/ Discussing point 1, namely the preaching of English in the various Congregations of our Church, the entire Committee is in agreement that this matter should not be referred back to the Committee, but rather that it should be considered earnestly, and that a definite attempt should be made to provide the means for furthering this project.

2/ The Committee judges that the best method of reaching its goal is that a third Professor be called who will be qualified to instruct in English, and who will be able

to preach in the English language in the various Congregations. A Committee should be appointed to carry out this matter.

3/ Concerning the union with the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, the Committee advises that this matter be postponed.

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In regard to the worship services in the above named Church, we can inform the Assembly that the following is the order.

- a/ the Psalms of David.
- b/ the 52 songs, in essence similar to ours, and they are in connection with: 1. the Law, 2. The Prayer of our Lord, 3. the Apostles' Creed.
- c/ The hymns of praise of Zacharias, Mary, and Simeon.
- d/ They use the Heidelberg Catechism, the Compendium, the Confession of the Netherlands Reformed Church, the Liturgical Scriptures even as we have them.

4/ In regard to the salary of a third Professor, the Committee would prefer to see an assessment made, as was the case with the other Professors.

This report is accepted, and after a discussion, Points 1, 2, 3, are also sanctioned.

The Session ends with devotions.

Tuesday, June 15.

Art. 63. Devotions.

Art. 64. The Minutes of the previous Session are read and accepted.

Art. 65. Point 4 of Art. 62 is up for discussion. It pertains to the salary of a third Professor. And in connection with this other matters are brought up.

- 1/ The request in the Agenda that the Professor act as the Editor of the Wachter.
- 2/ The training of our own Missionary for Heathen Mission work, as per Grand Haven in the Agenda, as follows: The Synod is kindly and most earnestly requested, -as far as the Synod is concerned- to give special attention to the Indians and other heathen population in our land, since it is (in connection with the information from our Mission Board) more than time to give our attention to these unfortunate peoples, and that as soon as possible a Missionary be provided for that purpose.

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At this time the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board reports on his correspondence with the Foreign Mission Committee of the Chr. Ref. Church in the Netherlands, and the financial status of the Mission. (See Supplement 3)

After a general discussion it is decided:

- 1/ To send 1000 guilders to the Netherlands as the final gift for the Mission work in the East Indies.
- 2/ To begin Mission work among the Heathen.
- 3/ To change the name of Foreign Missions to that of Heathen Missions.
- 4/ To name a Committee who will consider the Heathen Mission in connection with point 4 of the report, concerning the salary of the third Professor, and render a report on the following meeting.

The Committee: T. v.d. Bosch, Bos, Broene, Hulst, Van Zanten, Garveling, Bosch.

Art. 66. A discussion of Arts. 19, 20a, 27, 43, Acts 1884, concerns the matters pertaining to Home Mission Work. This also includes Point 4, of the Agenda, -Grand Rapids, and Rochester, concerning the calling of a Missionary Pastor. The requests for assistance to needy Congregations, received by the Home Mission Committee, as well as the point "Hastings" on the Agenda, concerning a request to the Synod to establish a Building Fund, to assist needy Congregations in the construction of Church buildings.

It is decided to place all the above matters in the hands of a Committee: Hemkes, Bode, Noordewier, Elders Bloem, Zining.



Art. 67. Agenda, point 2, -Classis Holland: The Synod consider the judgment of Classis Holland, concerning the organization of the "Knights of Labor" and other non-Christian organizations, which are becoming very prevalent today. Point 6 of Classis Grand Rapids is also stated in connection with this.

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The discussion in these matters becomes rather heated. Before the discussion is completed, the time for intermission is at hand.

Art. 68 Devotional Period.

Art. 69. Mr. G. Riemersma, the alternate from Noordeloos replaces his primary delegate, Mr. K. Brouwer.

Art. 70. The discussion on the "Knights of Labor" continues. A committee is finally named to report on this matter. Boer, Hulst, E. Broene, Keppel, Garvelink.

Art. 71. Trustees are chosen for the Theological School: Garvelink, Riddering, Noordewier, Alternates: Keppel, Schut, Duiker in the same order.

Art. 72. Appointment of Curators: Point 3 of the Agenda, -Classis Illinois: Would it not be desirable to have a proportionate representation of our Curators from each Classis, for the purpose of preserving the unity of the Church.

The Synod judges that this requirement be kept in mind for the future, and that the distant Classis should not forget to send delegates to the Examinations as has been decided earlier. To fill out the number of Trustees, eight in toto, the Rev. Kuiper is reappointed, and the Rev. E. Bos is chosen. The alternates: Revs. J. Riemersma, and Bode.

Art. 73. Intermission.

Art. 74. Elder W. v.d. Brink is unable to attend the Sessions due to illness.

Art. 75. The Minutes are read and accepted.

Art. 76. The Committee appointed in Article 65 reports.

