

1894

[1894] Acta van De Synode der Hollandsche Christelijke Gereformeerde Kerk, in Amerika. Gehouden te Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1894.

TRANSLATION:

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

ASSEMBLED AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

June 13, ff., 1894

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

The Acts of the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church of America,
held at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the 13th of June, and the days following, in 1894

The First Session, June 13, 1894. Wednesday.

Article 1. After an hour of prayer on the evening previous to the opening of the Synodical Sessions, conducted by the President of the previous Synod, the Rev. A. Keizer, who spoke on Acts 2:42; the delegates assembled in the recently completed Theological Building on the following morning, where the Rev. Keizer again took charge of the opening exercises. After the delegates had sung Psalm 133, vss. 1, 3, the Reverend read the fourth Chapter of Ephesians, and then addressed the delegates thus:

My dear Brothers,

Christ has instituted a beautiful worship service, and bestowed precious gifts upon the Church, with the principal reason of permitting us to share that which we possess in Christ.

Page 3.

Toward the perfection of the Saints. That the Church of Christ might know more, love in a perfect way, appreciate in a greater measure, and learn to approach Him in complete freedom

Toward a life of service. This is the relation in which the office bearers stand as regards the Congregations, not as overlords but as servants, he bowing in love, who wishes to be a servant to all.

Toward an edification of the body of Christ, which must come to a maturity. What the body needs in this is healthful food, a careful service and faithful care. Thus the body of Christ is in need of the bread of life, the true repast of God's word, and a faithful service as the fruit of Christ's highpriestly office.

And the end of these functions? Until we come to a unity of belief, and a knowledge of the Son of God. They will finally reach the goal, as yet they are not there. The company of believers is a huge association of travellers, all of whom gaze at something in the distance, but are not at all in agreement on the object which they discern. The difference lies not in that at which they are gazing, but the difference is present in those who are gazing. If all looked equally well, and all had a knowledge of distant objects, they would all see the same thing. This is not so, however, and as a result such a babel of tongues among them, yes from those who confess the same Christ as a fountain of blessing that remains forever.

Are the Reformed Churches the only ones who are cognizant of this fact, although perfection is kept for eternity. This is our firm conviction. They descend to the depths and rise to the greatest heights; and ever faithful to their principles, they are the nearest to that which the Church of Christ should be.

But by merely stating this or giving a symbolic expression to it, is not at all sufficient. This must be evident in our Congregations, in the decisions at our ecclesiastical gatherings, and especially during the days of our general Synodical Assembly.

Do we fully realize our calling as Calvinists, and do we attempt to answer to its tenets?

The Lord is our Lawgiver, our Judge, our King. His eye is cast down upon us. Also the eyes of the Church are turned our way, and not only that but also the eyes of those who are not of us. Very soon the matters on which we make decisions.....

Page 5.

will be put into print, and then these Acts will be subject to the opinions of those who sent us here, as well as of our neighbors, who will test our decisions with the Reformed principles and according to the Presbyterian System.

One more thought: To the greatest extent are we responsible to our one Master, in whom we all exist as Brothers, and how we conduct ourselves in these days while the Synod is in session.

May we cast our eyes upon him, and may we wait on him; the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, the Ruler of the Kings of the Earth. From him who loved us and who cleansed us from our sins through his blood, and has made us Kings and Priests of God, the Father, to whom is the glory and the power through all Eternity. Amen.

Come, join me, as we approach his throne.

Art. 2. The Mandates are surrendered by the delegates, and they are listed according to the Classes which they represent.

(The delegates are not listed in the Translation)

Pages 6 and 7 are taken up with the list of the delegates.

Page 8.

Art. 3. A protest is submitted by the Consistory of the Church at Wortendyke, N.J. containing the "power of attorney" against the Rev. J. Galkoen, D.D. to represent that Congregation at the Synodical Sessions and to defend its interests over against Classis Hudson. This matter is tabled until such a time as Protests are discussed.

Art. 4. The Officers of the Synod are as follows:

Rev. K. Kuiper, Pres.
" J. Noordewier, V.P.
" W. Heyns, Clerk
" P. Schut, Asst, Clerk

Art. 5. Intermission

The Second Session, Wednesday P.M.

Art. 6. Devotions.

Art. 7. The President now greets the new Ministers who have come to the Church since the last Session of the Synod, from the Netherlands, as well as those who have entered the Lord's vineyard since then. The President then reads the Formula of Subscription, after which all the delegates rise and express their hearty agreement with the same.

Art. 8. The time of the Sessions is set: 8:00-11:45 in the morning
2:00-6:00 in the afternoon

Each period will have a 15 minute break.

Art. 9. The Revs. Hoekstra and De Jong are chosen to inspect the previous Acts for Articles on which there is more need for discussion.

Page 9.

Art. 10. The work of the Synod will be carried on as per Art. 10 of the Acts of 1892. Therefore the President names seven members from the various Classes, who will check the sources of the matters to be discussed, and before the end of the Session will designate Committees of from three to five members, who are to take the various matters into consideration and to present the Synod with properly motivated motions, and to designate the time in addition when these matters are to be discussed. This Committee consists of the following delegates: the Revs. Bode, Van Vessem, Keizer, Schepers, Vos, Van Vlaanderen, Voorhis.

Art. 11. The representatives from the "Press" are given permission to report the doings of the Synod.

Art. 12. The Committee for the inspection of the previous Acts reports that the following must be discussed: Articles 9, 24c, 27 with 77, 29, 37b, 55 para.2, 57a, 73 para.2. Also Art. 28-2, 24-b, 74, 82, 87, of the Acts of 1892. but the last named articles will be discussed when the present articles in the Agenda are taken up.

Art. 13. As at the former Synod, each motion will be translated into English from the Dutch, and vice versa, with the Rev. Riemersma as the person translating.

Art. 14. The President now asks the delegates who were to represent us at the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church to bring in their report. (Art. 24c, Acts, 1892) Elder T. Keppel informs the Synod that with the departure of the Rev. G. Vos, D.D. to Princeton, the task was not carried out, and he was prevented from attending. Thus there is no report.

Art. 15. The Committee named in the Rev. C.J.Calkoen matter, to investigate this, (in loco) (Arts. 27 and 77, Acts 1892) reports thru thr Rev, Riemersma, that the Committee for various reasons did not complete this matter.....

Page 10.

The Synod is not satisfied with this, but decides to delay the matter now until the Protests are discussed, and the matter is presented in the Agenda.

Art. 16, The Committee appointed to prepare a better set of "General Regulations" (Art. 27, Acts, 1892) reports thru the President of the Committee, the Rev. J.H.Vos, that due to the delay of the receipt of the last Acts of the Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands the task could not be completed. This Committee will continue, with an added motion from Classis Iowa that the "General Regulations be not printed as yet, but that a written copy be submitted to the next Synod for its approval.

Art. 17. Reporting on the fund for "Church Help" (Art. 37b, Acts, 1892) the Rev. Noordewier, as the Treasurer of this fund, informs the Synod that an offering for this fund has been received. It is decided to put these receipts in the fund for Home Missions, but that the monies for "Church Help" be a separate fund and that the Synod sanction the following proposals:

a/ That the Rev. Noordewier be relieved from the duties of this fund.

b/ That a Committee of three persons be named, preferably from our Western Churches which will organize and formulate its own rules of procedure, which rules shall be submitted to the Synod for its approval.

c/ The Committee receive the monies which have been taken from the Home Mission Fund for Church Help and also the following notes:

Noordeloos	\$ 30.00
North Holland S.D.	\$400.00
Friesland	" 100.00
Overijssel	" 200.00
Richland	138.00
Total	868.00

The Revs. Breen, Manni, and Bode, are chosen on this Committee by acclamation.

Page 11.

Art. 18. The Committee, appointed by the former Synod as a delegation th Cleveland, Ohio, (See Art. 55) reports thru the Rev. P. Ekster, who states that the Committee has carried out its task on January 11, 1893, and that the matter between the Consistory and H. Flinkers terminated successfully, much to the joy of the Synod. The President thanks the Committee for its efforts.

Art. 19. This Article lists all the Committees which have been chosen to report on the various matters in the Agenda. They will not be listed here.

Art. 20. In order that the Committee on Pre-advice have sufficient time to prepare its work, it will meet at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow.

Art. 21. Devotions and the end of the Session.

The Third Session, Thursday Morning.

Art. 22. Devotions.

Art. 23. The Minutes of the previous Sessions are read and approved with minor changes.

Art. 24. The Library Fund, brought into being by a previous Synod (Art. 57) reports thru Elder Van Bree, as Treasurer, that the sum of \$276.01 was received for this purpose, of which \$137.00 was spent in the purchase of books. The Synod is pleased with this report. Since it is desirable to have no more Committees than absolutely necessary, it is decided to transfer this fund to the Treasurer of the Theological School, but with the understanding that it remain a separate fund. The Professors and the Librarian will use these monies as they see fit.

Art. 25. Concerning the offerings for the Congregations at Meservey, Le Mars, and Rock Valley, (Art. 73) The Rev. Bode reports that the sum of \$284.00 was received, and that each of the above Congregations received \$100.00 thru Classis Iowa. The Reverend is willing to give a financial report on this, but since the books have been audited by Classis Iowa, the Synod deems this unnecessary. It pleased the reverend that he had received a much larger amount than anticipated, and the Congregations which had been assisted were truly grateful.

Page 13.

Asked if these Churches were sufficiently cared for now, the Reverend states that the Church at Rock Valley could use more funds.

Art. 26. A motion to omit the adjective "Holland" from the name of the Church is now taken up by the Synod. This is deemed necessary since there are now also English and German speaking Churches in our denomination. Moreover this motion was tabled from a previous Session. (Art. 87) The Rev. Voorhis, representing Classis Hackensack, states that this really is already the case, altho this fact is not always taken into account. They had set that as a stipulation for union, and thus looked upon this as having already been brought about. (Supplement VII)(Art. 24, 49, Acts, 1890) In answer to this the difficulties in an official change of name were pointed out; since under existing State laws, a disbanding first and then a re-organization is necessary, in all States where there are Churches. With the explanation of Classis Hackensack, that since their Congregations are still registered under their old name with the State, they can rest assured that the change of name is taken into account by the Church, and this seems to end the discussion.

