

1892

[1892] Synodale Handelingen der Hollandsche Christ. Geref. Kerk in Amerika, gehouden te Grand Rapids, Mich., van 15 tot 23 Juni, 1892.

TRANSLATION:

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

ASSEMBLED AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

June 15 to 23, 1892

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

The Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church of North America
Held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on June 15, 1892, and following days.

After the Rev. Hulst, President of the previous Synod, had presided at the service of prayer, on the evening previous to the opening of the Sessions, and had chosen Ephesians 6:10 for his discourse; he now announces the singing of Psalm 84:3,6 and after the opening prayer he addresses the Synod as follows:

"The task which brings us here is not only necessary, but also very difficult. It is a comfort nevertheless that where God makes demands, he also adds promises. We wish to complete our task as it should be done. For this we have been delegated and we are therefore answerable to God. The manner in which this task must be accomplished is not easy. If we are led by the Spirit of God, then we can accomplish the task; but alas, the heart is often filled with other matters."

The President bases his discourse on the "Song of Solomon" 4:8 treating it briefly, and stating that if we carry on the work of the Lord, we are on the right path.

Four mountains are mentioned here: Lebanon, Aman, Senir, and Hermon. They were all outside the border of Emanuel's land. They place us in the unknown and uncultured heathen world. Enemies are named and fierce wild animals, lions and leopards, and the haunts of these are mentioned. And these, as they stalk their prey, are not heard until they attack. They teach us this; that we should not go beyond the bounds of the area in which Christ dwells.

By this is not meant that we should remain within the bounds of the heavenly regions. The Lord lives in his Spirit on this earth also, and in his Church, where he is acknowledged and where his word is proclaimed, and where his calling is made plain. His Covenant points it out to us. Offerings were carried out on mountain tops, expressing devotions to God.

Page 4.

Thus it is the calling of each believer that he be consecrated to the Lord. It is our need. In our approach to Him lies our strength. The promise, "I am with you" is given to these. We direct the attention of all to this promise, hoping that all the delegates feel this. In prayer we need to seek this aid.
The Rev. erend then leads the Assembly in prayer.

Art. 1. Mandates are now handed over, and delegates from seven Classes are present.
(Delegates will not be listed) in the Translation, the list however appears on pp. 4,5,6,
Page 7.

Art. 2. Officers of this Synod: Rev. A. Keizer, Pres.
J.H.Vos, V.P.
J. Riemersma, Clerk
G.D.De Jonge, Asst. Clerk

Art. 3. The ex-President now leaves the Praesidium and the newly chosen President now takes his place. The Rev. Keizer now addresses the delegates briefly, stating the fact that the Lord has removed no Minister by death since the previous Session. At the same time he welcomes the Revs. K. Kuipers, J. Remein, E.R.Haan, C. Vorst, all of whom have come to us from the Netherlands since the last Session of Synod; also the Revs. A.J.Vanden Heuvel, J. Wyngaarden, J. De Vries, J. Groen, and G. A. De Haan. The President now proceeds to ask the Lord to bless the Sessions of the Synod.

Art. 4. The Formula of Subscription is now read, and all the delegates answer with an audible "Yes".

Art. 5. The time of the Sessions is now set. 8:00-11:45 A.M., 2:00-6:00 P.M.

Art. 6. Reporters of the Dailies may report all the activities of the delegates, but personal discussions may not be reported.

Art. 7,8. Intermissions with devotions.

Page 8.

Art. 9. A motion is made that each motion in Dutch, be translated into English, for the

convenience of the delegates from Classis Hackensack. The President chooses the Rev. Van Vessum to act as the Translator.

Art. 10. The following motion is made and passed: The President will nominate six persons from the various Classes, who will shortly gather in Committee, and then proceed to choose committees for the various Articles in the Agenda, committees of no less than three and not to exceed five members, keeping in mind the time of the listing of the report in the Agenda, and reporting the approximate time in which it will be necessary for the Committee to report. (The Committees are not listed)

Art. 11. Two Committees are named: one for reviewing the Articles of the previous Session which demand more discussion, and the other for the Communications which have been received.

Art. 12. Instructions from the Congregations of Borculo and Coldbrook, are placed in the hands of a Committee named in Article 10, which Committee will list these matters in the proper category when the Committees report.

Art. 13. The financial reports are listed, (Omitted in the Translation)

Page 9.

The Committee in charge of communications reports on the letters which were received.

- a/ from the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands. This is accepted as information. (See the Supplement)
- b/ from the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim. Accepted as information. (See the Suppl.)
- c/ from H.H.D.Langereis, this is referred to the Board of Trustees.

Page 10.

Art. 14d/ from Classis Muskegon, referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

- e/ from the Rev. W. Coelingh, " " " Emeritus Committee
 - f/ from the Rev. J.C. Kalkoen, re a protest against the actions of Classis Hudson.
- This Protest will be discussed on the floor of the Assembly.

Art. 15. Various Committees are listed as per Article 10, (Omitted in the Translation)

Art. 16. Devotions and Intermission.

Page 11. Thursday, June 16, 1892.

Art. 17. Opening devotions.

Art. 18. The Crosby Street Church announced that the primus delegates will alternate with their secondary delegates every day.

Art. 19. The Minutes of the previous session are read and approved.

Art. 20 The Revs. J. Noordewier and E. Vander Vries are in charge of Transportation expenses.

Art. 21. The discussion concerning the Rev. Galkoen (Art. 14) is moved up. The Synod chooses a Committee which will report later.

Point III of the Agenda, Jewish Missions - Classis Muskegon.

"The Synod request the Congregations to support the above mentioned Mission!"

Art. 22. The Committee on Jewish Missions reports and the report is accepted. The Synod decides concerning this:

- a/ To stir up the Congregations to collect for Jewish Mission Work.
- b/ To name a Committee to receive the monies coming in for this purpose.
- c/ to distribute these funds where they are needed the most.

Point 8 of the Agenda:-Classis Hudson.

a/ What can the Synod do to stimulate an interest in the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America in regard toward Christian Schools.

b/ The Synod impress upon our Congregations, especially the largest and the wealthiest the need for the establishment of Christian Schools, -The Consistory at Roseland.

Art. 23. The Committee on Christian Education presents its report which is accepted by the Synod.

a/ The Synod call the attention of the Ministers and of the Consistories to take to heart, with all their strength and their gifts, the support and the construction of Christian Schools.

b/ The Synod recommends the organization of Christian School Societies for the purpose of fostering Christian Education.

c/ When these Societies come into being, the Synod will give them its moral support.

d/ The Society is to be organized with the Name "The Society for the Advancement of Christian Education on Reformed Principles."

Agenda, Point 9- Classis Hackensack Delegating to Synod.

That the method of representatives to the Synod be changed from Consistories to Classes.

a/ This will cut the present system of representation in half.

The Consistory at Roseland:

b/ The Synod name two delegates to represent our Church at the next Synod of the United Reformed Church (The Christian Reformed and the Doleerende in the Netherlands)

Art. 24. The Committee on delegations reports and the report is accepted.

a/ The delegates from now on will be delegates from Classes.

b/ The Synod name one delegate to the Synod in the Netherlands.

The Rev. J.H.Vos, with the Rev. A. Keizer as alternate.

Articles 25,26, Devotions.

Art. 27. The Committee on the matter of Rev. Calkoen reports: The motion on this is made and supported. It reads as follows: The Synod having considered the appeal of the Rev. Calkoen judges that he, being a member of our Church, has the right to petition the Classis under which he resides, and to express a desire to become a Minister of our Church, so that the Classis can judge whether it will entertain his request or not.

The Protest on this follows:

The undersigned, all delegates from Classis Hudson, feel themselves compelled to enter a protest concerning the decision of the Synod in the case of the Rev. J.C.Calkoen and for the following reasons:

a/ Most of the delegates were in Committee and thus were not present at the final decision.

b/ that the Synod, in spite of requests for a reconsideration, refused to discuss the matter further. Signed, by the Committee.