- 1/ The Committee suggests that, with an eye to the training of a Missionary-Pastor at our School, one fourth of his salary be paid from the Foreign Mission Fund. (Heathen Miss. Fund) This is accepted.
- 2/ The Heathen Mission be under the supervision of a Committee, which Committee will also decide a suitable Mission Field.
- 3/ That as soon as a third Professor is obtained, the Synodical Committee in conjunction with the Curators, attempt to procure suitable applicants for Missionary training.
- 4/ Your Committee proposes that one of the Professors of the Theological School become the Editor of the "Wachter" and this without remuneration, and that a certain percent of his salary be taken from the "Wachter" treasury, and also that his teaching load be lightened at the Seminary, and that the Editor shall remain in his office until a third Professor is obtained. This last proposal by the Committee re the Editor of the "Wachter" seems to be a step in the right direction, which is pleasing to the Synod and it is accepted.

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Art. 77. The Rev. R. Duiker enters a protest in regard to Article 76, 1 of these Minutes. This Article states that one fourth of the salary of the third Professor be taken from the Heathen Mission Fund. Signed, R. Duiker.

Art. 78. The Home Missionary Committee reports, (See Art. 66) It is decided to accept each point as it is discussed.

Point 1. There is a motion to establish a Building Fund from the Home Mission Funds, so that needy Churches may obtain assistance, financially, from this Fund. This motion is not passed.

Point 2. The Committee judges it a feasible plan to have the Home Mission Committee support needy Churches for a longer or shorter period, in their attempts of obtaining a Minister. The manner of assistance is already in existence, concerning which the Committee has no remarks. Concerning the amounts promised or requested, the Committee advises the following:

a) Lodi \$100.00

b) Ackley "

c) Oostfriesland, Neb. "

d) Rotterdam, Kan. "

e) Harrison, S.D. "

f) Cleveland, W.S. \$50.00

g) The request from Lafayette, Indiana, for the amount of \$200.00 was not sanctioned by the Committee, and this request was returned to the Synod.

The decision: The first five applicants will receive the suggested amount.

2/Cleveland, West Side, is referred to Classis Grand Rapids, in co-operation with the General Committee on Home Missions, in the hope that the two Congregations can unite and by so doing call a Minister.

3/Lafayette is referred to Classis Illinois, and this matter will be taken up by the Home Mission Committee and the Classis.

Point 3. Concerning the Congregations of Overiesel and Vriesland, Dakota, who also requested aid, the Committee advises that a Missionary Pastor be called, who shall work in both Churches.....

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as well as in Campbell and Emmons Counties, along with Prinsburg, Minn. and in general the whole Northwest, since many of our Church Members dwell in these areas, who are desirous of the Sacraments. If no Missionary Pastor is obtained, then the Synod empower the Home Mission Committee to give them the necessary assistance when a Missionary Pastor is obtained. After a discussion of this: 1/ No Missionary Pastor is to be called, 2/ Each Church is to receive the amount of \$150.00, in case a minister is called and he accepts the call.

Point 4. Since it has been seen, by now, how difficult it is to obtain a Missionary Pastor, the Synod passes the following resolution: Students who receive financial assistance from the E.B.P. Fund, shall promise and sign their names, that in the event of a completion of their Courses, with the Lord's help, the Synod or the Home Missionary Committee will have the right to call them to the work of Home Missionaries, and that unless extra-ordinary circumstances prevent, these circumstances to be decided by the Committee, they shall accept the call and devote at least one year to this type of work. This is accepted.

Art. 79. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 80. The Minutes of the previous session are read and accepted.

Art. 81. Point 4, b, -Classis Grand Rapids: The Synod again make an effort to obtain a Missionary Pastor. If all other plans for calling a Missionary Pastor fail, then the Synod will call one of the Candidates, who as can be expected, will soon be placed on call.

Point 1 of Rochester is closely connected with this: The Synod employ all means possible to obtain a Missionary Pastor, and that either a Minister be called for the task or that a person be trained for this task. The decision: To call a Missionary Pastor.

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Art. 82. The Choosing of a Missionary Committee: This is to be done as the Articles 21, 27 of the Acts of 1884 stipulate, so that the President of the Classical Committee becomes a member of the General Committee, who then chooses a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Committee is as follows:



Classis Grand Rapids, Revs.	Duiker	Schut	Hoeksema
" Holland,	" Rietdijk	Broene, G.	Kuiper
" Iowa	" Bode	Guelker	Broene, E.
" Illinois	" Groeneveld	Greve	Kosten
" Hudson	" Riemersma	Drukker	Beeuwkes, (Elder)

The General Committee will be composed of the first named minister in each Classis.

Art. 83. Point 7 of the Agenda, - Classis Grand Rapids, It is called to the attention of the Synod to take note of the evil that is being caused by brothers, forgetting the discipline of love, who are, as it were, slapping each other in the face, by such appellations as heretic and sinner, and are openly doing this in the daily publications. The Synod also take note and express itself in the case of the Editor of the "Wachter" that he may under no circumstances accept such articles for publication, as per Art. 56 of the Acts of 1884. This is sanctioned and accepted by the Synod.

Art. 84. Point 8, the Agenda, - Grand Rapids; The Synod will empower the Synodical Committee to make decisions on anticipated matters which may come up for discussion, and on which matters a decision cannot be delayed, and especially on such matters as, a/ In connection with the "Wachter" in union with the Committee acting at present; and b/ in connection with the Theological School in connection with the Curators and the Trustees. It is to be understood that any decision remain in force until the next Session of the Synod. This is accepted.