Art. 27. The Report of the Synodical Committee is given, and is accepted as information. (See Supplement I.

Art. 28. Letters from Corresponding Churches:

- a/ The Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
- b/ The Old Reformed Church in Bentheim
- c/ The Reformed Church in South Africa

These letters are received as information, They are listed in Supplements II, III, IV.

Art. 29. Point 4, Agenda: The "Ex. Bonis Publiciis" Fund. -Classis Grand Rapids.

Classis Grand Rapids feels itself burdened in connection with the Curatorium, since this body rejected an applicant for the Theological School, whom the Classis had accepted.

Page 14.

The Committee on Pre-advice reports thru the Rev. A. Keizer as follows:

a/ That the previous Synod has stipulated (Art. 59 f) that the Curatorium also give those students supported by a Classis an entrance examination, and by the same token, refuse them admission, even though a Classis has examined them

b/ That Article 10 of the Constitution of the Curatorium and accepted by the Synod, states that no student shall be enrolled without a satisfactory examination; and in the acceptance of Students into the Theological School the Curators will use all care, and we trust the Curators have acted thus in this case.

The advice: That the Synod speak out that it cannot accept the grievance of the Classis of Grand Rapids. A. Keizer, Reporter.

This is accepted/

Art. 30. The Session ends, Devotions.

The Fourth Session, Thursday P.M.

Art. 31. Devotions.

Art. 32. The Synod has been informed that the Rev. Williamson from Keokuk, Iowa, a delegate from the United Presbyterian Church, will be present with us next Monday. Therefore it is decided to leave the discussion of matters with that Church until that time.

Art. 33 A communication from the Church in Alto, Wisconsin is read to the Synod. It expresses appreciation to the Synod for the assistance it has received, and states that with an eye on the financial state of the Home Mission Fund, that further assistance to them be now discontinued. This is very pleasing to the delegates and the letter is accepted as information.

Page 15.

Art. 34. Point 8, The Agenda: The Baptismal System.

a/ Classis Iowa: The Classis asks the Synod to give special attention to the question of Baptism; and that the Synod make such decisions as necessary, so that a return to former practices may be made, and that there may be a return to former usages as of old in the Reformed Churches.

b/ Classis Holland: This Classis asks if Articles 60, 61, of the General Regulations is in accord with the plan of Church Government, and in agreement with the Creeds of the Reformed Churches, and if this is not a reason for discarding the present system of Baptism.

c/ The Synod take steps to bring unity into the problem (discipline) of baptized members of the Church who have been put under censure.

d/ Classis Grand Rapids: The Synod institute a change in Art. 61, 62, of the General Regulations, in regard to the Baptismal System.

e/ Classis Muskegon: The Synod advise the Congregations that they hand out no attestations in good form to baptized members, unless such baptized members are blameless in conduct.

The Rev. J. Wyngaarden reports on this in the name of the Committee on Pre-advice.

Honored Brothers: The Committee on Pre-advice has the honor of presenting the following to you on the above question, and the rules for considering same.

The problem here seems to be in connection with Articles 60, 61, 62, of the General Regulations, which Articles deal with the rights of baptized members who do not come to Confession, or those who come from elsewhere and are not taken up as members of the Church. Repeated voices have been raised concerning the purpose of the above Articles. And now the attention of the Synod is called to these Articles, and that by two or three Classes, and at the same time; with a request that they be reviewed in the light of Scripture, and the regulations of the Reformed Churches; and then to take such steps as are necessary for a return to the former practice of the Reformed Churches with a positive line of conduct in regard to baptized members who are under censure.

Page 16.

Your Committee is in agreement with the Classes that it is not permitted to institute an unauthorized practice in such a manner as if it were wholly in order, and it would much rather see in these Articles a normal condition depicted in our entire Church life, a living on a higher plane to which all must be attuned; even if there are occasions in which the ruling bodies of the Church must make exceptions.

And since this question is also being discussed in the Churches in the Netherlands, where Committees have already been named to give advice at the next General Synod, and since it was decided to note what the Churches are doing with domestic problems in their lands, we thought it best in keeping the unity in the Churches, that this Synod in so weighty a matter, does not run ahead, but leaves it now with an admonition, which can eventually lead to a return of the former practices of the "Reformed Churches in these" so that at a later Synod matters can be regulated in a better way.

The Committee thus expresses itself:

Seeing that in the Church of God there is really no tenable place for adult baptized members, since God's word calls the growing children of the Congregation to turn their attention to, and demonstrate their obedience in Christ in a confession and in a celebration of Holy Communion;

And seeing as a result that the system of adult membership by Baptism, is a deviation from the Word of God, and from the old Reformed paths, which deviations by a further process of the confessing Church of Christ, without a doubt, would do dishonor to a sedate non-confessing society which was instituted by the hand of man;

So must they who, through faults of their own, do not come to that decision, but after all possible persuasion, stubbornly resist becoming believers, altho being warned

earnestly and with long-suffering, and by repeated disobedience, be cut off formally from the Church as decayed limbs are removed from a tree. This can happen by an official announcement, and by informing them.....

Page 17.

that due to their prolonged neglect and disregard, in giving heed to the warnings of the Church, they can no longer be considered as members of the Church; yet in this the greatest care must be used, especially when conscientious scruples hold them back, and naturally no Consistory will in any way take the final step without a consultation with the Classis as per Art. 76, of the Church Order of Dordt. (See 38 b.)

In conclusion, Classis Muskegon requests that the Congregations be advised that no attestations be given to any baptized members unless they are blameless in conduct and daily life.

The Committee, however, considers this statement superfluous, since all attestations must state the truth at all times.
J. Wyngaarden, Reporter.

This report is accepted and a lengthy discussion follows. In regard to the principles of the matter, there is complete accord, but there is a difference of opinion in what manner this can be ended, wherever it exists, while some are of the opinion that there is no need for such a regulation, since some consider this to be a satisfactory practice, or that in some Congregations, matters are conducted in that way; yet there are others of the opinion that there is need for a change, not only for Consistorial support, but also to acquire a general line of conduct. Finally this report is read once more and then accepted by majority vote,

Art. 35. Section V. of the Agenda; Home Missions.

a/ Classis Iowa: The Synod regulate matters thus: that each Congregation receiving funds from the Home Mission Treasury toward the support of a Minister, must surrender him for a certain number of Sundays for Home Mission work, and this in addition to his Classical appointments; the Classis in which this Church is located will arrange matters.

b/ Classis Iowa: The Synod point out to needy Congregations that it is not necessary to request aid from distant Congregations thru the medium of the "Wachter" but rather be requested from their own Classis, which is there to supply the needs of dependent Churches.

Page 18.

c/ Classis Hudson: The Synod turn its attention to the fact that the Home Missions should increase its efforts, and seriously consider whether changes can be made in Heathen Mission work, when the weakness of the financial status of the Congregations be taken into account.

Report of the Committee on Pre-advice:

Honored Brothers,

As regards letter "a" the Committee can recommend that it be accepted without any changes but that is all.

Letter "b" may also be accepted but with this clause in addition "and should the Classis be financially unable, then it will apply at the fund for Church Help.

As regards letter "c" the Committee advises that the Synod do not enter into the change requested by Classis Hudson. The desire of this Classis, however, that more effort be put forth by Home Missions than is done at present, needs the undivided attention of the Synod, and with this in mind, that the Congregations which are vacant and served by Missionary Pastors in connection with the Classis to which the Church belongs, will supply a certain amount toward the salary of the Missionary Pastor.

And in connection with this, the Committee asks the Synod to consider that with free will gifts and pledges of Congregations, something cannot be done in favor of Home Missions.

Concerning the requests for support from the Home Mission Fund, the Committee suggests that the following Congregations receive the amounts listed with their names.

(Note: the Congregations and the amounts are not translated)

Page 19.

Heaverdam has stated that it would not release its pastor for Home Mission work as per

letter "a", with the result that no financial support can be extended to it.

-J. Hoekstra, Reporter.

This report is approved, and the obtaining of free will offerings from Congregations will be the work of the Classical Mission Committees.

Art. 36. The Session ends with devotions.

The Fifth Session, Friday Morning, June 15,

Art. 37. Devotions

Art. 38. The Minutes of the previous Session are read and approved after a few changes.

Art. 38, b. the question is put that the Synod return to the Baptismal question once more. (See Art. 34.) This is accepted with a necessary majority, and it is then decided to omit the last clause reading "and no Consistory will in any way take the final step, without a consultation of the Classis, as per the Church Order of Dordt. Art. 76.

Art. 39. The Rev. J. Fles reports for Jewish Missions. This report is approved and accepted and placed in the Supplements. Suppl. V. The Synod thanks the Committee and mandates it to continue along the same lines as previous.

Page 20.

Art. 40. The principal Committee for the Home Missions reports thru the Rev. P. Schut. This report is accepted and to be found in Supplement VI.

Art. 41. The question is now put to the Synod how to proceed with the appointment of the Classical Committee for Home Missions, since this cannot be carried out as formerly because of the change in the delegation to the Synod. The Synod decides:

a/ that with the exception of Classis Iowa, which at its last session was already aware of this; each Classis will retain its present Committee until the following session of the Synod.

b/ that the Classis as soon as it will have chosen a new Committee will notify the present President, the Rev. J.E. Hulst, whom will announce the same in the "Wachter".

c/ that from now on each Classis will choose its Home Mission Committee at the last Session before the Synod assembles.

Art. 42. Since some of the Treasurers were unable to submit their accounts of receipts and expenditures at the time set for this, the following are chosen to check the accounts.

The Revs. Riemersma and Robberts for Jewish Missions.

The Revs. Ekster and Haan for the Emeritus Fund.

The Elders Karsten and Mokma for the accounts of the "Monthly" publication. (German)

Art. 44. The matters pertaining to the Theological School are next in order. Before the report is given, the Committee on Pre Advice, thru the Rev. De Jong, states that while there are many divergent opinions on the School in the Agenda, they can be summed up under one classification, and the Committee recommends that each section of the report be read and treated separately.