Point 11 of the Agenda: Union with, or a transfer of other Churches to, the Holland Christian Reformed Church of N.A.

a/ Our Church will not consider a federated union with the United Presbyterian Church in America.

W.R.Smidt:

b/ Our Church will not shut the door to trained workers in God's Kingdom who come to us from elsewhere.

Art. 28. The Committee in connection with point "a" above reports and this report is accepted.

- a/ Concerning a federated union, this must be considered more thoroughly before a decision is made. The Committee on this continues its work.
- b/ The Church will remain by the General Regulations, Art. 81,82.

The Agenda, Point 12. -Classis Hudson ;

- a/ the Synod revise the Church Handbook and have a new edition printed.

Classis Grand Rapids:

- b/ The Synod turn its attention to the official report which has the force of law, in connection with the Incorporation of the Michigan Churches, and investigate to ascertain if these Articles of Incorporation are in good order.

Art. 29. The Committee on Church Order reports and the report is accepted.

- a/ The Synod decide that the President appoint a Committee of five persons and that to this Committee the task be assigned to recast the General Regulations, and to provide for an improved set of regulations, keeping in mind the additional regulations since the present copy was made, and that the Church Order of Dordt be printed in large letters, and that below the Capital letters the Articles be listed in small print, and that the Committee take note of what the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands are doing.

- b/ Since the question in point "b" is closely connected with point "a" the Synod assigns this matter to the Committee mentioned in point "a" above.

Agenda, Point 13, -Classis Iowa:

- a/ The Synod prepare a "brochure" in which short and terse the reasons for its existence and the right for same be stated.

Page 15.

- b/ The Synod provide for the obtaining and distribution of Sermons, and preferably from Ministers of our own denomination, such that will be suitable for reading services in those Churches which are vacant.

The Consistory of the Church at Vriesland, Mich.

- c/ The Synod give an answer to the following: Is a Consistory obliged to surrender the Membership of a person who lives near one Church but wishes to join another (of the same denomination)

- d/ The Synod decide on: If the Baptism performed by the Rev. Kreuken is lawful or not.

- e/ The Synod judge how to deal with persons who have declared themselves "Bankrupt" and who now carry on business in the name of the spouse.

- f/ The Synod is requested to express an unfavorable decision concerning the remarks of some persons at the Synod of 1890, which put Holland and Zeeland in a bad light.

Classis Holland:

- g/ The Synod express itself concerning the essence of our belief in question and answer 19 of the Compendium, and whether it is Biblical.

Art. 30. The Report on Point 13, of the Agenda is read and accepted.

- a/ In regard to a "Brochure" of our Church, the Synod decides: The Synod shall give no instruction concerning the formulation of an apology, for which it will hold itself responsible; yet would gladly see that the origin, the right, and the calling of the Church be presented with a strict regard for the truth.

- b/ In regard to Sermons for reading services, the Synod decides: Not to take upon itself the distribution of Sermons, but rather leave it to the Bookstores.

- c/ that Ministers be requested to submit Sermons for reading purposes to the Bookstore managers.

- d/ In regard to Church boundaries, the Synod decides the following: The Synod frowns upon the practice of a person living in proximity of one Church and then preferring to attend a Church at a greater distance.

- e/ Concerning the validity of the baptism, performed by the Rev. Kreulen, the Synod answers that it regrets the circumstances.....

under which this Baptism occurred, but nevertheless it cannot declare the Baptism invalid.

f/ In regard to Bankruptcies, the Synod states that there is no general rule concerning these; each one must rather be judged on its own merits.

g/ The Synod will not enter into a discussion of the proposition mentioned in Section "f" of Article 29, on page 15, since this should have been discussed at that session, (See Art. 34 of the Church Order) This however, does not mean that Synod sanction this action.

h/ The Synod decides not to enter into a discussion of the matter stated in part "g" of Art. 29, on page 15.

The Agenda, Point 14, concerning the World's Fair, to be held in Chicago, in 1893.

a/ The Synod cooperate in an attempt to prevent the Fair from opening its gates on Sundays. -submitted by Classis Hudson.

b/ The Synod send a communication to the Committee in charge of the World Fair asking that the gates remain closed on the Sabbath Day.-the Consistory of the Vriesland Church.

Art. 31. The report of the Committee on the above, concerning the Opening of the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, is accepted. The Synod will direct a petition to the Committee in charge of the exhibition, and the President and the Clerk of the Synod will see to this.

Art. 32. A communication from the Rev. C. Vorst is received as information.

Art. 33. A letter from the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is presented to the Synod, in answer to the Communication by the officers of the previous Synod to the officers of the Presbyterian Assembly concerning the review of the Westminster Confession. See Supplement 10, in the Acts of 1890. This letter is accepted as information. (See the Supplements)

Arts. 34, 35, Devotions and adjournment.

Page 17.

Art. 36. The Minutes of the previous Session are read and approved.

The Agenda, Point I.

a/ The Synod restrict the contributions for the construction of Churches and also for Ministers' salaries, or bring a new fund into being for these purposes.

b/ The Synod give the Missionary Committee permission to establish a Missionary at one location, so that said Missionary can work the surrounding area, under the supervision and the regulation of the Committee.

c/ The Synod give unhampered freedom to place as many Missionaries in the field as the Missionary funds will allow, and especially in the Western area of this country.

d/ The Synod name or cause to be named by Classis Iowa, a Committee of Correspondence whose duty is shall be to keep the principal Committee informed of the state of affairs.

e/ That the Synod be pleased to take into consideration the idea of training a young person especially for Home Mission work, as someone had previously petitioned for this work.

f/ That the Synod grant permission to increase the salary of the Missionary by \$200.00 with a salary of \$800.00.

In name of the Mission Committee, L.J.Hulst.

g/ The Synod recommend that from Classis Grand Rapids, and from Classis Holland, two Ministers, and from Classis Muskegon, one Minister be sent into the Western area every three months, and for five consecutive weeks, under the same ruling as that of Classis Holland, (See the "Wachter," Feb. 24, 1892) with the understanding that:

this ruling be in force until the next Session of the Synod; and

if the relationship between the Ministers and the vacant Congregations in the Classis named remains practically the same as it is now.

-The Congregations of Collendoorn and Overiesel.

a/ Each Classis have one or more Missionary pastors according to the need.

Page 18.

b/ that these be named in conjunction with the Special Committee of the Mission Committee appointed by the Classis.

c/ According to the circumstances and the need, these Ministers will be given a number of Congregations(not to exceed five) as their field of labor.

d/ A permanent abode be provided for each Missionary Pastor, and the salaries be set for this work.

e/ Each Congregation will provide as much of the salary of the Minister as they are capable of doing. The balance will be paid from the Missionary treasury.

f/ Congregations who are able to pay no part of the Minister's salary could also apply to the Missionary Treasury for assistance.

g/ The Synod approach our honorable Professors to ascertain the possibility of their spending a vacation among the Western Congregations, filling the great need of Ministers at this time. - Classis Muskegon.

h/ The Synod give its attention to Home Mission work. -Classis Grand Rapids.

i/ The Synod call into being a fund, from which weak prospective Churches can receive aid, and appoint by calling, a Minister for serving such Churches and also to assist in organizing them. -The Consistory of the Roseland Church.

j/ Vriesland requests, and that earnestly, financial support to the amount of \$100.00 for a Minister that is to be called. -The Consistory of the Church.

k/ The Synod designate a certain definite area in the United States for Home Mission work, for each Home Missionary. -Classis Hudson.

l/ That a Missionary be placed as speedily as possible in the North Western section of Iowa and under acceptable conditions. - W.R.Smids.

m/ The Classis asks, because of the pressing need for Evangelistic work, that a Classical Missionary be provided and if possible even two.

n/ That the Synod will see to it, in as far as it is able, to give a Missionary a definite station for his work. -Classis Iowa.

Page 19.

Art. 37. The Committee in charge of matters pertaining to Home Missions reports. This report is accepted. Following this the principal Classical Committee brings in its report and is given by the Rev. Hoekstra. (See the Supplements.)