Art. 85. The Agenda, Point 1, - Classis Holland: Re the "Wachter" The Synod provide for an improved publication of said weekly. Point, Muskegon: The Synod ask the Professors to function as Editors of the "Wachter" with the understanding that they have no proof reading to do of the Articles submitted; and that all Ministers co-operate in the production of suitable reading matter.....

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and also that the Synod must give its attention to the Editor, the printer, the proof reader and the Business Management of the publication. To assist and to continue the discussion of the above matter, the Synod requests a report from the Business Manager, which report is presented. (The financial statements are not translated) The report is audited and then accepted. After a deliberation on these matters, it is decided: 1/ Point 4, Art. 76 of these Minutes, That if any thought were given to it, the "Wachter" could continue to function for the benefit of the Theological School, and that the Rev. Hulst continue on as the only Editor at a remuneration of \$100.00 per year, until a third Professor is called and he has accepted. 2/ that the proof reader, Mr. Doesburg, receive the sum of \$1.00 per week for reading proof. 3/ that the method of distribution, Editorship, publication and administration remain as it now is, until a third Professor is added to the Faculty; and then any necessary changes be instituted by the Synodical Committee in conjunction with the Curators. 4/ that each Congregation receive ten percent of the subscription rate of the subscriptions of the Church and that this amount be deducted from the budget of said Church for the finances levied against it for the support of the Theological School.

Art. 86. An Act of Secession is read to the delegates from the Church at South Holland, Ill. This is accepted as information and the paper is included in the Book of Minutes.

Art. 87. According to a previous commitment, the Rev. Fles is to preach a sermon in connection with a wedding in the Church at Drenthe, on the following day, and asks the Synod if he may be excused from this. The Synod returns no decision but leaves it to the Rev. erend to decide.

Art. 88. Devotions and Intermission.

Page 32. Thursday Morning Session.

Art. 89. Weighty matters will be discussed: The Knights of Labor, the method of raising the salary of the third Professor for the Theological School, naming a Professor, and a discussion of the relocation of the School.

Art. 90. The Committee chosen for the investigation of the "Knights of Labor" now reports: Although the employer often has just complaints, and although the Committee, in a consideration of this, would prefer to agree with the working man, it, nevertheless, against its wishes, feels compelled to state that according to its convictions anyone who confesses and accepts the Christian doctrine, cannot be a member of said Order, nor similar Orders, which bind members either by oath or solemn promises; partly because they have all the earmarks of Secret Societies, which organizations have been previously condemned and partly, because they resort to force, and thus are in conflict with the fifth Commandment, as well as in the patient trust which the believer confesses to have in his Lord. Therefore the Committee advises the Synod to warn all the members of the Holland Christian Reformed Church to refrain from joining said Order, and the leaders of the various Congregations be reminded of their calling and to remind and warn their members in the spirit of meekness and forgiveness, and yet see to it that the Sacraments be not defiled. This report is accepted and passed.

Art. 91. Obtaining the salary for a third Professor is as follows: The sum of \$ 325.00 will be available from the Heathen Mission Fund, and the balance of the profits of the "Wachter" if it be taken over by the School, and part from the budget for the School, and that the budget be increased for supplying the balance.

A Committee is chosen to bring this about, the Rev. Noordewier, and Elders Gelock and Heyboer. Each Classis shall consider this for approval.

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Art. 92. Choosing a third Professor for the Theological School: It is decided to form a trio and the following are chosen: G.Vos 51 votes; J.Y.de Baum 51 votes; J.C.Voorhis 36. All persons in any way connected with the trio absent themselves from the Assembly, and a long discussion follows, everyone feeling the seriousness of the occasion.

Art. 93. Intermission and Devotions.

Art. 94. It is proposed: 1. A two thirds majority is necessary, but if after a third vote, no one is chosen, a plurality vote will be considered valid.

2. The alternate will be called if the elected member declines the call.

The Rev. Boer offers a prayer in this so weighty and important a matter. The voting takes place, and the first results are: G. Vos, 42; J. de Baum, 26. The voting is repeated with the following results: G. Vos, 46; J. de Baum, 23.

From this point on the Curators will take charge of the matter.

Art. 95. The relocation of the Theological School: Agenda, Classis Holland, Point 3, which states: For serious reasons, the Synod move the Theological School to Holland, Mich. and Point 10, of Classis Grand Rapids, which requests exactly the opposite. After this matter is voted upon, 33-30, the Theological School remains in Grand Rapids.

Art. 96. Agenda, Point 1. Classis Grand Rapids: The Synod consider the feasibility and the possibility of producing its own materials, for use in the Sabbath Schools of our Church. This might be desirable but difficult at present....

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and it is not really necessary, since an abundance of material can be obtained from the Netherlands.

Art. 97. Agenda, Point 3, -Classis Grand Rapids: Since the members of the Consistories of the Holland Christian Reformed Churches are also regarded as Trustees; the Synod shall see to it that the election of Ministers, Elders, and Deacons, be conducted according to the accepted Church Order.

To avoid any inconvenience or confusion in this matter, seeing that the Church Order advocates Nominations, and some Congregations choose their nominees by a free vote, the Synod now decides that this be permitted, since some consistories consider this plan necessary on various occasions.

Art. 98. Agenda, Point 5, -Grand Rapids: The Synod make itself clear and stipulate how to deal with members and baptized members:

a/ who really give no offense but have a tendency to drift to other Churches, and  
b/ those who really give offense, but when they are disciplined, to avoid same, they leave the Church. The Classis is referred to Article 65 of the General Regulations.