This suggestion is acceptable and Section I of the report is read.

Page 21.

Honorable Brothers:

Your Committee asks you to turn to letter "j" of the Agenda: The Synod decide to change the Constitution of the Theological School so that the Curators and the Trustees become one body.

- The Curators and the Trustees.

After taking into consideration the reasons which moved the Curators and the Trustees to place this matter in the Agenda, the Committee advises the Synod to sanction this change and thus take note of the following:

a/ That in the Articles of Association of the Theological School, a change in the number of Trustees be made and the number be increased to sixteen/

b/ That fourteen members be named, each with an alternate, and selected by the various Classes, two from each Classis, and two others, laymen, with their alternates.

c/ That the Trustees be appointed for a period of four years, that one half of the number retire at one time, but they can be re-appointed. The first time of retirement will see one trustee from each Classis retire and one of the laymen.

d/ That any one who leaves his Classis will discontinue his duties as a Trustee; and this also holds for a Trustee who discontinues his connections with the Church. If either should occur, the alternate will be seated in his stead.

e/ The right to appoint Ministers for the Theological School is in the hands of the Synod. Should a vacancy occur during a year when the Synod is not in Session, then the Trustees will appoint a Professor, in conjunction with one member from each Classis, chosen for that purpose. This person will have the same power of choice as the Trustees.

The nomination of a Professor will be from a list of twelve persons, a list having been prepared by the Synod of the last Assembly. The discharge of a Professor also is within the rights of the Synod.

f/ The Trustees are empowered to carry out the decisions as soon as possible.

-G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

This report is approved and accepted by the Synod, and according to its legality, the above shall be in effect with the following Synod, although from now on all Classes actually possess the same rights.

Page 22.

Art. 45. Devotions and Intermission.

Art. 46. Devotions.

Art. 47. Concerning Travelling Expenses: a/ It is decided that the delegates shall submit no other expense except the cost of transportation, and that is to and from the Sessions of the Synod. (See Art. 60)

b/ That one person shall be named from each Classis, to have charge of the costs incurred by his Classis, and that these persons with the Synodical Treasurer will act as a Committee to see to the proper division of the travelling expenses of each Classis before the Synod. The Committee: The Revs. Walkotten, Marcusse, Ekster, Groen, Vander Werp, Remein, Iserman.

Art. 48. Section II of the Matters pertaining to the Theological School.

This section is approved and accepted.

In this section the Committee has combined the points of the Agenda dealing with the separation of the Literary Department from the Theological Department, as follows:

b/ The Synod open the Literary Department to non-Seminary Students as well as to those taking Theology.

-Classis Iowa,

d/ The Synod separate the Literary Department from the Seminary.

-Classis Holland.

f/ The Constitution of the Theological School be changed in such a manner that the Literary Department be separated from the Theological Department.

- Classis Illinois.

Page 23.

k/ The Synod decide that a beginning be made in the separation of the Literary Department from the Theological Department.

-The Curators and the Trustees.

The Committee opposes a separation since it would entail an increase in the subjects to be taught. Your Committee at this time does not think this desirable, considering the number of hours in which the students already receive instruction, nor does the Committee deem a change necessary when one considers the nature of the School.

The Committee further advises:

a/ To add the following to Art. I of the Constitution of the Theological School: also those who do not wish to become preachers of the Word, can now with a favorable entrance examination be admitted to the Literary Department.

b/ To add to Art. 10 of the Constitution of the Curators, after a deletion of the last clause, to add the following: No one shall be admitted to the School except those who have successfully passed an entrance Examination, and after the first year which is to be a

a year of probation, the Curators shall decide whether he can be enrolled as a regular student.

c/that Art. 4. of the Theological School be altered thus: that Hebrew be taught one year in the Literary Department, and two years in the Theological Department as well as two years of New Testament Greek.

d/ That in the first year instruction will no longer be given in the Ancient Languages, but more emphasis shall be placed on the English, Holland , and the German Languages.

-G. De Jong, Reporter.

Art. 49. The Synod goes into Executive Session.

Art. 50 A motion is made to adjourn until Monday afternoon at 1:30.

The Session ends with devotions.

The Seventh Session. Monday, P.M. June 18.

Art. 51. Opening Devotions.

Page 24.

Art. 52. The alternates present are listed in this Article.

Art. 53. The Minutes are read,,approved, and accepted.

Art. 54. The Mandate of the Rev. W.C. Williamson of Keokuk, Iowa is read, who is a delegate from the United Presbyterian Church, and he is now given the floor. He addresses the Synod as follows:

Mr. President and Brothers: Permit me to begin by stating that I feel very much at home here, and not only when I see you face to face, but also when I listen to your discussions, and although I fail to understand what is being said nevertheless I know they are matters of importance, and of interest to me.

As you note from my mandate, I have been sent by the General Assembly of my Church for the purpose of conveying our greetings to you, and this is according to Paul, "a greeting with a holy kiss" one both tender and from the heart.

I represent a Church which has much to be thankful for. The Lord has blessed it in this land to such an extent that our Communicant members now number 115,000 souls.

Although we feared that our Mission endeavors would be hampered by the pressure of the times, The Lord thought otherwise, and we were enabled to carry on our work without any interruption, and also end the year without a debt. And in addition, the Lord greatly increased the membership of our Church. Many persons were drawn from the world, and they surrendered themselves to his services, and that not by the use of extra-ordinary means, such as revivals, or other methods, but through the preaching of the word of God. And then God has given us peace. The problems brought on by war, harassing us for some time, are now past.

Page 25.

By various means the Lord has forced us to return to former principles, and a half-hearted devotion for the Westminster Confession has now created an inner devotion for it. As concerns our relations with each other, that is also a cause for happiness, that the better we learn to know each other, the more we esteem and admire each other. I was a member of the Committee which met with a Committee from your Church in 1893. We at that time reviewed the Standards of both Churches, both for points of agreement and for points of difference. Nothing was held back; you were desirous of knowing who we were and we were desirous of the same. The result; the Banners we raised were the same. Each time it brought us much joy when we discovered that we were pulling together under the same high command, and striving for the same goal. Even the form of your worship service - I noticed it yesterday- is the same as ours. We both sing the same Psalms; you have added some which we do not have, and who has the most right in this is not a matter of discussion at this time, but this is nevertheless true, that as far as singing Psalms is concerned, both are correct.

How closely we are allied. Certainly it must be even closer. Could it not become a complete union, then we certainly could become a co-operative organization, such a one

as would put an end to diverse efforts.

Another result of our recent Committee meeting was this that our General Assembly after hearing the Committee report, has again named a Committee to meet with a similar Committee from your Church; for the purpose of further discussing a union. If you now choose another Committee, this can be brought about. Should this plan not come to fruition, then only a friendly ecclesiastical attitude can be maintained.

Note that when we desire a union so strongly, it is not for the sake of acquiring an increase in membership, but rather that it is the will of our common Master, and that which he desires, we do. We are averse to any union which only brings a certain satisfaction to the emotions. We abhor a union of worship services. There is only one worship service, one doctrine, one Truth one Lord; Christ prayed for his Church to be one, then it is our duty to arrange matters in such a way, that we can come to a union.

May we pray to him that he lead us to do his will.

Page 26.

The wish of our Assembly is that we may meet one or more of your delegates at the General Assembly in Pittsburg, Penn. and that a Committee from your Church meet with one from our Church, to discuss the matters which I have mentioned further. May I thank you for your attention as well as your patience. I have spoken.

The Rev. J.Y.De Baum is asked to reply to Dr. Williamson and he speaks thus;

The President of the Synod has asked me to greet you, and to state that we are pleased to have you present at our Synod. You mentioned important matters; a union of incompatible elements is not your desire; nor is it ours, a union, but only one on a firm foundation. To what an extent a union will be brought about by us; that lies in the lap of the future. Nevertheless it is a certain fact that we have learned to know each other much better, and as far as we know we are in harmony. We thank you for your heartening address and we ask the Lord to bless you.

Dr. Williamson obligingly states that he is prepared to explain the Doctrine, the service and the discipline of his Church to anyone who desires it. Many questions are asked and in answer to these, he states that he is thoroughly convinced that his church is Calvinistic through and through; that this is their stand against Secret Societies, which rules are carried out concerning them; that persons in societies which bind them with an oath, without knowing the meaning of the oath, can in no wise be members of the Church. Also that the Catechism in their Church at one time seemed to be overshadowed by the work of the Sunday School, but now much more emphasis is paid to it. Also the United Presbyterian Church does not baptize children of non-confessing parents

The Synod ends this, with appreciation to Dr. Williamson for the readiness he has shown in answering the various questions, and it now goes on to other matters.

Art. 55. Point X of the Agenda is now under discussion.

The Dollar Fund.

The Synod assign the monies of the Dollar Fund as a guarantee for the Theological School.
-The Curators and the Trustees.

Page 27.

The Rev. J. Riemersma, as the reporter of the Committee on Preadvice, informs the Synod that there is \$1098.00 in the Treasury of the Dollar Fund, and the Committee advises the Synod that this be used as the Curators and the Trustees desire.

The fear that these monies would be used for other purposes than those for which they were intended, is removed by the following motion which is accepted;

This amount, \$1098.00, will be transferred to the General Student Treasury, but in place of an immediate distribution among the Classes, it will be used as a "Guarantee" fund for the Theological School. Nevertheless the interest of this fund will be distributed among the Classes. In addition to this, it is decided to continue the fund and Prof. G.E.Boer is named the Treasurer of above fund.

Finally G.W.Mokma, J.W.Garvelink, and S.S.Postma, are named as auditors of this fund, to ascertain the amounts outstanding, and to see that the necessary transfer of the monies is made.

rt. 56. Point XII of the Agenda: Synodical Sessions.

The Committee on Pre-advice reports thru the Rev. Keizer:

The Synod decide from now on to meet annually in particular Synods, and that this be of two or more Classes, with a general Session of the entire Synod every third year.

-The Consistory of the Congregation at Drenthe.