The Synod pass judgment on the following:

a/ That the Home Missionary Committee, as the principal Committee, and the Classical Committees be organized in the same manner as formerly, with the understanding that the Classical Committee exist not in name alone, but that each is responsible for the development of its own territory, to consider the needs of the Mission work, and to correspond with the principal Committee, and to consider the idea of a need of one or more Missionaries.

b/ that a fund be brought into being for assistance in the construction of Church buildings, and for assistance in the payment of Ministers' salaries and that this fund is to be known as "Church Help". The Rev. J. Noordewier will act as the Treasurer of this fund, and the monies for this fund can be forwarded to him. Until the next Session of the Synod the monies in this fund can be available to the Home Mission Committee, and then at a later date this fund can become an independent fund.

c/ The Home Missions Committee shall have complete power to station a Missionary at any location, and to place as many Missionaries in the field as possible, and that our western area shall have priority.

d/ Not to consider the motion to educate a person with financial support from the Mission Fund.

e/ That the salary of a Missionary pastor be increased to the sum of \$800.00, and with the understanding that the Missionary provide his own living quarters, and that the place be sanctioned by the Missionary Committee.

- f/ To accept the advice of the Committee as follows: The Synod give the head Committee the freedom of working a designated field with a Congregation which is weak financially, and could perhaps provide for one half of the Minister's salary, and that they together might be able to call a Minister, who could then divide his time between the Congregation and the work of a Home Missionary, and that in the vicinity of his Congregation. Congregations of this nature, operating in conjunction with the Mission do all in their power to defray the expenses of such an undertaking; and an English speaking and also a German speaking Missionary should be forth coming if the need exists.
- g/ The advice of the Committee in connection with the motion of the Congregations of Overiese and Collendoorn be accepted: the Committee has nothing special to say concerning this, but it will not refuse advice from the Synod.
- h/ To place the other matters, as that concerning the Congregation Vriesland, in the hands of the Home Mission Committee.

Page 20.

Art. 38. The various Classes now assemble to name the Classical Home Mission Committees. And the principal Committee, chosen from these Committees consists of the Revs. Hulst, Riemersma, Hoekstra, Marcusse, Bode, Van Houten, and Van Vlaanderen.

Art. 39 and 40. Closing and opening Devotions.

Art. 41. Agenda, Point II. Heathen Missions.

a/ The Synod discuss the field suitable for foreign Mission work, and bestir itself for a united effort in this field also. -Classis Grand Rapids.

a/ The Synod declare that we, as far as the Mission field is concerned, must abide by Art. 6, of the Synod of 1888, and confine our efforts among the Indians in our own land.

b/ The Synod will speak out and express an opinion on the matter of a continuation of the calling of Ministers from our own group, or keeping in mind the many fruitless attempts in the past; adopt a waiting attitude, - until extraordinary propitious circumstances present themselves - i.e. until our students are prepared.

c/ The Synod state whether the Students who are studying the prescribed courses at our Theological School, should also along with this acquire some useful knowledge for an everyday practical and domestic existence.

- The Committee of Heathen Missions.

b/ The Synod decide to take over one of the Missionaries in Soemba, and be financially responsible for his support, in conjunction with the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands and under its supervision, or that the Synod consider it feasible to support the Church in its mission endeavors.

c/ The Synod review Article 65 of the Acts of Synod, 1888.

Page 21.

d/ Our Church begin Mission work in conjunction with the United Presbyterian Church and begin in Egypt. -W.R.Smidt.

Art. 42. The Report of the Heathen Mission is read and accepted. (See the Supplements)

Art. 43. The report of the Committee dealing with the matters pertaining to Foreign Missions is read and accepted. The Synod decides:

a/ That the mission field of the Church is American.

b/ That it will not plunge headlong into any Mission efforts in conjunction with any other Church, but rather develop its own Mission work.

c/ To delay sending out workers, until our own trained men are prepared; unless some unforeseen circumstances might arise. Until such a time the Church will concentrate on the work of the Home Missions, and support it with offerings and not by borrowing the funds from the Heathen Mission Treasury.

Art. The matters of the discussion of Missions was not completed at adjournment time.

The afternoon Session of Monday, June 20.

Opening Devotions

Art. 45. This Article enumerates a number of alternates who have become delegates beginning with this Session. (They will not be listed)

Page 22.

The list of delegates continues.

Art. 46. The discussion of Foreign Missions continues.
The following is accepted.

d/ The Students at the School will receive such instruction as the Mission Committee deems best, and by this the Committee is of the opinion that a knowledge of Medicines would be very useful.

A Protest: -by T. Keppel.

Since the Synod has decided to confine its Mission endeavors within the bounds of the United States, and that among the American Indians, the above party protests and for the following reasons;

a) That it was proved by the Rev. Vanden Bosch, and according to him cannot be carried out.

b) Since the decision of the Synod of 1888 was in force, and repeated in 1892, it will kill all Missionary desire, since the proof is already present in that the offerings for this purpose are dwindling.

c) That Missionary funds are being put out at interest is objectional to many persons. There fore the above cannot sanction these proceedings.

Art. 47. The Report of the Committee of the Emeritus Fund is read and accepted. (Supplements)

Page 23.

The Committee report on the matters of the Agenda. The motion is passed that the Emeritus Committee meet with the Committee on Reports and to discuss the necessary matters and then report later. Point V. of the Agenda will be included in this.

Point V. The Synod will increase the amount of the support to the Rev. W. Coelingh from the Emeritus Fund. -W.R. Smidt.

The Agenda, Point 6, Matters of Discipline.

a) Do Church members who are under Censure have the right to vote for officebearers in the Church?

b) What must be done with Parents who do not present their children for Baptism, for months after birth, and that without a reason or because of conscientious objections?

c) How must married baptized members be dealt with who do not act according to Art. 61 of the General Regulations, and yet bring their children to be baptized?

d) Would it not be desirable that the Synod take steps toward having the whole denomination bring Art. 57. into application concerning the Baptismal question in the presentation of their children? - Classis Hudson.

e) That the Synod issue an emphatic warning against all incorrect practices or any misuse of Calls in which both Congregations and Ministers can engage; such as the passing of the expiration dates without decisions, and handling the Calls received in the proper manner. - Classis Grand Rapids.

f) The Synod stress a close adherence to Articles 61, 62 of the General Regulations.

g) The Synod express itself on the question of work in "Hothouses" on the Sabbath Day, and whether such work is necessary or not. -The Consistory at Englewood.

h) The Synod make changes in Articles 60, 61, of the General Regulations. -Classis Muskegon.

Art. 48. The Report on discipline problems is read and accepted.

a/ Synod cannot answer point "a". gives a negative answer.

b/ Point "b" is referred to the Art. 56. of the Church Order of Dordt.

c/ The Synod accepts this on "c" Children are to be baptized and the elders are to be dealt with according to the last part of Art. 62 of the General Regulations.

Page 24.

d) Synod will not enter into this matter.

e) Likewise with point "e" since no concrete case was brought before the Synod.

f) The Synod insists on observing Articles 61, 62 of the General Regulations.

g) In the matter of Sunday labor in "Hothouses" refers to Art. 76. of the General Regulations and leaves the rest of the matter to the consistories.

h) Synod decided to make no changes in Articles 60, 61, of the General Regulations.

Art. 49. An inquiry from the Coldbrook Church in Grand Rapids is placed before the Synod. If anyone who is under discipline for abstinence, can be a witness to the baptism of his Child. The Synod decides that such a person may not answer to the questions in the Formulary of Baptism.

Art. 50. The Synod is informed that the West Michigan College sends a communication with a friendly invitation for the Synod to pay a visit to the College when the Sessions have ended. The Synod appreciates the invitation, but it feels that it cannot accept because of the lack of time. Nevertheless the President and the Clerk shall compose an answer to the invitation.

Art. 51. Devotions and Intermission.

Tuesday Morning, June 21.

Art. 52. The Minutes of the Monday sessions are read and accepted.