Art. 99. Agenda, Point 9, -Classis Grand Rapids: The Synod utter a pastoral word of advice to the Congregations: that particular Christian Schools be emphasized, that attendance at Catechism be considered important, and that Sunday Schools be promoted, but that the last mentioned do not supersede the first.

The Officers of the Synod will see to it that this request is carried out and that through the medium of the "Wachter"

Art. 100. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 101. An Evening Session, Devotions.

Art. 102. The Congregation at Lincoln Center has sent a German Psalm Book to the Synod, which also contains the Formularies, for its inspection, if the Synod will sanction its use in the Church services. The book is transferred to the Synodical Committee, which Committee will at its earliest convenience employ the services of one capable of judging the same.

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Art. 103. A request is given to the Synod from the Congregation at Ridott, and the Rev. J. Stadt, and sanctioned by Classis Iowa, for an increase in the salary of the Minister. This request is transferred to the Home Mission Committee.

One committee reports that some communications were handed to them from Ridott, but that this Committee reports that this is out of order, and the letters are transferred to the Home Mission Committee.

Art. 104. Agenda, Point 1, -Classis Illinois: The Synod consider a baptism lawful or not; performed by a person not duly installed by any Church, but only by an Elder, into a Ministerial office. The decision: Such a Baptism is unlawful.

Art. 105. Agenda, -Classis Iowa: A question is submitted by Classis Illinois whether it is lawful for a Minister of our Church to administer the Sacraments outside of our Church in non-Christian Reformed Churches. The answer is in the negative, but if a special occasion should arise, the Classis should be consulted.

Art. 106. Agenda, Point 3, - Rochester: The Synod decide that if a Minister be called from the Netherlands, he be called with certain stipulations as to the repayment of the expense of his transportation if he remain for a shorter period than four years, in the Congregation which called him. The Synod refers Rochester to Article 52, Acts 1384.

Art. 107. Agenda, Point 4, -Rochester: The Synod bring a fund into being for the promotion and advancement of Primary Christian Schools, and advocate a full cooperation by our Churches. Agenda, Point 2, -Classis Illinois: Advocates the same as the above.

Art. 108. Concerning the request of Graafschap that the Synod provide....

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Christian Textbooks in our District Schools, it is decided that the Synod cannot go into this matter per se, but delegates the Officers of the Synod to enlighten those who read the "Wachter" by urging groups in the various communities to join, and wherever possible, to see to it that Christian textbooks are used.

Art. 109. Agenda, Point 2, -Vriesland: If loans from the T.B.P. Fund are returned by Students would it not be a good plan to publish this in our Church paper, so that Congregations collecting for this Fund may be informed of this and thus be stirred up to greater liberality. This is accepted.

Art. 110. Vriesland: The Synod inform the "Wachter" to refrain from printing "Thank You" notices, for gifts received by anyone. The Synod approves of this wholeheartedly.

Art. 111. The Rev. Hulst asks the Synod to recommend the Manual for the Compendium. The Synod will do this.

Art. 112. The Synodical Committee submits its report, (See the Supplements, No. I.) This is accepted and the Committee receives the thanks of the Synod for the work which it has done. The Clerk of the Synod is mandated to answer a communication from the Old Reformed Church in Germany.

Art. 113. At the request from the Old Reformed Church in Germany for financial assistance in the training of Ministers, and keeping in mind the German speaking Congregations in our Church; the Synod decides to recommend that an offering for this purpose be taken in our Churches, and that the monies thus obtained be sent to the Rev. J.H.Vos, who will forward these funds to the brothers in Germany.

Art. 114. The General Home Mission Committee, with the Treasurer of the Heathen Mission Committee will function as the Heathen Mission Committee.

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Art. 115. The Consistory of the Spring Street Church is chosen to set the time and the place for the Synodical Sessions of 1888.

Art. 116. The officers of the Synod will be responsible for the printing, publication, and the distribution of the Minutes of this Synod.

Art. 117. The Synodical Committee is entrusted with the publication of a draft of the Rules of Order.

Art. 118. The hour is now late. All necessary matters have been discussed, while the Lord with his watchcare has guarded us.

The Vice President takes the floor. He expresses his gratitude in the name of the Synod. The President is indisposed and therefore could not be present at the closing session. He thanks the delegates for the confidence, the co-operation, and for the patience, shown to him during the sessions of the Synod. He thanks the Professors for their encouraging remarks the Committees, entrusted with weighty matters, for their lucid expression and wise counsel as well as the Clerks in the work of transmitting the discussions and decisions into the Minutes of the Synod. And last of all he expresses his appreciation to the Spring St. Congregation for their kindness and hospitality as hosts to the delegates of Synod. The Rev. J.H. Vos will thank the Congregation publicly on the next Lord's Day. He ends with a wish that the work accomplished by this Synod may be a rich blessing to the Church; that the delegates may be safely reunited with their dear ones, and that all labor unceasingly (until the next Synodical Session of 1888) in the vineyard of the Lord. And should anyone be called from the Church militant, that he then may receive a crown of glory in the heavenly Kingdom.