Your Committee had to ascertain whether this matter had come to the Synod thru the proper channels, since it was submitted by a Congregation rather than by a Classis. But according to Art. 30 of the Church Order and Article 8 of the Rules of Order, your Committee decided to present this to the Synod. Therefore it has taken this into consideration and states:

a/ that as soon as possible the regulation in Art. 47 of the D. C.O.* be taken into account.

b/ that according to the opinion of the Committee the time is not suitable for this as yet, i.e. particular Synods.

Page 28.

For Classis Iowa, for instance, as it is now set up, the expense of meeting with a neighboring Classis would be too great for an annual Session as a particular Synod.

c/ For observing this rule the Synod should advise Classis Iowa at some future date to divide into two or three Classis. - A. Keizer, Reporter.

Concerning the legality of presenting this matter to the Synod in this manner, the Synod decides,

While the change in delegation to the Synod from Congregations to Classes has not been definitely announced, and that from now on reports can be submitted to the Synod only to the various Classes, the Synod will for this once consider this matter, but from now on all matters will flow thru the proper channels.

Then after a discussion of the above, the matter is finally tabled until the next session of the Synod.

rt. 57. Devotions and adjournment.

The Eighth Session, Tuesday Morning, June 19.

rt. 58. Devotions.

rt. 59. After the roll-call it appears that Elder A.C. Kuizenga is absent, due to illness, and also Elder Tempel.

Art. 60. The question is put (See Art. 47 a) what is meant by the expression "only one trip, to and from"? The Synod replies, "There is a refund with all expenses that are in connection with the work of the Synod".

Art. 61. The Synod now goes into "a Committee of the Whole".

Page 29.

Art. 62. Intermission and Devotions.

The Ninth Session. Tuesday Afternoon.

Art. 63. Devotions.

Art. 64. Point IV is now introduced by the Committee on Pre-Advice, concerning matters which pertain to the Theological School.

Under this part the Committee has combined all the matters pertaining to the Examinations in connection with the School

e/ The Synod shall formulate a hard and fast set of rules, when all examinations should be judged, so that all inequalities and high-handedness be eliminated as much as possible. -Classis Holland.

* D.C.O. = The Church Order of Dordt.

In regard to this point, it shows the Committee that the attention is called to the set rules, as they appear to be in use in the public schools in this land, as examinations are marked with "standings" when students submit papers for grading in written examinations. Since this seemed feasible, the Committee suggests that the Synod advise the Curators to draw up a set of rules, when all examinations shall be judged.

h/ In order to adhere more closely to Art. 4, D.C.O. the Synod will name delegates for the Classical Examinations.
-Classis Muskegon.

Your Committee advises:

The Synod mandate each Classis at its first session, to name one delegate for examination and that it stipulate that that delegate from the one Classis be present with one from the neighboring Classis, and that each have the right to vote at the Classical Examination.

Page 30.

The Synod also stipulate that if the examination of an applicant for admission is not satisfactory, and the interested Congregation insists on desiring his admission, another opportunity may be accorded to the Applicant for a re-examination in those subjects in which he has failed.
- G.D.De Jong, Reporter.

Art. 65. Devotions and adjournment.

The Tenth Session, Wednesday, A.M. June 20.

Art. 66. Opening Devotions.

Art. 67. The Minutes are read, corrected, and approved.

Art. 68. It is decided to add the following to the Rules of Order;

All matters discussed by the Synod in session as a Committee of the Whole, will be noted in the Book of Minutes, but they will not appear in the printed Acts. The Officers of the Synod will see to it that the necessary articles are omitted.

Art. 69. The Curators ask the Synod for permission to use their own judgment in the case of a student who has been engaged in Evangelistic work in the Netherlands, and has now also completed one year of work in the Seminary.

This request from the Curators brings forth a prolonged discussion. From many sources it is shown that there is a great danger in matters of this sort, since it might cause more evil than good. But since a favorable report has been submitted concerning this brother, it finally was decided to grant the above request.

Page 31.

Point V. Pertaining to matters of the Theological School by the Committee of Pre-advice.

The first point of the report containing a motion for the nomination of a Professor, is laid aside and is included in the following motion which is presented and accepted. The President name from among the Curators and the Trustees, one from each Classis and entrust to these the task of preparing a nomination of Professors for the Theological School and presenting same to the Synod. The Synod then will name as many as the School needs, and the others will be taken care of as the need arises, as per Art. 44 c, in case the Curators for important reasons, feel compelled for the time being to supply an existing need.

The President names the following: the Revs. H.Vander Werp, G.A.De Haan, E. Vande Vries, J.Manni, M.J.Marcusse, J.C.Voorhis, E.R.Haan. The rest of the report is accepted thus after a few changes.

1/ Concerning increasing the instruction in German at the Theological School, about which Classis Iowa asks in letter "a" of this section, namely as a necessary need for the German Churches and for the expansion of our Church; the Curators and the Professors state that the wishes of Classis Iowa have already been satisfied to such an extent, that the facilities of the School will not allow more hours for this subject at this time. The advice on this is to keep matters as they now are.

2/ Under "k" Classis Illinois requests a reinspection of the Curriculum of the School. The Committee, however, deems this unnecessary, if both Congregations and students care for

their commitments. Therefore the Committee suggests no reinspection.

3/ And under "k-b" the Curators and the Trustees request the nomination of two Professors for the Literary Dept. and one for the Theological Department, which the Committee sanctions but suggests that the first two be named until the following Synod.

-G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

Page 32..

The Synod set the salary of the Professor of the Theological School at \$1300.00, and that the combined salaries for the Literary Dept. be a maximum of \$1700.00 and a minimum of \$1500.00.

Art. 71 The Report of the Comm. on Pre-Advice concerning the Church publication, the "Wachter"

a/ The Synod consider a change in the Editorship of the "Wachter" as desirable.

-Classis Iowa.

The Committee considers it necessary that an official reply is in order in this matter. A Professor should no longer be weighed down with the Editorship of our Church publication, since all his time and efforts should be allotted to his educational tasks at the Seminary. Therefore the Committee suggests the following:

a/ That a new Editor be named, and along with him three co-workers, one of whom will be regarded as alternate Editor,

b/ The Editor is to receive \$200.00 for his work, and each of the assistants, \$50.00

c/ To stipulate that the Editor will be responsible for the principal articles, and that department will be assigned to each of the other three by him.

d/ that this arrangement will be in force until the next session of the Synod.

concerning letter "b" the Synod decide to increase the size of the publication by one-fourth, so that it will have a presentable format.

3/ The Committee also feels it necessary to submit the following:

a/ that Synod name a standing Committee, whose business it will be to control all matters in connection with the "Wachter" and that this Committee meet at least twice a year with the Editor and the Business Manager.

b/ that five copies of the "Wachter" be sent to the Seminary each week, and that gratis.

Page 33.

c/ Ministers and Students may receive the "Wachter" at one half the regular subscription price.

d/ that there be fifty two issues per year.

e/ The Business Manager will receive \$200.00 per year. He may submit no additional expense accounts.

-E. Breen, Reporter.

Mr. W. Brink is named as the Business Manager of the "Wachter" after this report is given. He thanks the Synod for the confidence placed in him, states that he will accept the task assigned to him; he asks for their co-operation in the distribution of the "Wachter" and also stated that he will be bonded because of the sums of money which he will be accountable for.

the decision:

a/ That the Trustees of the Theological School, since they must support the matters related to the "Wachter" recommend two of its members for the Committee mentioned in 3a.

b/ That the changes decided upon concerning the "Wachter" go into effect in September 1914.

A committee to see that all the above are carried out is named: the Revs. J. Noordewier, H. Hauker, and Elders J. Smitter, S.S. Postma.

c/ That the Committee which will submit a nomination for Professors will also submit a list for the choice of an Editor and his three assistants.

Art. 72. Closing Devotions.

The Eleventh Session, Wednesday, P.M.

Art. 73. Opening Devotions.

Art. 74. The Report of the Committee of the Emeritus Fund. The Rev. J. H. Vos, Reporter.
This report is approved and accepted and placed in the Supplements. See Supplement X.
This report will also be published in the "Wachter".

Page 34.

Art. 75. Elder Van Bree, the Treasurer of the Emeritus Fund reports:

In the year ending on June 29, 1893, the Receipts are \$1258.41
the Disbursements, 1231.35
the Balance 26.79
In the year ending June 13, 1894, the Receipts. \$ 1114.53
the Disb. 1107.30
the Balance 7.23

The Treasurer is thanked for his work and his report is approved.

Art. 76. The Committee on Pre-Advice now reports on the matter of the Emeritus Fund.
With minor changes the following is accepted:

Honored Brothers:

The Committee named by the Synod, to consider matters pertinent to this fund, calls to your attention, first of all; the petitions placed with this Committee by the Muskegon Classis. The first is: a/ The Synod empower the Classis to grant honorable Emeritation to the Rev. W. Frieling, who serves the Church at Spring Lake, Mich. and as soon as possible provide him with a yearly pension of \$400.00, to be paid from the Emeritus Fund.

b/ Also the widow of the late Rev. H. Tempel, who served Richland, Mich. as his last charge, is in need of support. The Classis asks that a sum of \$400.00 be arranged for her also.

1/ Your Committee recommends an honorable Emeritation for the Rev. Frieling with an allotment of \$300.00 for him annually, and that the widow Tempel receive the amount of \$400.00 annually.

2/ Concerning this fund and those who were supported by it last year, we now gladly inform the Synod that the Rev. Gulker has declined further support from this fund.

Page 35.

In addition the Committee advises the Synod to continue with the same amounts for the Revs. Coelingh, Vanden Bosch, and the widow, Mrs. O. Stuit.

That the Committee of the Emeritus Fund contact Mrs. Rietdijk, and request her to decrease her fund by \$100.00, that the Rev. J. Stadt will be supported to the amount of \$100.00 until the next session of the Synod, altho the right to increase this be given to the Committee up to the amount of \$200.00, if circumstances are such that he is in need of the extra amount.