The Agenda, Point IV. The E.B.P. Fund.

The Synod stress the fact that various Classes adopt the same rules for the Student Fund Treasuries. -Classis Holland.

Page 25.

Art. 53. As the result of a motion, the President names the various Chairmen of the Classical E.B.P.Fund. These appointees shall formulate a Set of Rules which shall be sent to the stated Clerks, so that they can be discussed by each Classis.

Art. 54. The Report of the Committee of the Emeritus Fund is discussed (Art. 47) The Report is read and accepted. At a motion of the Committee the Synod decides:

a/ that the widow Stuit be referred to the rules of the Emeritus Fund.

b/ that the Rev. J. Stadt continue in his emeritation.

c/ that the Rev. W. Coeligh be directed to the rules for Emeritation.

d/ that the Rev. J. Guelker receive \$250.00 annually; however making no reference toward his work.

Art. 55. A communication was received from Messrs. D. Mokma and J. Lemmen, including five questions. The Synod will not consider these since there is no complaint, and refers the matter to the Consistory of Collendoorn where this matter belongs and where it has not been considered.

Mr. H. Flinkers sends a letter from Cleveland, W.S.

The decision: a Committee will go to Cleveland and meet with the consistories of both Churches here to discuss the matter mentioned in the letter.

The Committee: the Revs. P. Ekster, K. Kuiper, and Elder T. Keppel

Art. 56. Report on the German Translation of our Liturgical Formularies, This report is accepted and listed in the Supplements.

Agenda VII, The Theological School

- a/ The Synod express its satisfaction with the decision of Dr. G. Vos, in regard to his Call to Princeton.
- b/ The Synod decide to call a fourth Professor.
-The Consistory of the Congregation at Roseland.
- c/ The Synod consider means of improving the instruction at the Theological School, and thus place it on a better footing.
- d/ The Synod designate another person for the Editorship of the "Wachter" since the Rev. Boer needs all his time for his studies and for instruction.

Page 26.

- e/ The Synod examine two new regulations of the Curators.
- f/ The Synod will make a decision on the question of whether students who receive Classical support need to take the entrance examinations.
-The Curators
- g/ The Synod decide how to deal with students who request temporary relief from the payment of tuition.
-Classis Grand Rapids.

Art. 57. The Report in regard to the Theological School. The following are accepted.

- a/ That the Synod express its pleasure with the decision of Dr. G. Vos, in regard to his offer from Princeton. At the request of the Synod, this is done by the President with appropriate remarks. The Doctor thanks the President and the Synod.

As a result of the decision of the Doctor to remain with the Seminary, the Rev. J.C.Voorhis makes the following motion which is accepted. to wit that monies be collected for a "Library Fund". The Committee for receiving such funds consists of the Revs. J.C.Voorhis, Vander Vries, and Elder Van Bree. The Professors will function in the choice of the books to be purchased.

- b/ The vote being unanimous, the Synod decided that a fourth Professor be added to the Faculty. The President chooses a Committee to submit a list of suitable nominees. The Committee consists of B.B.Vos, Noordewier, and Potgieter, along with the Professors and the Curators. This committee is to report on the following morning. The instructions of the Congregation of Ridott is handed to this Committee.
- c/ The Clerk of the Board of Curators now reads a Constitution for the School, which is accepted after a few changes. (See the Supplements)

Art. 58. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 59. e/ The Clerk of the Board of Curators now also reads a Constitution for the Curators of the School. This is also accepted by the Synod. (See the Supplements)

Page 27.

- a/ The Synod considers that point "c" has been satisfactorily answered, by the decision to call a fourth Professor.
- d/ Seeing that a fourth Professor is to be called, the Synod decided that Professor Boer shall continue as the Editor of the "Wachter".
- e/ Concerning admission examinations, the Synod decides that Classical Students must also take the entrance Examinations, to ascertain their mental status.
- f/ The Synod will not give the Curators permission to exempt any student from the payment of his tuition, even temporarily.

Art. 60. The Synod decrees that the travelling expenses of the Committee chosen to go to Cleveland, (see Art. 55) will be restored to them, also to the delegates to the United Presbyterian Church(see Art. 24) and to the delegate to the Synod of the Netherlands.(see Art. 24)

The Agenda, Point X. Dealing with the question of Unions

a/ The Synod take note of the many Unions which are active in this area, which according to their nature and scope, with a consequent saturation of their principles, will not only bring about a complete change in the whole urban order, but lead to the eventual overthrow of the Church; and no doubt, be a detriment to a large part of the present supporters of the same unions.

- Classis Grand Rapids.

b/ The Synod designate the Unions whose membership is not compatible with membership in the Church, or rather designate to what extent a Church Member may be disciplined, who more or less are members of Unions. As matters stand now, they are tolerated in some Congregations, or even accepted as Church members, while in other Congregations they are not countenanced nor taken in.

- The Consistory of the Roseland Church.

Art. 61. A report on unions.

The Synod accepts:

1) In regard to point "a" that following the judgment of the Synod, every Union must be judged by its own official Statutes, and the purpose for which it exists.

2) That in case the purpose seems to be in conflict with God's Word and might tend to undermine the urban order or foundations, to that extent warnings from the Church and actions in any case can not be wanting.

Page 28.

In regard to point "b"

1) The Synod will render no further decisions on designated Unions or such like organizations, in addition to those already stated.

2) The Synod will admonish Consistories to deal according to the above mentioned decisions.

3) By the methods Consistories use in dealing with these cases, concrete cases can be brought before the Synod.

Art. 62. The Synodical Committee reports at this time and the report is accepted.
(See the Supplement)

Art. 63. Our retired Elder, C. Van Zanten, on a visit to the Netherlands, attended the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, and he is now asked to give a report on his trip, which he does. The President thanks the Elder for his report.

Art. 64. The Rev. L.J.Hulst., retiring from the Synodical Committee, is reappointed by acclamation.

Art. 65. The Home Mission Committee reports on the financial outlay to Churches who have requested financial aid, in either calling a Minister or supporting a Minister now present in the Church. (This report is omitted in the Translation)

Page 29.

Art. 66. Hackensack asks the Synod how they must now consider their Classical Missionary. This will now be a matter for the Head Missionary Board.

Art. 67. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 68. " " Wnsdy A.M. Session.

Art. 69 The Minutes of the previous Session are read and accepted.

Art. 70 . The Committee on the nominations for a fourth Professor for the Theo. School new report, (Art. 57 b.) Five names are presented to the Synod: The Rev. Prof. N.N.Steffens, Holland; Prof. D.K.Wielenga, Kampen; The Rev. Prof. J. Jaeger, Emden, Germany; The Rev. G.D.De Jong, Gr Haven; The Rev. H. Potgieter, Ridott, Ill.

The Synod accepts the Nominations.

Art. 71. The Synod now goes into executive Session and discusses the nominees, after which the voting will take place. The person elected must have a two thirds majority. The Rev. J.H.Vos leads in prayer. Dr. N.M.Steffens was chosen with nearly a unanimous vote. By acclamation, Prof. D.K.Wielenga was chosen as alternate. And should both the men chosen, decline their calls, the Synod mandates the Curators to choose an Assistant Professor for the new term beginning in September.

Art. 72. The Synod decides that Professor Stebbens be informed immediately.....

Page 30.

concerning his call. The officers of the Synod will see to this and a "letter of call" will be prepared at once.

Art. 73. The Synod gives the Committee on Home Missions permission to allow the Congregation of Oostfriesland \$200.00 for the salary of the Minister. The Synod also sanctions an offering for Meservey, Le Mars, and Rock Valley. The Rev. Bode will have charge of the receipts for these Churches and the monies for this purpose will be divided equally among them.

Art. 74. The Committee on Jewish Missions (Art. 22b.) announces that the Rev. Fles has been chosen as the Treasurer of the Jewish Mission fund, and any monies for this fund should be sent to him.

Art. 75. A communication was received from the Rev. K. Kreulen (Art. 30 d) This is referred to Classis Grand Rapids.