After a prayer of Thanksgiving, the delegates, standing, join in the singing of Psalm 134:3, after which they depart in the quiet of the evening with the thought: Behold how pleasant and how good, that Brothers dwell together in harmony...

The Officers: Rev. L. Rietdijk, Pres.

" R. Duiker, V.P.

" P. Schut, Clerk

" J. Noordewier, Asst. Clerk.

## THE SUPPLEMENTS

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### Supplement I.

The Report of the Synodical Committee to the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, which stands to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the 9th of June, 1886 and on the days following.

Beloved and Honorable Brothers in the Lord:

Your Committee has received numerous communications from brothers in this land and from those in foreign lands, since the last session of the Synod.

The first concerns a communication from the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands. This was received in June, 1885 and contained an affectionate greeting from the sister Church as well as their good wishes and finally an invitation to send delegates to their Synod in 1885, which Synod was to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

We have sent a fraternal reply and also a mandate-in so far as it answered the purpose -since the Rev. Hoeksema, from Muskegon, had stated to the Synodical Committee, that he had had planned to go to the Netherlands, and to the Synod which was to be held at Rotterdam. All this has occurred and a report was given in the "Wachter" concerning this upon his return.

In addition we received the following answer to our invitation to the above named Church for them to send a delegate to our Synod, in the early part of the year:

Honorable Brothers,

The Synodical Committee of the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands has received your kind invitation on April 2nd, last, to send a delegate to your Synod on June 9, 1886, at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Numerous reasons can be given why our Church cannot accept the invitation.

Therefore it uses this method of conveying the deepest feelings of our Church.

She does this with the wish and prayer that the Lord be present with you in all your deliberations and your decisions; and that you may be led by the Holy Spirit, and that you may advance his glorious Kingdom in general, and in particular work for a closer union of all those who have received this most precious belief.

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My dear Brothers! We are living in trying times. Turmoil and unrest are apparent in both ecclesiastical and political affairs.

Both the old and the new world are feeling the effects of this.

May the Church of Christ, in the midst of all this, reveal itself as a wholesome reasoning, and a penetrating leaven in all matters, and that it strengthen itself time and again in the promises of its glorious head, "See I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

The Synodical Committee,

(Rev.) D.K. Wielenga, Pres.

" J. Nederhoed, Clerk

Done at Kampen, Middlestum.

May 6, 1886.

No communications were received from the South African Churches.

Secondly: With a view of establishing a German speaking branch of our Church in this land, and which branch of the Church could be served much better by Ministers capable of using the German language, your Committee was mandated to investigate matters with the Old Reformed Church in Oostfriesland, Bentheim, Germany, in what manner German speaking youth could be procured for the services in our Church from that Church. This mandate was carried out and the following communication was received.

To the honorable Brother, the Rev. Hemkes, and to the honorable Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America;

Dear Fathers and Brothers: The Grace of Christ be with you.

The question which you put to our Classis in what manner German youth could be procured for your Church, with out being more definite in regard to this; was received with much pleasure by us.

At our Classical Session on the 27th of August last, your question came under discussion and was carefully considered by us. The answer to our deliberations is as follows:

Since our finances at the Theological School are in excess of our income, we find it necessary for an applicant to pay at least 1000 marks for his support. The students studying here observe the same rules as those supported under the E.B.P. Fund. These rules were formulated by our Church. Students who are financially independent, can be called by your Church as well as by ours when they have completed their work.

With our whole heart we wish to convey the Lord's choicest blessings to you, and we shall await your answer.

Yours in Christ,

The Old Reformed Church in the County Bentheim  
Vorstendom, Oostfriesland,  
(Rev.) J. Schoemaker, Clerk

Veldhausen at Newhouse  
Sept. 2, 1884

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This letter and additional communications were received from the Revs. Schoemaker and Stroeven.

Then a communication was received from Classis Iowa, stating that Brother Plesscher-present in person- called to Lincoln Center, Iowa, from Neemoor, Germany, and already laboring in the above Congregation; was examined and accepted into the Church and given complete charge of the services. The letter states the reasons and the circumstances which led Classis Iowa to hold the examination and to accept the Reverend into the Church, and it asks the judgment of the Synodical Committee in this. The Committee sanctioned the procedure of the Classis in this matter, and further promised to include this matter in the Synodical report.

The consistory of the Lincoln Center Church has also sent a German Psalter (sät to rhyme by the Rev. Jorissen, an elderly Lutheran Minister, in the Hague, The Netherlands) for your opinion, and for permission of its use in their worship services, as soon as possible.

Since, according to Art. 81, Acts of 1884, the brothers, the Rev. E. v.d. Vries, and Elder H. Beauwkes, had been mandated to carry on a correspondence with the Synodical Committee, and take steps toward the possibility of a complete union with the T.R.P.D. Church in the East, with our Church, the brothers have undertaken the task required of them and have sent on the following information to us concerning this matter, which we received on April 27, 1885

" The Committees of both Churches have met and discussed the various aspects in connection with the above question, and we report that we feel obligated to seek for the union and the unity of the Church of Christ on this earth; and seeing that our Classis and the General Assembly of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, in the West, on June 1871, declared that they were convinced that there was unity among us in doctrine, discipline, and in worship, and that in fact we were really one Church, according to the rules established by the fathers at Dordt, and that we, since that time, agreed to an exchange of pulpits, and would acknowledge certificates of membership from either Church, and to seat delegates as well as giving them voice in our Classical and Synodical Assemblies- it now appears that no more can be added except the complete co-operation and the union under the direction of the Synod.