3/ Finally, the Committee has taken the financial condition of the Emeritus Fund into account, and now states that it is necessary to employ other means of acquiring funds which are needed to supply the needs of the recipients. The Committee proposes that the necessary amount be acquired by a Classical Assessment as follows:

Classis Grand Rapids	\$400.00	Classis Holland	\$350.00
" Muskegon	200.00	" Iowa	175.00
" Illinois	175.00	" Hudson	150.00

- J. B. Hoekstra, Reporter.

In connection with this as was reported, the Rev. Gulker expresses his appreciation to the Synod, the Classis Iowa, and to the Treasurer, A. Van bree.

Art. 77. The Committee to audit the books of the Dollar Fund (see Art. 55) now reports that all accounts of this Fund are in order, as follows:

Outstanding Amounts	\$850.00
Balance	171.06
Receipts	77.46
Total	1098.52.

Art. 78. The Committee for the fund called the Fund for "Church Help" now informs the Synod that according to Art. 17, the Committee has drawn up a Constitution, although they desire a review of Art. 37-b, of the Acts of 1892 before the Constitution is submitted to the Synod for its approval, and that in this connection the clause "and Ministers salaries" be deleted. This is permitted and now it presents the following to the Synod.

Page 36.

A Constitution for the Fund "Church Help"

I. The ruling body for this Fund shall consist of three persons, who shall arrange the office of President, Secretary, and Treasurer among themselves.

II. The purpose of said fund is to assist needy churches in obtaining and maintaining the necessary properties.

III. This is brought about by supporting Churches financially with a reasonable rate of interest. However, Should the Committee deem it advisable to omit the interest charge on loans to any Churches, it has the right to do so. Also in exceptional cases, the Committee will also have the power to grant loans (to the Churches) but such a grant will carry with it the sanction of the Synod.

IV. No Congregation will be supported from this fund which does not make its petition thru the media of the Classis.

V. In all the Congregations there will be an annual offering taken in the month of September preferably, but no later than the month of October. and all the Congregations will take note of this, since they will not be notified in case of neglect. Gifts, other offerings and bequests will be gratefully received.

-In name of the Committee, J. Manni, Sec.

This Constitution is accepted as it stands. Since some notes in this fund are now overdue, the matter of renewals must be taken care of at the earliest possible moment.

Art. 79. Devotions and Adjournment.

Page 37. The Twelfth Session. Thursday Morning, June 21.

Art. 80 Devotions.

Art. 81. A request is made that the appeal of the Messrs. Mokma and Lemmen be discussed at this time since the interested parties can remain no longer. This request is granted. The Committee on Pre-Advice in charge of Protests is asked to report on this, and they state the following:

These brothers, D. Mokma, and J.H. Lemmen, have according to letter "a" of the Protests presented themselves to the Synod, as opposing Classis Holland in approving the censure placed upon them by the Consistory of the Graafschap Church.

After investigating this and giving the protesting gentlemen permission to speak, the Committee decided that:

Seeing this matter had been dropped by the parties involved, according to the Minutes of Classis Holland, p 445, Art. 7. and then at their own confession "to have dropped everything"

And then without any reason the matter was again broached by the brothers, which really makes their appeal invalid. Therefore the Committee advises that the decision of Classis Holland be upheld.

M. Van Vessum, Reporter.

The brothers are again given an opportunity to speak out before the Synod. Mokma states that the matter had been straightened out, and he then states why there was an offense in the reconciliation, and that so soon after that. he states that it was a reconciliation without sorrow, or one without confession, and thus the sin remained.

Classis Holland opposed this by;

- a/ the Consistory of Graafschap,
- b/ the Consistories of both Graafschap and Collendoorn.
- c/ the Consistory of Graafschap and the Classical Committee.
- d/ the Consistory of Graafschap and the Church Visitors.

Page 38.

e/ Classis Holland denies that the sin has been committed by the party whom Mokma and Lemmen accuse. And finally the report is accepted by the Synod unchanged, and then the Messrs. Mokma and Lemmen enter a protest against the decision.

Art. 82. Point IV, b, Discipline and differences.

Containing a complaint of Classis Hudson against Classis Hackensack, concerning the examination of the Rev. Dr. C.J. Calkoen, and then placing him on call. Classis Hudson states that this is contrary to Art. 9, D.C.O. and also Art. 8. of the General Regulations.

After hearing the Committee on Pre-Advice and then Dr Calkoen, a long period of discussion follows; the entire report being rejected and the following accepted.

That in this matter between Classis Hudson and classis Hackensack, both Classes considered that they had acted according to their duty and their calling; thus the Synod is of the opinion that both Classes permit the matter to be dropped. The past should be forgotten and the future only be considered. And since the Rev. Calkoen has the certification of a Minister he will be placed on call by the Church.

Art. 83. Devotions.

The Thirteenth Session, Thursday P.M.

Art. 84 Opening Devotions.

Page 39

Art. 85. Protest "e" is now up for discussion. This protest comes from the Church at Wortendyke, N.J. against Classis Hudson and in regard to Dr. C Calkoen, whom the Church at Wortendyke desired as its minister, but which step Classis Hudson hesitated to sanction.

The Committee on Pre-Advice reports, and then the parties involved are given permission to speak. The Article containing full power from the Church at Wortendyke and given to the Rev. Dr. Calkoen is removed from the table (See Art. 3.) And the Rev. Dr. Calkoen is first given permission to address the Synod. A general discussion follows, and finally the report of the Committee on Pre-Advice is rejected and a motion is made and accepted as follows: The Congregation at Wortendyke will confess its guilt to Classis Hudson and to the Classis is given the task of drawing up a confession for their approval, and that Classis Hudson again take up the Church at Wortendyke,

Art. 86. Protest "b" The consistory of the H.C.R.C. at Jamestown, Mich. complains over the unlawful dealings of Classis Holland, concerning the organization of a Congregation at Jamestown Center. The Consistory protested and petitioned the Synod and in spite of this the Classical Committee proceeded with the organization. By this action the Consistory is misjudged, the Congregation is discredited, upset etc.

After some discussion on this, the report of the Committee on Pre-Advice is accepted.

The Committee judges the Consistory of Jamestown to be in the right, as per Art. 38, D.C.O. Yet the desire of Jamestown Center to become an independent organized Congregation, and this having been known by both the Classis and the Congregation, it caused Classis Holland to fulfill the wishes of those concerned.

Therefore the organization of this Congregation shall be valid, but the manner in which this was brought about shall be frowned upon. - M. van Vessum, Reporter.

Page 40.

Art. 87. Protests "d" Kellogsville vs. Classis Grand Rapids, concerning the organization of a Church at Fisher Station, from families from the Kellogsville Church.

The Committee on Pre-Advice reports and after a thorough discussion, the report is amended and accepted.

With Art. 38 of the Church Order of Dordt in mind:

The Committee judges that the rights of the church have been violated and the advice of the Synod is that it refuse the organization of a church at Fisher Station, and to inform Classis Grand Rapids to take the matter into consideration once more, and to convince the people at Fisher Station to reunite as one Congregation. The Synod will name two persons as a Committee to see that this is carried out. They are the Rev. K. Van Goor and Elder J.W. Garvelink.

-M. Van Vessum, Reporter.

Art. 88. Protest "c" The protest of the Rev. S. Koster against Classis Grand Rapids in the case of his credentials in the departure from the Kellogsville Church.

The Committee on Pre-Advice reports as follows: After a thorough investigation it appears to the Committee: a/ That in regard to these credentials, Classis Grand Rapids took its cue from the Kellogsville Consistory and thus acted correctly in the matter

b/ that the attestation presented to the Rev. Koster was in accord with this and thus in order.

Therefore the Committee advises the Synod to give this no further consideration, since Classis Grand Rapids has done all it could do which was proper, and thus the Rev. Koster has no reason at all for complaint.

-M. Van Vessum, Reporter,

This report is accepted unchanged.

Page 41.

Art. 89. An additional report from the Committee on Pre-Advice: Besides the protests listed in the Agenda, there were two additional protests received from Fulton, Ill. one of which was signed by a Mr. H. De Wind, and one other signed by 21 members of the Congregation.

Altho the difficulties there seem very clear to the Committee, nevertheless the advice is that the Synod appoint a Committee of two from a neighboring Classis with a Minister from the Classis Illinois, who is wholly unaware of the matter, to institute a thorough investigation and to deal accordingly.

- M. Van Vessum, Reporter.

This report is accepted by the Synod and a Committee is chosen: the Revs. H. Bode, and J. Manni, and H. Van Hoogen.

Art. 90. There is still another protest from the Walnut Street Church in Kalamazoo. But since the circumstances concerning the protest are not listed in the Agenda, and have not been given to the Committee on Pre-Advice, nothing can be reported on this.

The following is now read: The Consistory of the Christian Reformed Church at Walnut St. Kalamazoo protests against the actions of Classis Grand Rapids, in the matter of taking on the Congregation of the Rev. K. Kreulen, and with this presents the matter to the Synod.

-Signed, J. Post, Pres. M. Ruster, Sec.

The Rev. Post gives more light on the subject. This seems to be the reason for the Protest: This Congregation has been accepted without any consideration for the Congregation at Walnut Street, or any thought of the protests of the Consistory of the Church. Such a rule of conduct can be very detrimental to the Church and in addition a waste of energy.

After a somewhat lengthy discussion, it is decided that, since this does not have anything to do with the organization of a new Church, but the acceptance of an organized church into our ecclesiastical union, the actions of the Grand Rapids Classis are accepted by the Synod.

Page 42.

The Rev. Post expects a protest from this decision by the Synod, from his consistory, and he asks that this statement be included in the Minutes. This will be done.

Art. 91. Closing Devotions.

The Fourteenth Session, June 22, Friday Morning.

Art. 92. Opening Devotions.

Art. 93. The Minutes of the previous Session are read, improved, and accepted.

Art. 94. The following Protest is presented to the Synod on the matter discussed in regard to Jamestown, Mich.

The undersigned protest against the decision of the Synod in regard to the matter concerning Jamestown, and here give the reasons for same.