Art. 76. The Rev. Diepering Langeries asks the Synod if he may leave the Session, because of illness; this is granted.

Art. 77.

The Synod considers it necessary to have a Committee for the investigation of the Rev. J.C. Kalkoen. The Revs. P. Kosten and Riemersma are chosen.

Art. 78.

The matter of the "Wachter" is up for discussion. a/ The motion was accepted that the Sunday School Lessons be continued in this publication. The International Lessons are to be used.

Art. 79. The Rev. E. Vander Vries asked to be excused because he is indisposed. This is granted.

Art. 80. Devotions and Intermission.

Page 31.

Art. 81. The report on the "Wachter" is continued.

b/ Professor Boer will edit the Sunday School Lessons in the "Wachter"

c/ In case co-workers are needed the Synod decided to retain those chosen in Art. 38 of the previous Synod. The Revs. Kuipers and Remein will replace the Revs. Heyns and Potgieter.

d/ The Committee on advice who is named in the same Article reports and the Synod reappoints them.

e/ The Editor of the "Wachter" along with the Committee on advice will designate the amount of space which is to be allowed for advertising.

f/ An Administrator (Bus. Mgr.) W. Brink is chosen until the following Synod, whose task will begin in September.

Art. 82. This Article lists Synodical Officers, Committees etc, etc. Not important in the translation.

Page 32.

Art. 83. The Report of our German Monthly. This is accepted concerning it.

a/ From now on this publication will be issued bi-monthly. The Editor will receive the sum of \$25.00 for the first year and \$50.00 for the second year. The Church will be responsible for the publication, etc.

b/ That the twenty five dollars the first year and the balance, \$100.00 from Classis Iowa, will be restored to it from the "Wachter" fund.

c/ The business Manager of the German bi-monthly will contact the Bus. Mgr. of the "Wachter" if he is in need of financial support.

Art. 84. The Synod decides to name someone to secure Railroad tickets at reduced rates. R.H. Iserman from New York is given permission to have suitable blanks printed for this purpose.

Art. 85. It is decided to have 1000 copies of the Agenda published for the next Synod.

Art. 86. It is decided to hold the next Synodical Session in the Theological School, which will open in 1894 the first week after Pentecost.

Art. 87. It is proposed that the name "Holland" be eliminated from the name of the Church, since there are both English and German speaking Congregations in our denomination. This proposal is tabled until the following Synod.

Printing Classical and Synodical Mandates is also postponed until the following Synod.

Art. 88. It is decided that no Protest will be entertained by the Synod, which is submitted during the Synodical Sessions.

Art. 89 The budget for the Theological School is read and accepted. The total amounts to \$ 4750.00.

Page 33.

Art. 90 The Synod expresses its gratitude to all the Brothers and Sisters, who have housed and fed the delegates. The Grand Rapids Ministers will convey this message to their Congregations on the next Sabbath.

Art. 91. Since the Sessions have come to an end, the President now takes the floor. My dear Brothers:

The task, which we have undertaken here, has once more been completed. Some of the matters which were listed in the Agenda, were closely allied with our Church life. The number of our Congregations is not large when it is compared with other church organizations in our land; but that does not mean that we have fewer needs than they, with a backward glance at the labors accomplished in the favor of the Lord, and with his blessing.

We are of the Reformed persuasion. We consider it a matter of gratitude to be able to cast a piercing glance, as a Calvinist, into the Sovereignty of God. But along with this we must also be cognizant of the fact, that it rests with us to witness to this, and that this must be a universal witness.

The Reporters are thanked for their various reports in the names of the Committees. The standing Committees are thanked, as well as the Professors, for their timely advice, also the Vice President for his valuable Assistance, the Clerks for taking the Minutes, and above all our great Lord, who brought us together. While we ask for forgiveness for that not in accord with the purity of his Kingdom, nevertheless we must return thanks to Him continually for having spared us in spite of that which was not right.

And now, we depart, dear Brothers, and may the Lord bring you in safety to your homes, especially those who are some distance from this city; and back to the flocks entrusted to your care. May you meet all your dear ones in good health. Much can happen in a period of two years, but may the Lord grant us that.....

Page 84.

When the following Synod meets, no servant of the Lord may be found absent because of death; since it was not necessary to mourn for anyone when these Sessions began. Nevertheless, the believers never see each other for the last time, for we shall meet again before the

throne of the Lamb, a part of the Church without spot or wrinkle, made up of those who love the reappearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, in glory. I have spoken.

The Vice President now takes the floor and thanks the President for his faithful work, in this weighty task which had been laid upon his shoulders.

With a prayer of thanksgiving the President now closes the Session, after the seventh stanza of the Even song had been sung.

Signed, The Officers: A. Keizer, Pres.
J.H.Vos, V.P.
J. Riemersma, Clerk
G.D.De Jong, Asst. Clerk.

Page 35.

The Supplements

Letters from Corresponding Churches.....

Supplement I.

To the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America:

Respected Brothers,

Your kind invitation to send a delegate to your Synod, to be held in Grand Rapids, on June 15 and the days following, has been received by the Rev. J. Van Andel, and has been sent by him to the undersigned, with an accompanying communication. In this communication the Rev. Van Andel points to the notification that the Synodical Committee of our Church has become non-existent due to the cancellations of the regulations of 1869. This is certainly true in regard to everything in connection with the government, if it applies to the realm of the Church, e.g. correspondence with foreign Churches, is yet to be seen, as one person states he does not know, and the other answers in the affirmative. One fact is plain, that the Synodical Committee, long before the now defunct regulations were voided, had the foresight to receive its mandate from the Synod, which body is the only one which can remove it.

But to your friendly invitation there must be an answer, and the Synodical Committee, functioning as a whole or otherwise, seems to be the proper body to answer you.

Concerning the invitation that we send delegates to your Synod, this matter cannot be followed up at this time, since our recent Synod has chosen no delegates, and the Synodical Committee, although still functioning, can name no delegates. Thus there remains only this means of conveying the greetings from our Church, i.e. by correspondence. This gives us a great satisfaction, and we wish you, until your Synod meets, all possible good. Standing with you on the same foundations, possessing the identical doctrines, and carrying on one common struggle; our Church feels a close bond toward yours, which entitles you to bear the name of a "younger sister". A large expanse of ocean lies between us, but across this ocean we join our hands with yours before the throne of him, who holds the waters in his hand, and the time will come when he shall state "and the sea shall be no more". May the.....

Page 36.

King of the Church be in your midst with his Holy Spirit, and guide you in all of your deliberations and decisions.

Within a short time our Synod will also be in Session, in Amsterdam, with this specific object in mind, concerning the union of our Church and the Netherlands Reformed Church, a discussion of which was begun the previous year. How desirable it would be that also in America, a union might come into being between Churches which have the same doctrine and live by the same principles.

It is our hope that both groups of our Churches in our country will unite, even if it is brought about with "jerks and jolts". Great things have been accomplished by our God at the outset; and we trust even now that he will make all things well. In your land also God's goodness can be seen. He will ever be mindful of you. We entrust you to the Lord and to the word of his grace, while we with the deepest fraternal regard, yours in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the name of the above mentioned Church,
Done at Zwolle, May 5, 1892. J.Hessels, Sec. Synodical Committee.

To the Holland Christian Reformed Church, Meeting in the United States of America, on the fifteenth of June, and the days following:

Honorable Sirs and Brothers in the Lord:

Grace and Peace to you,

By an invitation from the Rev. J.H.Vos, secretary of your Synodical Committee, an invitation was sent to us, asking us to send a delegate to your Synod which was about to be held; and this request from you has caused us much joy. This invitation from you acted as a cup of cool water to a thirsty soul. It is true that we are separated by a great distance, and yet we feel our unity with you, and it is a matter of great concern to us to note the activities as well as the vicissitudes of the Church of Christ in your land. Therefore we keep them in mind as much as possible. The information of the continued growth of your Church calls for gratitude to God, who only is the cause of this progress. By prayer, in addition, we hope there is an inward growth, as well as a development into a holy life, through the medium of the Holy Spirit, and an outward growth in many living members and Congregations in all states.