Therefore the Committee decided that we, being thoroughly in agreement, propose the completion of an organized union, based on the standard confession, and that for the time being we continue under the names under which we are now incorporated, as well as continuing in our usual order of worship."

This is our decision,

(Rev.) J.Y.de Baum

" E. v.d. Vries

Thereupon the Synodical Committee directed the following to the brothers in the East concerning the union...

of the T.R.P.D. Church with the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America:

Grand Rapids, Michigan  
September 3, 1885.

Dear Brothers in the Lord, Peace to you:

The Synodical Committee meeting in this city on the above date, has seriously considered your communication of April 25, 1885, and rejoices in the efforts, crowned with success, in effecting a union of the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church with the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America. The Committee is convinced that since both Churches are one in being(essence) with a few minor differences, it will be a blessing to both Churches to be thus united, and to be thus under the jurisdiction of one Synod; and as to the continuation of the present name, there certainly is no objection, nor that which concerns the order of worship.

If there are some ecclesiastical functions, evident in our worship, that are foreign to you we hope, nevertheless to be one in spirit, and for the love of the Word of God, to be united into a union of growth.

In name of the Synodical Committee,  
(Rev.) G. Hemkes, Clerk.

At a later date another communication was received by your Committee concerning this matter:

"The Revs. E.v.d. Vries and Elder H. Beeuwkes- the Committee from our Church in the matter of the union, along with the Committee of the T.P.D.R. Church, named for this- had formulated a draft of union and submitted it to the Classis Paskensack, which submitted it to the Congregations of that Classis for their consideration. Their decision was:

"The Classis feels that at this time it cannot complete the union of the Churches, since there are a few Churches in our Classis that are not thoroughly acquainted with our Church, (the Holland Chr. Ref.) They, however, expressed the hope of a complete union, and that very shortly. The Committee, (Rev.) E.v.d. Vries, (Elder) H. Beeuwkes.

Then a communication was received from the Le Mars Church, 1884, 1885, a branch of the Church in Orange City, with a request that the Rev. Stadt, already laboring there, should be permitted to remain there for the time being. In co-operation with Classis Iowa, that request was granted. A house was rented for the Rev. Stadt, and a small Church was built, and matters proceeded favorably for a time. Finally, financial troubles developed- after the Mission Committee had contributed \$405.00 to the support of the work there, and a request for additional funds continued- and after the Rev. Stadt composed, in an unguarded moment, a very inappropriate and unchristian-like letter against our Church, in which he complained over the neglect of him and his household, in the neglect of finances; which protest he retracted publicly after letters were sent to him from both the Synodical and the Mission Committees, and then the

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Congregation of Ridott, having been vacated by the departure of the Rev. Smidt, the Rev. Stadt, with favorable financial circumstances for his support, desired him for their Minister in their Church, and thus in conjunction with Classis Iowa, the call was sanctioned so that since the spring of 1884, he has labored at Ridott.

In addition to this we are informing the Synod of the already known fact, that since the previous Synod, and to our sorrow, two Ministers have left our Church: the first one because he was laboring among the Germans at Ridott and expected great results from the use of German songs in the Church, much against the wishes of the Holland population there, and with a show of force, he ran into great difficulty.

the other Minister, laboring in Holland, very much at odds with the character of the Holland population there, with their moderation and their faithfulness in all matters, - just so severed relations with our Church. We can submit the correspondence with Brother Smidt and the Congregation at Ridott, in order thereby to convince the Synod that the Committee has not been negligent in the matter.



As a last resort a Committee travelled to Ridott at the invitation of the Congregation, (composed of the Revs. Kuiper and Bode).

Also various letters were received from the Congregation of South Holland, Ill., the first on December 2, 1884, and this contained a complaint against the Rev. Hulst, concerning the Article of the Reverend on Ephesians 5:14, which was published in the "Wachter". The communication reads as follows:

Respected Brothers, Greetings:

Your Committee is certainly cognizant of the Article in the "Wachter" the official organ of your Church, which was published by the Editor, the Rev. L.J. Hulst on Ephesians 5:14 and that the Rev. Meinders and the Elder Vander Aa had made certain remarks in regard to this Article.

We hereby inform your Committee that the Reverend Hulst has submitted a protest concerning the action of the above named brothers, to the Consistory of the Church of South Holland and that this Consistory sustains the Brothers in their actions, and further it requested that the Reverend Hulst retract his statements in the publication, and in regard to the following expression, "And this to a greater extent, that God makes no demands beyond the capabilities of anyone to fulfill them." etc., which smacks of Remonstrantism and Semi-Pelagianism. And yet instead of a retraction, the Reverend justifies himself in the publication "The Grondwet". And since the previous expressions are printed in the official organ of the Church, and since the Editor stands under Church jurisdiction, we judge that this matter, in the first place, is not a part of the Rev. Hulst and his Consistory; but is the concern of your Committee, which should investigate the matter and thus deal with it, and either cause the Consistory or the Rev. Hulst to retract his statement, for have we erred in the case of the Reverend, then we have offended him and that before a reading public.

Nor must this matter drag on for a half year, nor for one and one half years.....