The right of the Consistory of Jamestown is acknowledged but it is not upheld, and the matter, altho it has been judged, continues nevertheless, and the cause for dissatisfaction remains; and moreover the feeling of Jamestown toward the Church and the School will remain strained, since anyone preaching at the Church in Jamestown Center, can be considered in no other way but co-operating in the ruin of the Jamestown Church.

Signed, P. Schut,
P. H. Carsten

Art. 95. The Committee, (ad hoc, Art. 70) announces with the Rev. Keizer as its spokesman, a trio from which one person is to be chosen as a Professor in the Seminary.

The Trio is as follows:

Rev. H. Beuker, Muskegon, Mich.
" T. Bos, Bedum, The Netherlands
" G. Elzenga, Kampen, The Netherlands

This Trio is acceptable to the Synod and the voting proceeds at once, the result is that the Rev. Beuker is chosen.

Page 43.

The President congratulates the Reverend and expresses the hearty wish that he will accept the call. The Reverend responds to this in a fitting manner. Further it is decided that if the Rev. Beuker accepts the call, the Congregation of Muskegon III will be reimbursed as far as the travelling expenses are concerned, when his transportation expenses were paid in coming from the Netherlands.

Art. 96. For choosing a Professor for the Literary Department the Committee presents the following:

Dr J.C. Calkoen, Midland Park, New Jersey.
Dr. Jaeger Emden, The Netherlands
Mr. A. Rooks, Ann Arbor, Mich.

The Synod goes into a committee of the whole and after the nominations are discussed, the vote shows that Mr. A. Rooks from Ann Arbor is chosen.

Art. 97. Closing devotions

The Fifteenth Session, Friday, P.M.

Art. 98. Opening Devotions.

Art. 99. The Synod continues with the calling of Professors:

The third Trio is announced:

Mr. G. Berkhof, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Mr. A.W. De Jonge, Oakdale Park, Grand Rapids,
Mr. K. Schoolland, Grand Rapids, Mich

Of these Mr. G. Berkhof is chosen.

Art. 100. In connection with these matters, the Synod decides as follows:

Page 44.

That Mr. Berkhof and Mr. Rooks each shall receive a salary of \$800.00, and the subjects which they will teach will be decided by the Curators.

In case both nominees decline, the Curators shall regulate the salaries of others to be chosen, but the amount is not to exceed \$1700.00 for both Professors.

That in the case of later nominations, the number of votes received by any nominee on the trio need not be taken into account.

d/ that from the recommendation of the Committee for nominees, two names be added to the nominees for a Professor in the Theological Department.

e/ that a committee shall prepare a draft for a "letter of call." They are the Revs. G.D. De Jong, W. Heyns, and Professor G. Hemkes.

Art. 101. The next matter needing attention is the choice of an Editor for the "Wachter". The Committee (ad hoc) presents a nomination for this: (See Art. 71)

For Editor, the Rev. A. Keizer

For second Editor and co-worker, the Rev. H. Vander Werp.

The two remaining assistants, the Revs. Hulst and Kuiper.

It is decided that these offices shall be in force until the next session of the Synod, and that the parties chosen above will announce their decisions before this session of the Synod comes to an end.

Art. 102. The Synodical Treasurer now announces that the cost of transportation amounts to \$1168.35. All the expense connected with this session amount to \$1400.00. A committee is proposed to assess the various Classes with amounts to cover these expenses.

The Committee: the Revs. Noordewier and De Jong.

Art. 103. In regard to a decision (Art. 85) the delegates from Classis Hudson now submit a draft of a confession.

Page 45.

The Synod is not satisfied with the wording of the draft and the task of a revision is assigned to the Rev. J.H. Vos.

Art. 104. The Rev. R.T. Kuiper announced that due to the infirmities of the flesh, he had thought that he would have been unable to attend the sessions of the Synod. Nevertheless recently he had improved, but now he feels very much indisposed again, and asks that he might be excused. Whether he can return the following week depends entirely upon his physical condition.

He at this time expresses his gratitude to the synod for the confidence it had placed in him in giving him work to do in various areas of matters pertaining to the Church. In all seriousness he now asks that no more work be assigned to him.

With appropriate words by the President, the Synod expresses its regret over his physical condition, and states that it will regard his wishes, thanking him also for his many and varied services to and for the Church.

Art. 105. Closing Devotions.

The Sixteenth Session, Monday, A.M. June 25.

Art. 106. Opening Devotions.

Art. 107. The Minutes are read and accepted.

Art. 108 The Roll call is taken and the delegates present are listed.

Page 46.

Art. 109. Synod is informed that the Rev. J.H. Vos who was to receive \$50.00 to assist in defraying his expenses to the Netherlands and to act as a delegate to the Synod of the Reformed Church there, had donated this amount to the Theological School Building. The Synod appreciates his generosity and thanks him for the gift.

Art. 110. The Rev. J. H. Vos now reads the draft of the confession which he was mandated to change, (See Articles 85, 103) and this reads as follows:

We the undersigned, as members of the Church at Wortendyke, N.J. which Church was released from the Classis, but is recognized by the Synod as a protesting Church, declare by these

That we have not conducted ourselves in an exemplary manner toward the Rev. E.R. Haan and in addition that we have erred in more than one way against our Counselor, the Rev. P. Van Vlaanderen, a minister in the first Church at Paterson, N.J. and even against the entire Classis in more ways than one; we therefore by this confess our guilt, and beg Classis Hudson and all others whom we might have offended to forgive us in love and again accept us into the ecclesiastical fold.

We, the above named persons and the Classis willingly state that we also must confess our weaknesses in our dealings with the case in question.

After a lengthy discussion, this draft is approved, and then it is further decided: that the Congregation at Wortendyke shall have the freedom of choice to join either Classis Hudson or Classis Hackensack, although neither Classis shall accept the Church without a confession.

Page 47.

Art. 111. Closing Devotions.

The Seventeenth Session, Monday P.M.

Art. 112. Opening Devotions.

Art. 113. Point VII in the Agenda: Matters of a general nature.

a/ In regard to the German Monthly publication, the Synod will take note of the financial condition of said Publication, and regulate the expenditures in such a way that they fall in line with the receipts, and thus create a more favorable financial condition.

A new Editor should be named, since the present Editor can serve no longer, due to his advanced age, and will end his work with this Session of the Synod.

A new Business Manager should also be appointed since the present manager also serves until this Session.

From the Committee on Pre-Advice and after more enlightenment on this, it appears:

a/ that there is an indebtedness of two notes each amounting to \$100.00.

also the \$50.00 for the Editor has not been paid.

b/ that this publication can hardly be changed into a semi-monthly for distribution, with the present subscription list, seeing that this year ends with a \$200.00 deficit as it is.

c/ In spite of the fact that the previous Synod had decided on a semi-monthly publication in the hope that this would increase subscriptions, this has not been the case, and this is no doubt due to recent changes, and other circumstances peculiar to the times, and this caused a decrease in readers.

Because of these circumstances, the Synod comes to the following decision.....

Page 48.

After the suggestion of the Committee, that the publication be discontinued, is rejected.

a/ The paper shall no longer be the property of the Church and thus have the Church responsible for its finances.

b/ The debt of approximately \$250.00 for this year will be paid from the Treasury of the "Wachter". And even if the Rev. Potgeter states that he performs the work without any remuneration, the Synod feels that this should not be so, and that he be paid for his work.

c/ The amount still due on the publication in subscriptions which have not been paid will be turned into the business if it remains on private basis, otherwise this will go into the Treasury of the "Wachter".

Art. 114. a/ Paragraph 4, Section on Varis: The Classis asks that the Synod accept the responsibility for the fund in connection with the Colorado project. This amounted to \$238.13.

-Classis Iowa

The Report of the Committee on Pre-Advice is read but not accepted.

The Synod rules that it has no right to make all the Classes responsible for the debts incurred by one Classis. Considering the fact, however that it was a sad state of affairs for our misguided citizens, in which Classis Iowa had become involved, and since so much had been done by the Classis the Synod decides that an offering be taken to cover this amount.

Art. 115. b/ Section on Varia: The Classis asks the opinion of the Synod in regard to the Baptism of a certain J. Prins, at Passaic, N.J. and of A certain T. Hagen in Paterson, N.J.
-Classis Hudson.

Without sanctioning the special means by which the Ministers named have been placed in their offices, and without accepting the ecclesiastical grounds on which they worship; the Committee judges that a baptism performed in a Congregation professing belief in the Trinity, and if the Ministers involved performed the sacrament of Baptism in the name of the Trinity, then that Baptism must be upheld.
- J. Robberts, Reporter.

Page 49.

Art. 116. "c" Section on Varia. The Classis asks the Synod if the Parochial set-up is in accord with Reformed principles.

The Committee report on this matter which is read is accepted and approved.

After a consideration by your Committee that the complete unity of a Church at one place must be both the starting point and the purpose; since the spiritual union of the body of Christ advances this, since our Saviour has prayed for this, since the Apostles had labored for it, and it must be known throughout the world that they are one; it thus judges:

a/ That a Parochial System in the Roman Catholic sense of the word, by which one Congregation is subordinate to another, must be frowned upon.

b/ That even a so-called Parochial System, in which each member as at Corinth, decided to join himself to the minister of his choice, and thus sets none other than arbitrary lines must in principle be turned away.

c/ That, however a Parochial System, which finds its basis in the impossibility in uniting all the believers of the Truth into one Congregation at one place, or because of the large numbers, or distances between areas, cannot be considered to be in conflict with Reformed principles, in case the Congregations are geographically divided. - J. Robberts, Reporter

Art. 117. "d and e" Section on Varia. The Synod express itself whether a Synod or a Classis examine a person according to Art. 8. (D.C.O.) -Classis Hudson.

Since the D.C.O. contains the expression "in case the Synod sanctions it", the Classis asks if it were not advisable, since we have no Particular Synods, that it be carried on with the cognizance and with the recommendation of the Synod, concerning the person and thru the Classis under which he resides. - Classis Grand Rapids.

Page 50.

In regard to this, the Committee on Pre-Advice states the following: Letters "d and e" can be dealt with simultaneously. It is the opinion of the Committee: That the examination of a person according to Art. 8, D.C.O. must first be taken under the supervision of a Particular Synod, and this after the Classis has presented the necessary qualifications to the Synod. If after an investigation, the Synod sanctions the matter, the Classis will give him peremptory examinations, and if necessary, permit him to discourse privately for a time.