Concerning us, we can also report good news. In general, our circumstances are now as they were reported to you at your previous Synod.

Page 37.

The change is this: that by the departure of the Rev. J. Jager from Jhrhoveto Emden-Neermeer and now at Emden, both these Churches have regular services.

From our Theological School, we can inform you that Kolthoff and Brunger have been sent out into the Lord's vineyard. Two others enjoyed the privilege of entering upon their studies. Another student came to us from Breslau for resuming his studies, which makes three Theological students, but there none in the Literary Department at present.

In addition, dear brothers, our financial status is unsatisfactory. If we had more funds, -better said- more confident belief in our God, then the results would be more worthy of praise. It is high time that we sent out a Brother as a Home Missionary, but our financial strength will not permit it. For this reason, that our finances must constantly be kept in mind; it again becomes impossible to send anyone to your Synod. Nevertheless the undersigned was mandated to send this letter to your Classis. This and that Brother were certainly willing to attend your Synod but the costs were prohibitive. Therefore this letter must take the place of the delegates, and accept in this our love for your honored gathering.

Finally, Brothers, we bid you Godspeed. The Lord, the King of His Church, be with you and bless you; may he ease your tasks, giving you all the necessary wisdom, and may all the labors in your midst be to His honor and to the glory of Zion, and may each Brother return to his abode in safety at the conclusion of the Sessions, and that with fitting thanks to the Lord. Finally may he give us all grace to be faithful unto death, so that no one take our crowns. With both fraternal and Congregational greetings, constantly keeping the Lord Jesus in our minds, we close in the name of the Classis of the Old Reformed Church in Graafschap-Bentheim, and in the Province of East Friesland.

F.C. Van Dorp, Pres.
J.H. Schultz, Clerk

Done at Ulzen, May 11, 1892
In Graafschap Bentheim.

Page 38.

To the General Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church:

Fathers and Brethren!

Your fraternal solicitude, as conveyed in your letter to our General Assembly, concerning our maintenance of the Westminster Confession, is recognized and appreciated.

We call to your attention the fact that our Committee on Revision was instructed by the last Assembly that it should "not propose any alterations nor amendments that would in any way impair the integrity of the Reformed or Calvinistic System of doctrine taught in the Confession of Faith."

The work is still in hand, subject to suggestions and amendments by our Presbyteries.

but we believe that you, yourselves, and all other religious bodies interested in the maintenance of the Reformed Confessions, may rest assured that our branch of the Presbyterian Church will continue earnestly to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints" while at the same time it will seek to comprehend more fully in its outlook the great work of the world's evangelization.

With this assurance we heartily reciprocate your interest, praying that we may together hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering and consider provoking one another unto love and good works.

In behalf of the General Assembly,

W.H.Green, Moderator

Wm. H. Roberts, Stated Clerk.

A true copy.

See Supplement X, page 49 of the Synod of 1890. (L.J.Hulst)

A Report of the Synodical Committee.

The Synodical Committee has the honor and the privilege to give a short report of the work accomplished since the Synod of 1890.

The first request, received by the Committee, was from North Holland, Dakota, asking that an offering be taken for the Church in all the Congregations. This Congregation was financially embarrassed, and thus in danger of dissolution. Classis Iowa sanctioned this request, and it also showed that it had helped according to its ability, and thus the Committee felt free to recommend this.

The Committee also received a communication from the Rev. G. De Jong, from Grand Haven, containing a request to delegate the Brother, Elder Van Zanten, of the Congregation there to

Page 39.

have him convey the fraternal greetings from our Church to the Chr. Ref. Church in the Netherlands, which will be in Session in August 1891, at Leeuwarden. Since the Committee did not have the right of delegation, Brother Van Zanten was informed that he would be given permission to convey our greetings by means of his person. Nevertheless, the writing for this brother could not be placed into his hand before his departure, since conveying our greetings hinged on the invitation from the Netherlands, and this was expected on June 23rd. Then our writing was sent to the address which was given us, the Rev. J. Van Andel, with a note accompanying it that this communication be given to Brother Van Zanten.

We also received an official communication in the name of the Reformed Church of So. Africa dated May, 1891. This contained the following:

a/ Information to the effect that M.P.A. Coetsee had been named Corresponding Secretary for the Church, taking the place left vacant by the death of the Rev. D. Postma.

The Rev. M.P.A. Coetsee was the minister at Burgersdorp, Cape Colony, South Africa.

b/ that M. Postma, the son of the Rev. D. Postma, deceased, had been named to the Chair of Theology in the place of his father.

c/ finally, that they wished to continue the correspondence with our Church as a "Sister Church"

A communication was also received from the Church at Wortendijk, New Jersey. The Congregation desired the Rev. C.J. Calkoen as its Minister, but Classis Hudson could not decide to investigate his affairs. Then these brothers were informed that the Synodical Committee was powerless to act in this matter. If they felt that they had not been treated fairly, they could submit a petition to the next Synod.

Finally there was a request to choose at this Synod the following:

A delegate to the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands.

To the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim, East Friesland.

To the Reformed Church in So. Africa.

To the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Doleerende)

Communications were received from only the first two mentioned Churches.

In name of the Committee,

J.H.Vos, Secretary.

Supplement II,
The Report of the Mission Board since the year 1890.

Honored Brothers:

May the following report of the Mission work of the Churches satisfactory to the delegates of the Synod.

In June of 1890, the Account Book contained accounts of Notes valued at \$1160.00

The balance in 1889 amounted to \$88.06.

Receipts during the Synod. 160.26

" 1890-1891 1822.81

Total \$ 2071.13

The receipts were as follows;

Interest on outstanding notes 17.25

from persons, societies, etc. 400.00

Congregational Offerings 1360.00

From these monies nine Congregations received support: Lafayette, Harrison, Ridott, Alto, Richland, Fulton, Borculo, Beaverdam, Cleveland, (W. S.); Two ministers were supported, travelling expenses were restored to three Students who spent the summers in the Western Areas. And in addition running expenses. This total amounted to \$1853.33, thus leaving a balance of \$217.80.

The accounts were audited and found to be satisfactory.

June 1891-1892

The receipts amounted to \$2292.70 with the balance, a total of \$2510.50.

Page 41.

Nine Congregations received support from these funds, four Students for their work in the Western areas, and including the running expenses, disbursements amounted to \$1822.92, leaving a balance of \$687.58.

During the interim, the Rev. Douwstra left the Committee, by his departure to Chicago. Classis Holland appointed the Rev. Broene, from the Drenthe Congregation, as a temporary replacement. The Rev. Noordewier resigned as a member of the Committee because of his Home Mission Work, and the added task of collecting funds for the Theological School. Classis Muskegon chose the Rev. Hoekstra to act in his stead until the next session of the Synod.

Mission work suffered toward the end of this period, because of the lack of Missionaries. The Rev. Breen left this work at the end of 1890, by accepting a call to Firth, Nebraska. Then The Rev. T. Vanden Bosch left by accepting a call to Cleveland (W.S.) The Committee would gladly have retained these men, since their labors were appreciated and they bore fruit. The Rev. Noordewier became a substitute but he was unable to give full time to the work, because of the task of collecting funds for the School, which demanded much of his attention. The Reverend was called by the Trustees of the School and by the Home Mission Board, to collect monies for the School and to carry on Mission work at a salary of \$900.00 per annum until the next session of the Synod. The Trustees were to be responsible for two thirds of this amount, and the balance would be supplied by the Missionary Treasurer. Each group would be responsible for one half of the travelling expenses.

Repeated attempts to call another Missionary Pastor were of no avail, and thus the missionary effort in this most important work was greatly impaired.

The need is great and the question of help is a pressing one. To overcome this need in part, four students will be sent to the West, and one to the East, who are to work in those areas during the summer vacations.