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and if our interpretation of the matter be correct, then the Church should not tolerate it, and by its silence aid and abet it.

In the name of the Consistory,

E.L. Meinders, Pres.

L. Vander Aa, Clerk

Done at the Meeting of the  
Consistory, on Dec. 2, 1884  
At South Holland, Illinois.

The answer to the above letter by the Synodical Committee is as follows:

To the Rev. E.L. Meinders and the Consistory of South Holland Chr. Ref. Church:

Dear Brothers: Greetings,

In the meeting of the Synodical Committee of January 8, 1885, the matter signed by the Rev. Meinders and Elder Vander Aa, of your Consistory, was brought before the Committee that a decision might be obtained from the Synodical Committee, concerning the expression in the "Wachter" "that God makes no demands beyond the capabilities of anyone to fulfill them"

This statement appears in the mentioned publication of the Rev. Hulst in connection with what follows, "that in Him, i.e. in Christ, all can be found that the sinner needs, for his well-being. When the Lord speaks to man, "Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ shall give you light" that is a message for the sinner, which tells him, according to the writings of the Rev. Hulst, the indifferent participation in the works of darkness must come to an end; he must be enlightened by Christ both as to what he should do and what he should refrain from doing.

This does not mean nor does the Rev. Hulst infer that anyone can improve himself, or that he can bring anything about to effect his salvation, but this that the sinner must turn a receptive ear to the precepts of Christ, and give heed to what he says, in place of heedlessly and thoughtlessly following after unrighteousness.

At this very moment, the Rev. Hulst explained to the Synodical Committee, that it has never been his idea that man can add anything to effect his salvation. Moreover the Synodical Committee can detect nothing in the writings of the Rev. Hulst, which you mean

to find. The Committee has not the slightest doubt as to the orthodoxy of the Reverend, and it finds it very distasteful and most unjust of you to attack him in public, and also accuse him of Remonstrantism and Semi Pelagianism, a brother who has never shown the slightest indication of heresy, and whose orthodoxy has never been questioned by anyone.

Brothers, let us on our part proclaim the impotency of man, and over against that the precepts of our doctrine. May the Bible be our guide in this matter.

Greetings,  
The Synodical Committee.

In answer to this we received this reply; A statement that,  
1/ It is impossible for us to abide by the decision of the Committee, i.e. the one in the foregoing letter  
2/ this is practically the same statement and explanation set down by the Synod in its Session.

Our wish as the Synodical Committee is that the Lord cause his face to shine down on this Assembly with favor, and in the decision of all matters....

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give to the Synod the necessary wisdom and grace to strengthen and increase his Church on this earth.

The Syn. Comm.  
W.H. Frieling  
R.T. Kuipers  
G. Hamkes.

#### Supplement II.

#### The Report of the Home Missions Committee

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, to be held at Grand Rapids, on June 6, 1886

Honorable Brothers: May blessings and Prosperity be yours,

While the promotion of Home Mission Work makes up a great part of your activity, and taking steps for the expansion of the Kingdom of God in this land is in order, the Committee submits its report to you.

The activities of the Committee were dealt with the carrying out of the decisions of the Synod of 1884, and accomplishing such tasks as would be advantageous to the work of the Home Missions, such as the collecting and the distribution of funds either for the support of or for the establishment of Congregations who were in need of financial assistance.

The assistance, given to Congregations, as was promised to them, or the financial aid to Ministers, in providing part of the remuneration for their work, reaches no further than the area under the jurisdiction of the Synod. Therefore it is your task and responsibility to fulfill the promises you have given for and to those whom you judge in need and worthy of such support.

The work was carried on as much as possible in the Congregations with the Classical Missions Committee, and in some cases with the Synodical Committee, yet the Committee members living in Michigan were very often obliged to make decisions, when the need was pressing according to their opinions; so that the requests for assistance might not be in vain.

As to the decision of the Synod in regard to the Congregations of Vriesland and Overijsel, Dakota, the funds stipulated for these Churches have been supplied. The receipts for these monies are held by the Treasurer. The sum of \$100.00 has also been sent to the Richland Congregation for the building of their Church.

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Although the Synod gave the Committee permission to use \$400.00 from the Foreign Mission Fund, in case of emergency, only the amount of \$150.00 was needed, since the Home Mission Treasury could supply all of its needs from its own Treasury.

The Treasurer of the Home Mission Board gave the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board a note for that in case it should be obliged to return this amount, and when.....

so that this is left to the wisdom of the Synod; and it should have the attention of the Synod.

That the Synod need not worry about the financial assistance extended to some of the Churches appears in the report from Rochester which states that it can supply all its own needs, and New Holland also informs us that it can, and since 1885.

Assistance has been extended to other Congregations so that they might continue their services, and they are asking for more assistance. Other Congregations have received promises of financial support when and if extended calls have been accepted. Other congregations ask that promises be given by the Synod so that they may be able to have Ministers of their own. If necessary, these Congregations can be named.

The amount decided on toward the support of the Rev. Coeling, \$100.00 annually, has been paid. This brother is always prepared to go where his services are needed, or wherever the Committee desired to send him. He served Congregations in New Era, Richland, Oostburg, Alto, Chicago, and elsewhere. Since the Agenda lists a discussion of his support, the Committee leaves this matter to the Synod.