Since we however, have no Particular Synods, the Committee advises that both examinations by the respective Classis occur with the assistance of at least four deputies who are chosen for the regular Examinations. This number of deputies will have both the right of voting and of examining along with the Classis. - J. Robberts, Reporter.

This is approved and accepted.

Art. 118. "f" Section on Varia. The Classis requests the Synod to discontinue placing the "International Sunday School Lessons" in the "Wachter". -Classis Hudson.

The Committee on Pre-Advice reports; This report, however is not accepted, and it was decided to continue the publication in the "Wachter".

Art. 119. "h and i", Section on Varia. This deals with the experiences of our delegate at the Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, held at Dordrecht in 1893. The Rev. Vos reads the address which he had delivered there. It is received as information and placed in the Supplements, (See Supplement X.) The part that was objectional is considered by the Synod, and then the Committee on Pre-Advice reports:

Your Committee is of the opinion that the proposals of the three Classis: Grand Rapids, Illinois, and Muskegon, are in regard to this, and that the proposal of the Classis of Muskegon is the one most clearly stated with respect to this matter which reads: In connection with the remarks of the Rev. Vos, a delegate from our Church to the Synod to the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, at Dordrecht in the year 1893, concerning the relations of the Reformed Church in America with the Christian Reformed:

1/ The Synod speak out that that which was said in the above mentioned address, is the correct historical interpretation of the matter, and in addition that it was stated very mildly, and that this must have the whole-hearted sanction of the Synod.

2/ The Synod therefore will choose five persons as a Committee who will tabulate and arrange the reasons on which our position rests.

3/ That Synod empower the Committee to see that the above opinion with the basis on which it rests be made available to all the Sister Churches in the Netherlands.

-Classis Muskegon.

The Committee on Pre-Advice recommends that this proposal of Classis Muskegon be accepted, with a statement of regret concerning the treatment accorded our delegate.

-J. Robberts, Reporter.

All those who vote on this agree with the Committee with one exception.

The Committee mentioned in part "2" above is chosen, the Revs. Beuker, Hemkes, v.d. Vries, Vander Werp, and Elder J. Blom.

Art. 120. A draft of the "Letters of Call" for the Professors who were appointed for the Theological School, is read and accepted. (Art. 100 e)

Art. 121. The Rev. J.C.Voorhis asks permission from the Synod to be excused and the permission is granted.

Art. 122. Closing Devotions.

The Eighteenth Session, Tuesday Morning, June 26.

Art. 123. Opening Devotions.

Page 52.

Art. 124. The Minutes of the previous Session are read, approved, and accepted.

Art. 125. The Committee on Heathen Missions reports, with the Rev. J.H.Vos acting as the reporter. This report is approved and placed in the Supplements. (See Suppl. VII.)

Art. 126. The Rev. P. Schut reports as the Committee of Pre-Advice for the Secretary of Heathen Missions. This report is tabled for the time being until a discussion of a union with other Churches is taken up.

Art. 127. Point "a" of the Agenda, Section 3. Mission under the Heathen, which contains a proposal that our Church join with the United Presbyterian Church to carry on Heathen Mission Work. The Rev. Beuker presents the following three proposals concerning this work.

1/ Seeing that a fusion of two Churches into one ecclesiastical union can only be brought into being, when both Churches are one not only in confession and Church government but also in union as regards the spoken language, so that a union of the English-speaking United Presbyterian Church and the Holland-speaking Christian Reformed Churches is unthinkable at this time.

2/ That both the above named Church groups, even tho one in Confession and in Church government, are founded on the same Reformed principles, and also, as far as we know, follow the same line of conduct; it is a certain obligation that they show their unity and that they also make it known to the world by recognizing each other, and supporting each other wherever possible, so that the prayer of Christ be followed, "Father, that they may be one, and that the world may know that thou hast sent me" and that we in this may both be profited by gifts and influence from each other.

3/ Making this unity known, can be brought about by a circumspect correspondence, by which both Sister Churches.....

- a/ Confess officially with each other, adherence to both the Church Order and the Articles of Confession.
- b/ Acknowledge the professions of each other as well as the discipline of the Church.
- c/ Allow the Ministers, when the use of the language makes it possible, both to exchange pulpits and to be placed on call.
- d/ to both give and receive attestations of departing members.
- e/ to permit use of the pulpits and the participation in Holy Communion.
- f/ That delegates be sent to the Church Assemblies and that they be seated with advisory vote.
- g/ Co-operation in the work of Heathen Missions as follows:
 - 1/ that Committees be chosen from both Churches, who rule the Missions from both the Churches with competence and with all the necessary qualifications.
 - 2/ That persons from both groups be accepted as Missionaries.
 - 3/ That in both Churches offerings for the cause of Missions be collected.
- h/ That official Church news from both Church Publications be exchanged and sent to the Editors, so that both Churches may feel the pulse beat of the Church life of each.

The above is accepted and then discussed further.

Concerning Point 1, the remark is made that since we already are a Church using three languages, it would be feasible to omit a discussion on the use of the language. Other matters of more importance should be discussed first. These are: We are a different people, we have another confession, the Church rule varies, and a very marked difference is apparent in Church Music between us and the United Presbyterian Church.

This is answered: that the English and the German elements which make up a part of our Church are one with us, one house, one people, and that this should thus establish the rule. There is an amendment to the above, that what is stated concerning the Language in this point drop out; and then this point is passed by a small majority and then approved.

The question is asked if we are not overstepping our bounds, by settling matters which should have more discussion. The Synod states that the motion passed by the Synod is only a guide in dealing with the entire problem.

It is proposed: The Synod name a Committee of three to meet with a Committee of the United Presbyterian Church, according to the propositions of the Rev. Hauker, and to discuss the matter of Missions with the Committee and that a report of this be brought to the following Synod.

This is accepted with this change: In the meantime, sending out our prospective Missionaries, will be postponed until the next Session of the Synod.

With this the matter of Heathen Missions comes to an end, and the report of the Committee is tabled.

128. The Treasurer of the Heathen Mission now reports:

The balance on hand June 6, 1893	\$ 673.98
Receipts up to June 6, 1894	717.34
Total	1391.32
Disbursements	742.44
In the Treasury, June 6, 1894	648.88
Funds outstanding	3739.00
Total	4387.88

The report is accepted by the Synod, and it expresses a word of praise to brother Avalink for his work.

129. It is decided to empower the Trustees to sell all the Real Estate owned by the Heathen Missions, at the earliest opportunity.

130. Closing Devotions.

Art.131. Opening Devotions.

Art. 132. The Treasurer of the Theological School, Brother S.S. Postma, brings to the attention of the Synod:

a/ the indifference of some Congregations in regard to the payment of their quotas to the Theological School.

It is decided that he will send to the Stated Clerk of each Classis the receipts from each Congregation which has been negligent in this matter, and also the amount of each Church still due the School, and the Stated Clerk will impress on these Churches the need for payment.

b/ the neglect of some students in the payment of their tuition.
It is decided that no student will be admitted to take his final examinations until all monies are paid. However the Trustees shall rule in exceptional cases.

c/ A considerable amount of tuition, still unpaid from former students who studied with the aid of Classical support. He adds, however that there is some doubt, whether they are to be held responsible for these amounts, because of the previous rules regarding this and whether these amounts are still outstanding.

It is decided: Students who have completed their training at the Theological School owe no money for College Tuition, and also those studying up to 1892. However, from that time on each student shall be obliged to pay tuition, as per Art. 9. of the Constitution of the Theological School.

d/ An amount of approximately \$156.00 still due from three students, who are not supported by the Classical fund. One of these students is present in person and states that one of the Trustees had released him from this payment, and the Article in the book of the Minutes proved this.

It was decided.....

Page 56.

that this amount was cancelled for him, as well as to the other two, since this applied to all alike.

Art. 133. The report of the Rev. J. Noordewier, as Treasurer of the Building Committee of the Theological School is now given. It reads as follows: The Synodical Assembly of 1890 mandated the Trustees of the Theological School to bring a school into being, (Art. 36, Acts of Synod, 1890). The undersigned was chosen as a Collector, and he took this task upon himself in the interest of the School, and he has been engaged in this task up to this time. The work has proceeded so favorably that already in 1892 the building was dedicated and could be used.

My brothers, You see in this a witness of God's goodness.

The Financial report reads as follows:

The Receipts received in cash amounted to
The sum borrowed

	\$21,034.37
	5,800.00
Total	<u>26,834.37</u>
	26,848.50
	<u>14.13</u>

Disbursements
Deficit

There still is an outstanding amount of \$200.00 which has been promised, but due to the scarcity of funds at this time it may be rather difficult to obtain.

Nor has the City of Grand Rapids contributed the amount of \$6000.00 which it had promised to the Synod of 1890. This amount is still in arrears for \$1600.00, and in addition \$800.00 promised by Congregations which has not been paid.

If all the amounts due at this time were received, our debt would amount to only \$2000.00 but now there is the sum of \$6000.00 outstanding with an interest rate. And to pay the interest, Brother Postma came to my assistance.

Nevertheless we can look back with gratitude for the care of our Heavenly Father toward us in so short a period of time.

With gratitude for the trust of the Synod,

J. Noordewier.

The books of the Trustees are audited and found to be correct.

G. De Jong, P. Schut.

The President in the name of the Synod expresses his appreciation to the Rev. Noordewier, not only for his work as Business Manager, but also for the difficulties he experienced, and the many sacrifices which he made, in the collection of funds for the Theological School. The President also points to the fact that no one present can gaze upon this beautiful and well-constructed building with more satisfaction than the one who by his ceaseless labor and frequent contributions, brought it into being.

The Rev. Noordewier, in reply, thanks the Synod for the praise bestowed upon him, and he also thanks the Trustees for caring for his needs, while he was engaged in this work.