May the Synod give its earnest attention to the matter of Home Missions, as per the Article in the Agenda, so that a profitable program may be prepared for this work. This is the wish of the Committee.

Signed:

L.J. Hulst

E. Broene

J.B. Hoekstra

Report on Heathen Missions.

To the Synod of our Church, in Session on June 15, (and the days following) 1892.

Honorable Brothers:

By presenting our report on Heathen Mission work, the Spirit hovers over us. In proportion to the importance of a task, in that measure it brings more worry or care as well as an earnest endeavor (for accomplishment) as is often in material matters or in social affairs. If one is to bring anything into being, then one must work struggle and suffer. Moreover set-backs are often experienced, as well as disappointments, which cause one to fear that finally all efforts are in vain.

And perhaps this is the case in no undertaking to such an extent as in the case of Heathen Missions. The Heathen world is best pictured as a dense forest growth, where the lush grasses, are intertwined with thorny brambles and in the midst of which beasts of prey are most frightening and poisonous snakes threaten ones very existence. The friends of the Mission effort picture themselves in a fruitful field, a veritable garden of grains, from which garlands of blooming flowers can be woven for the honor of the King. But this is easier said than done. Unforeseen obstacles, tasks for which one has neither the strength nor the aptitude, present themselves to view. And this is the state of affairs when one is a newcomer in the field of Missions; a treading on unknown paths, making the wrong moves, and as a result suffering repeated disappointments.

The Committee called to this task is in such a state. Courage could long since have failed, and hands could have dropped helplessly had they had no vision of the same nature elsewhere; because of which blessed results followed. The Committee pondered on the Missionary efforts of this period. No Missionary project was free from disappointments, long and non-fruitful labors, with no apparent results.

These accounts appear first in the history of the work, the warp and woof of their endeavors. The Committee pondered on the history of Missions brought to.....

Page 43.

its attention thru various Charters of Missions. It took into consideration the prolonged travels of the Apostles and the Evangelists in the beginning of the Christian era. These men labored, struggled, and suffered, day and night, and that for years. And what was their reward? A crown of martyrdom. But this is to be understood, for had he not suffered for them and gone to the Cross for their sakes? But this also occurred for others, Jews and Heathen, who were then still enemies, and could not as yet become followers of the great leader, except at the instigation of these persons by means of their labors, struggles and by their preaching. While they felt this, these thoughts filled their hearts: the love of Christ constraineth us.

Therefore they put their hands to the plow, nor did they cast a backward glance. They persevered and thus from time to time saw fruits on their labors, as well as success in their endeavors.

The conditions among the heathen however, which others had discovered, and which we viewed only from a distance, were not strange or extra-ordinary. Consider the account of Paul, in Romans I, 28-32, in connection with the Heathen. There we find everything, if not in so many words, then certainly succinctly, connected with the conditions of the heathen of our land, i.e. the Indians on the western plains. Permit me to read these passages of Scripture to you. (The Rev. Vos reads the above mentioned portion of Scripture, which see)

A people guilty of such transgressions would be certainly sure to frighten one away. Yet the Mission Committee recalled the command of the Lord, "Preach the Gospel to all creatures" and it so no opportunity to come into the clear, with such a command and such an expression of His, given to the Church, except that it follow the path set for it. And how was this done? One account since the year 1890 is the answer.

"Disappointments" is the one word which can be written above this account; both for you and for us.

First; Our Missionary pastor, the Rev. T. Vanden Bosch had to be released. He showed soon after the Session of 1890, if you will recall,

that the continuation of the work was very important to him, and not in the least displeasing. The Committee asked the Classes Holland and Grand Rapids, which are neighboring Classes, for advice in this matter. They considered the advice they had received from the Classes. One thing and another convinced them that they should give the brother his release. (He had begun his work on October 23, 1889. This occurred on September 4th, 1890.

A second attempt at acquiring a missionary pastor did not have the desired results. The Rev. P. Schut who earlier, as we thought, had shown a desire to further the cause of Heathen Mission work, was called. But this brother feared to undertake this task, and after a short and serious consideration, he declined the call, much to the disappointment of the Committee.

Then the matter of procedure was carefully considered. We prayed together and stirred each other up for the sake of advancing the cause of Missions, and that among the Heathen, before both the Lord and man. We turned our gaze in all directions for one who could be found who would qualify for the task. A correspondence with the Brethren was the result. This led to a call to Brother Potgieter from Ridott. He seemed to be sympathetic to the cause. He had felt a call for years to labor among the Heathen. This was encouraging to us, and we thus made this hopeful attempt, expecting to hear from him, "See here am I, send me". But the outcome was otherwise. This was very disappointing to us but we kept silent before the Lord. And thus, matters are now at a standstill, as far as Heathen Missions are concerned. The prospective Missionary students are doing fine work, all enjoy excellent health; they are studying diligently and are making good progress in their studies. Drukker is in his fourth year and Frieling, in his third. The former is preparing for his examinations in the Literary Department. The Committee wishes to discuss a few matters concerning these students as it takes up matters in the Agenda, and the decision of the Synod is awaited in this.

It is also to be stated that the Committee experienced difficulties with the funds which were received from time to time, and listed by the Treasurer. The problem is this: For a long time ago before we even began our Missionary project, monies were loaned without sufficient security, but later this matter was corrected satisfactorily.

May God, the Lord, give us the grace of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and with a proper vision.....

of our calling, that we may eventually bring the Gospel to the Heathen. May he make us to understand that which we also perceive, that what we reap in respect to the physical among the Indians, that we are duty bound to sow first in a spiritual way. May the Lord help us to find an open door among these peoples, to lead them along the right paths, i.e. to the knowledge and worship of him before whom every knee shall bow.

The Committee for Heathen Missions, J.H.Vos, Secretary.

Supplement IV.

To the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, in session at Grand Rapids, on the 15th of June, 1892, and the days following.

Honorable Brothers: The Committee of the Emeritus Fund has the pleasure of giving a short report of its activities since the Synod of 1890.

At the first meeting of the Committee various tasks were assigned to the committee members and other matters were arranged.

Then already, the Committee was aware of the fact that with the increase of expenditures it would soon be impossible to supply the needs of all deserving it. Therefore we mandated the Secretary to inform the Consistories of the state of affairs and requested that they remember this Fund in their Thanksgiving Offering. This was taken into account and the results were very satisfactory.

There was only one complaint that the amount paid out to the recipients was insufficient. It was submitted by a brother whose pension was decreased by one half the original amount a few months previous to the last Synod. This person requested a return to the original sum. He was informed that his request should proceed thru the proper channels, the Consistory, the Classical Correspondent, etc. and after that the Committee heard no more. The Treasurer will report on the finances of the Emeritus fund.

The Lord who wishes us to care for his servants, who is a Father of the widow and the orphan, give the Synod the wisdom, the light, and the power to carry on his affairs.
The Committee, J. Vos, Sec.

Page 46.

Supplement V.

A Constitution for the Theological School of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America

Art. 1. The Theological School of the Holland Christian Reformed Church is established for the training of future Ministers of the Word for the above named Church; as well as preparing Missionaries for work among heathen nations.

Art. 2. The School is established at Grand Rapids, Michigan, unless the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church makes other arrangements concerning the location.

Art. 3. The School will be under the control and supervision of a Board of Curators, and appointed by the Classes of the Church; which Curatorium conducts itself under separate rules, set forth for that purpose.

Art. 4. At this institution, the instruction to be given will be in line with the purpose set forth in Article 1 of this Constitution. Instruction will be given in the following subjects.

The Literary Department:

- I. The two year course: Geography, Roman and Greek Antiquities, Mythology.
- II. The three year course: Rhetoric, History of America and of the Netherlands
- III. The four year course; The languages: Dutch, English, German, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, General History, Philosophy, Empirical Psychology, Logic.

The Theological Department:

- I. One year course: Bible History, Biblical Geography, Natural Science, Jewish Antiquities, Hermeneutics,
- II. Two year course: Introduction to Dogmatics, Textual Criticism, Symbolism, Idolatries, History of Dogma.