The Rev. J. Stadt is now laboring in Ridott, Ill. after being in Le Mars for a short time. Going to Ridott at the request of the Congregation. His support is in part supplied by the Home Mission Treasury, and in part by the Congregation. From all reports, he is laboring diligently and the wish of the Congregation is that he may remain for some time. Thus no time limit has been set, since the Congregation desired an indefinite stay, and the Committee thought it best to accede to its wishes.

At Le Mars, where the Rev. Stadt first labored, after he was released from the Congregation of Orange City, there was no Congregation, but later there was a church organized there. Much transpired while the Rev. Stadt was in Le Mars, and the Congregation later transferred to the Reformed denomination.

The Committee expresses a wish that the Synod may decide to carry on its Mission work as it is conducted by the Foreign Mission Committee, i.e. by establishing Mission posts,

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having a Congregation with a Minister, with the cooperation of his Congregation in the salary he receives, and the balance from the Mission Treasury. In this way he can serve the weak Congregations in his area and preach wherever possible. Synod's attention should be focused on the immense areas in the West, keeping in mind the increase in the population in that area, and the continual immigration into that section of the country.

Outlying Congregations, and those small Congregations, recently organized in our cities, should not be forgotten. The Synod should also look to their needs. A working Mission is a real necessity, your Committee thinks.

May the Lord give you the necessary strength and wisdom in all matters, so that the proclamation of the Truth may bring the desired result, for the honor of God, the blessing of Zion, and to the peace of mind and soul of all of us.

Since the Rev. Broene, our Clerk, by his departure, has ended his services with our Committee, it was thought best that the undersigned take over the task of correspondence, so that communications received by the Treasurer or the President, be given immediate attention whenever necessary.

The Lord's blessing on this Assembly,  
Sincerely, in the name of the Missions Committee,  
Your humble servant,  
L. Rietdijk.

#### Supplement III.

The Treasurer's Report of the Foreign Mission Fund.

To the Synod of the Holland Chr. Ref. Church, held at Grand Rapids, Mich. June 9, 1885.

(The financial report follows, which will not be translated,

The report continues as follows:

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We have received a communication from the General Mission Board of the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands, with a request for continued support, which reads as follows:

To the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America

Dear Fathers and Brothers: May the Lord be your Light and your Salvation!

The General Mission Board of the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands takes this opportunity of approaching your Synod with a courteous but pressing request.

You already know that the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands has begun mission work among the heathen peoples and is continuing in that work.

In spite of the many trials and disappointments, we have advanced so far that we have been able to place a Missionary in Batavia, and also one in Surabaya, Java. Brother Van Alphen left last February for the Island of Sumba (Soemba) (Now called Sandalwood Island and owned by the United States) for fulltime work among the heathen there. In addition we have at present for students preparing for Missionary work, and of these one could now be sent out into the field.

Mission work demands huge sums for a successful operation, and altho we have been able to meet all expenses up to this time, we must now increase our efforts, more than formerly in a financial way; since we have expanded our work, and our people are living trying times, and in addition to this, the illnesses which our Missionaries experience in those areas, have proved very costly.

For this reason, we are appealing to you, our dear Brothers, send us your gifts.

We approach you boldly, since you have been very generous in your financial assistance in the past, and confessed at the same time that you wished to assist us in our Missionary endeavor.

Your contributions to us for this purpose in the past have been of a great help; they have encouraged us and gladdened our hearts. The aid you extended to us put our treasury on a firm footing, and was an encouragement to us in the work which we had undertaken, either by training more Missionaries or by opening new fields. But we can rejoice also for your sake: that you in America do not forget our Church, and that you desire to continue your association with us; and as former inhabitants of the Netherlands, who have not as yet renounced the name, you have a desire to co-operate in removing our guilt to the Netherland East Indies; this is to us, a cause of endless joy.

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We hope, dear Brothers, that you will continue to aid us with your gifts and that your Assembly may see fit to send us funds for our support. Our desire continues to be that the blessing of the Lord rest upon you, and we remain your Brothers in Christ.

Varseveld, Delft  
April 1, 1886.

J.F. Balen, Pres.  
L. v.d. Valk, Clerk.

We propose that one half of the fund be sent to the Netherlands in answer to this request and one half of these funds be sent at once from the funds on hand at present, and that the balance be forwarded as soon as it can be arranged. This is with the understanding that Synod begin its own Mission field.

The Committee prays for the blessing of the Lord over all of your deliberations, in regard to Missions not only but in all other matters as well, and I remain,

Your Brother in the Lord,

R.T. Kuiper, Treas. of the Missions.

Supplement IV.

Art. 1. The delegates to the True Reformed Protestant Dutch Church are as follows:  
The Rev. Duiker, and Elder H. Beeuwkes.  
The Rev. J. Riemersma will function as an alternate.

Art. 2. Since the delegates from the T.R.P.D. Church were not present at the adjournment of the Synod, the President during a session of the Curators, at which the Rev. de Baum was present, expressed his pleasure that the delegates from the above mentioned Church had been present at the Synodical Sessions. He requested that the Reverend convey the best wishes of the Synod to his Church.

Art. 3. The Committee chosen to regulate the services in the English Language, is as follows: Professor Hemkes, The Rev. Post, and Elder Gelock.