Page 47.

- III. Three Year course: Isagogics, Dogmatics, Exegesis, Homiletics, Church History.
- IV. Four year course: During the final year of study, instruction must also be given in the following: Christian Ethics, the Catechism, Liturgy, Poemenics, History of the Formulas of Unity.

Art. V. The instruction in the School will be carried on by Professors, and by Assistants according to need and ability. The Assistants are subject to both the Curators and the Professors.

Art. 6. As a rule, no student may make use of the instruction given except with the permission of the Curators, and this in accord with the rules in the Constitution of the Curators.

Art. 7. The Students accepted by the School will conduct themselves as Christians, and especially as future Evangelists should. Students shall have a regard for each other, stimulating each other in love and good works; should a student deviate from the proper path, or demonstrate unbiblical tendencies, the Faculty shall take him in hand, and should this fail, then the Faculty and the Curators shall take the matter in question under discussion, this failing the guilty party shall be expelled from the institution. In case of a serious deviation or sin, the student can be expelled at once with the sanction of the Board of Curators.

Art. 8. The students will be diligent in their studies, attend all Classes regularly, be obedient to all rules set up by the Institution in their regard as well as any others which may be necessary.

Art. 9. The tuition rate will be \$26.00 per year, and this will be paid in two installments, the first at the beginning of the school year, September, and the second payment will be due immediately after the Easter Vacation period, and the payment shall be made to the General Treasurer.

Art. 10. Promotion to a higher Class shall take place after an examination, at the time set by the Board of Curators in their Constitution, and then at the judgment and by the sanction of the Curators in conjunction with the Professors.....

Page 48

As a rule each student will remain in his class, so that he will not be permitted to omit courses, but if the Student feels that he is prepared to take his examinations a year earlier, he shall be permitted to do so.

may conduct

Art. 11. No student in the Literary Department, worship services in a Congregation, but having completed his examinations in that department, and in addition one year's study in Theology, and after having delivered a proof sermon before the Faculty and to their satisfaction; he may be permitted to preach in a Congregation, altho this is limited to one Sunday a month. (This Article does not hold for vacation periods)

Art. 12. After the Student has successfully completed the Examinations in both the Literary and the Theological Departments, the Curators will present the Student with a Diploma, to which is affixed the Seal of the Church, as well as the signatures of the proper persons. (President of the Curatorium, Principal of the Seminary.)

Art. 13. A student upon the completion of the work in the Literary Department will receive a diploma upon the payment of \$5.00; the Theological Student will pay \$10.00.

Art. 14. The literary course will be a four year Course, the Theological Course, three years.

Art. 15. The months of July and August will be the summer months in which the School will be recessed, as well as the last week of the old year and the first week of the new year, for the winter recess.

Art. 16. In order that the Professors may be thoroughly prepared for their teaching tasks, they will confine their preaching activities to one Sunday per month. (This article does not hold for vacation periods.)

Art. 17. When the School is in session there will be an Assembly of Students and Faculty once each week with addresses, talks, etc, and also for social intercourse.

Page 49.

Art. 18. Once every three months, an Assembly of Students and Faculty will be held, at which time the personal life of the students will be investigated, as well as the progress they have made in their studies.

Art. 19. These Articles shall remain in force until the Synod deem a change necessary.

These Articles were composed by the College of Curators, and were sanctioned by the Synod of 1892.

A. Keizer, Pres.
J.H. Vos, V.P.
J. Riemersma, Clerk
G.D. De Jong, Asst. Clerk.

Supplement VI.

The Constitution for the Curators of the Theological School of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in America.

Art. I. The Board of Curators of the Theological School of the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America, and located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, shall consist of ten members, unless the Synod of the Church increase or decrease the number.

Art. 2. The Members of the Board of Curators are chosen by the various Classes of the Church, and in the following manner, the Classes of Holland, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids, will each choose two members; the Classes Illinois, Hudson, Iowa, and Hackensack, each one. Each Classis will mandate its choice before Sessions of the Curators are held. The Curators will choose a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, from among their number.

Art. 3. The Curators are chosen to care for the needs of the School, to keep supervision over the training of the future Ministers of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, as over all the Students and the Professors, and over the instruction given in the various subjects and in all matters in connection with the training of future Evangelists.

Page 50.

Art. 4. Professors appointed at the School must be those of Reformed persuasion; and at the time of appointment of a person for a position, said appointee shall join a Holland Christian Reformed Church, in case he is not a member of said Church.

Art. 5. The Curatorium shall see to it that the Students be instructed in all the subjects necessary for a well-rounded education for the ministers of the Church. Art 4 of the Constitution of the School gives more information on this.

Art. 6. The Curators shall see to it that the instruction in Theological Subjects is in accord with the well known confession of the Old Reformed Church in the Netherlands, to wit: The Heidelberg Catechism, The Netherland Confession of the 37 Articles, and the Articles of the National Synod of Dordt, formulated in 1618-1619/

Art. 7. The Curators will also note that regular progress is made in the course of instruction that a proper and regular procedure may be in order, with the result that the preachers of the word may be trained in an approved manner.

Art. 8. The Curators shall see to it that in the third year of Theology all the subjects be covered at least once a year. All subjects shall have been covered completely in a three year period.

Art. 9. The division of Courses, and the subjects each is to conduct is regulated by the Curators, in conjunction with the Professors.

Art. 10. In accepting Students for the School, the Curators will act with care and faithfulness. No one will be accepted as a student who has not passed an Entrance Examination.

Art. 11. The Entrance Examination shall be held in the daytime

Page 51.

sometime previous to the time for the school sessions to begin, i.e. the first part of the month of September.

Art. 12. Applicants for admission must have a certification of Church membership of our Church, and a recommendation from the Consistory of the home Church, or of Christian friends who are not members of the Church, which recommendations will be judged by the Curators.

Art. 13. The Examination shall consist of questions to the applicant:
a/ If he has completed his elementary education, and that in a district school or in some other manner.

- b/ If the applicant has an aptitude for study.
- c/ If he gives any signs of personal piety.

Art. 14. The Board of Curators will hold two Sessions each year:

a/ In June to conduct the Examinations, and if the examinations are passed successfully to pass the students to a higher grade; or in the preparatory Examinations to place the Seminary graduates eligible for Call.

b/ In September, at the beginning of the first semester, to take entrance Examinations of the applicants, and to conduct such other business as is necessary for the welfare of the Institution.

The times for the Sessions will be published in the "Wachter" twice.

Art. 15. The above Constitution will be in force until it is altered by the Synod.

This document was formulated by the College of Curators and received the sanction of the Synod of 1892.

The Officers: A. Keizer, Pres.
J.H.Vos, V.P.
J.Riemersma, Clerk
G.D.De Jong, Asst. Clerk.

Page 52.

Supplement VII.

To The Synod,

Honorable President and respected Members of the Synod:

The former Synod appointed a Committee for the purpose of examining the various Church Formularies, which are used in the German Churches of our denomination, with the idea of bringing them into conformity with those which have been used in the Reformed Churches since the time of the Reformation. This Committee brings the following information to this body at this time.

1/ That it has compared these Formularies, namely the Formula for the Baptism of both children and adults, the Communion, the forms for the expulsion of members from the Church, and for readmitting them, the installation of the Ministers of the Word, of Elders and Deacons, the form for the Marriage ceremony; with the best copies of those in the Holland language- and now having removed something here or added something there, having changed and improved various sections, and having completely revised those where the most changes were necessary and expressed them more plainly, the Committee has now sent them on to the Rev. Plesscher.

2/ That this Brother was informed that he should rewrite them for the use of the German Churches, so that each copy could be read most easily to the Congregations, and then later on, if the number of Churches increased, the Formularies could be printed for use in their Churches.

The Committee thanks the Synod for the trust placed in it.

The Committee, G.Vos,
G. Hemkes.

Note: Pages 53, 54, 55 are taken up with the Transportation expenses of the delegates of the year 1890, and are of minor interest to the reader, so they are not included in the Translation.