The President in turn expresses his appreciation to the Building Committee, the Rev. J.H. Vos, including the Rev. Noordewier, A. Van Bree, and also the addition to the Committee, Mr. L. Benjamins, for his care and his labor in connection with the erection of the building.

Art. 134. For completing the nominations for the Professors of Theology, the following are recommended by the Committee. (See Art. 100 d.)

The Rev. C.B. Bavinck, Hazerwoude, the Netherlands

" " A.M. Donner, Assen, " "

Dr. H. Fransen, Winterswijk, " "

Dr. L.A. Wagenaar Arnhem, " "

From this quartet the Revs. Bavinck and Donner are chosen.

Art. 135. Elders W.D. Ammerman and J. Prins ask to be excused. This is granted.

Art. 136. Closing Devotions.

Page 58.

The Twentieth Session, Wednesday, A.M., June 27.

Art. 137. Opening Devotions.

Art. 138. The Minutes are read, improved, and accepted.

Art. 139. Section 4 of the Agenda is now under discussion: Discipline and Differences. This sectional report is nearly all cast aside, and the Synod decides as follows:

a/ Is the principle, stated in Article 67 of the General Regulations, and in Art. 65 of the Acts of the Synod of 1890, in conformity with God's Word and Reformed usage?

-Classis Iowa.

The Synod is of the opinion that the Scripture sanctions the severance of the marriage ties in two instances:

a/ In the case of fornication and adultery, as stated in Matthew 5, vs. 31, 32.

b/ In the case of wilfull desertion by an unbeliever, as the Apostle Paul states in I Corinthians 7:15.

b/ See Article 82.

c/ The Synod pass judgment on Sunday labor in Gas-Manufacturing establishments.

-Classis Grand Rapids.

The Synod refers the Classis to Art. 76 of the General Regulations.

d/ May a Minister of the Word ask for a divorce from his legally married spouse, without presenting Biblical reasons, continue to serve in the House of the Lord?

-The Consistory of the Market St. Church, Hol.

The answer is an emphatic negative.

e/ How shall Consistory Members be dealt with who resign from their God-given tasks because of difficulties arising in the Church?

- A. Van Vliet, Paterson, N.J.

Since this question does not come thru the regular channels, the Synod will not discuss it.

Art. 140. This Article list the Committees and the members of these Committees, all of which are omitted in the translation.

Art. 141. The newly-chosen Editor and his assistants, who are to function on the Staff of the "Wachter" state that they have accepted their appointments.

Art. 142. This Article lists the amounts due to the Synod by each Classis for the expenses connected with the Synod. This report is accepted by the Synod.
It is not translated.

Art. 143. It is pointed out that there is a pressing need for a greater limitation in the number of delegates to the Synodical Sessions, than the number decided on in one of the previous Synods. After a discussion of this, it is proposed and accepted that the number of delegates be reduced by one half of those in the decision of the Synod, in the Acts of the Synod of 1892, Article 24. And should there be an odd number of delegated, the smaller number will act as delegates.

Art. 144. It is decided that the Synod will meet in Grand Rapids in 1896, and the call to Synod will be according to Art. 47. D.C.O. with Spring St. Grand Rapids, as the calling Church.

Art. 145. It is confirmed that the Theological Examinations will be held prior to the Synodical Sessions, i.e. the second week of June, and the Synodical Sessions will be held one week later.

Art. 146. The newly elected Editor of the "Wachter" the Rev. A. Keizer, will join the Committee which is in charge of the changes connected with that publication.

Art. 147. Elder H. v.d. Ark is excused at his urgent request.

Art. 148. Closing Devotions.

The Twanty first Session, Wednesday, P.M.

Art. 149. Opening Devotions.

Art. 150. The Synod decides to publish 600 copies of the Acts of the Synod; each Minister and each Elder shall receive a copy, and the Officers of the Synod may distribute the remaining copies as they see fit.

Art. 151. The Synod directs the Ministers of the Grand Rapids Churches to thank the members of the Congregations for their friendly care and hospitality to the delegates during the Synodical Sessions.

Art. 152. The Minutes are read, improved, and accepted.

Art. 153. The time for adjournment has come; the President reads Ephesians 4 and then thus addresses the Assembly.

Honored Fathers and Brothers:

A long and difficult task is again completed. An important work had to be accomplished by imperfect human beings, and they with numerous shortcomings.

Our failings have not remained hidden, if we did not know in part, had God's will always been apparent; we would have completed our tasks much sooner. Nor would we have experienced such a divergence of opinions, extended discussions, long drawn-out debates.

We would have returned homeward with a more satisfied feeling, and with the assurance that we had acted in conformity with the will of the Lord, for certainly we desired no less than that.

And our failing, sad to say, often become very apparent. "I have placed myself too much in the foreground", said Groen Van Prinsterer, as he lay on his death bed, and could we not say the same. Thus with our labors in mind, we need to pray as Hezekiah did, "The Lord in his goodness forgives"

We must also ask forgiveness from each other. Truly, thanks be to God, we can say we were met together under amiable circumstances, since a mutual atmosphere of peace was present at all times. Nevertheless, how quickly a moment of offense can become apparent, and how soon an injurious word can be spoken. And if I have been guilty of this, I ask that I be forgiven.

On the other hand we have experienced much good for which we need to thank the Lord first and foremost; he who is the fountain of all good. Then the Vice-President is deserving of our praise, who was constantly at my side, as well as the Clerks, and all those working on Committees.

Now we are returning to our homes. Let us not be unmindful of the fact that we are members of one body, the unity in Christ, a mutual unity. We must consider it an honor to have a share in the Church of God, but what a responsibility this brings with it since the Church is not ours but the Church of Christ. Let us remember each other before the Throne of Grace, and pray that the Lord may use us to build up the body of Christ, so that it finally comes to be an ideal state, "a perfect man to the measure of the fulness of Christ."

The Vice President expresses the appreciation of the Synod for the completion of this most difficult task; and he earnestly requests the Rev. Beuker to gladden the hearts of all by accepting the appointment to the faculty of the Theological School.

Page 63.

The delegates rise and sing the 72nd Psalm, the 11th verse, and the President closes the sessions with a prayer of Thanksgiving. Just before the parting the delegates sing once more, Psalm 134: 3. And with this they depart.

And now the brothers, having experienced a few days of pleasant intercourse, and having assembled for the purpose of accomplishing a great work, are to be scattered over all sections of our great land, and often separated by hundreds of miles from each other, with each laboring in his own sphere for the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord.

The Pres. K. Kuiper,
" V.P. J. Noordewier,
" Clerk, W. Heyns,
" Asst. Cl. P. Schut.

Supplement I.

The Report of the Synodical Committee.

Mr. President and Brothers:

It pleases the Committee to be able to render a short report of its work and its experiences since the Sessions of 1892.

Shortly after the adjournment of that Synod we received a communication from the Rev. Calkoen, concerning the hesitation of Classis Hudson in examining him, so that he might become a Minister in the Congregation of which he was a member. There was also a complaint from the Consistory of the Wortendyke Church, who were desirous of making the Rev. Calkoen their Minister. Following this, we received a letter from the Classical Committee of Classis Hudson, stating the Classis Hackensack, to which the Rev. Calkoen accompanied by Mr. A.H. of Wortendyke, had gone, had examined him and had certified him as a Minister of the Church so that he might be installed as a Minister at Wortendyke. Thus a complaint from the Rev. Calkoen that he was prevented in his service from a proper installation, he complained about the hesitation of Classis Hudson in permitting Wortendyke to become a member of the Hackensack Classis. Communications were also received containing protests that Elders had been dismissed and others also. Finally we were informed that the Congregation of Wortendyke had broken all ties, because of which a protest is desired.

The Synodical Committee could do nothing more in so delicate a situation than to advise the members of the Wortendyke Church to submit to Classis Hudson, and if there were an offense to enter a protest at the Synod of 1894. All the necessary information and papers concerning this matter are on hand and are available to the Synod, if they so desire.

We also received requests from the Rev. Schultz and from the Rev. Guelker, ministers in Minnesota. The contents of these letters were the same, each one containing a request that recognition be given them as Ministers of our Church. Information was requested from those in authority there for the purpose of ascertaining their marital status. This information was obtained.

Finally we received a request from Midland Park, which is under the jurisdiction of Classis Hudson, for an offering for a new Church from the whole Church. Their Church building had just been completed and no sooner completed, than it burned to the ground. The Committee did not have the courage to refuse this request, although many of our Congregations are suffering because of the hard times.

Invitations have been sent out to our Sister Churches to be present at our Sessions. They are the Reformed Church in the Netherlands, the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim, the Reformed Church in So. Africa, the Committee, J. H. Vos, Sec.

June, 1894.

Supplement II

A Letter from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands.

To the H.C.R.C. in Session as a Synod, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 13, 1894.

Honored Brothers:

The Synodical delegates assigned to the task of carrying on the correspondence with foreign Churches, have the honor of stating that they are in receipt of an invitation in the name of your Church, thru the Rev. J.H. Vos, received on the eighth of March, 1894, that they send delegates to represent the Reformed Church in the Netherlands at your Synodical Session.

With an expression of thanks for the invitation, the Committee informs you that at this time no delegates will be sent to any foreign country, except to the Belgium Missionary Church. Since your kind invitation cannot be accepted this year, we hope we may take advantage of it in a year following.

May the Lord be with you while your Synod is in Session.

May he also guide you thru his Holy Spirit, and to the honor of his name,.....

to the welfare of his Church, and for the expansion of his Kingdom.

With our good wishes and greetings in the Lord, we are

Your honorable brothers,

B. Van Schelven

P.O. Lion Cachet,

Clerk of the Forg. Mission Board

Supplement III.

A Letter from the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim.

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

Dear Brothers:

Your letter containing an honored invitation, to permit us to be present with a delegation at your Synod, was received by us, to our sorrow, immediately after the Spring Session of the Classis. Thus we were not in the position to give a positive answer to you in the name of our Classis, and yet we do not hesitate to treat in the spirit of all our Churches when we as the President and the Clerk of the last Classical Session, extend to you our thanks for your most friendly and honored invitation, proving your lasting regard and sympathy with a Church, which with us stands on one foundation as concerns our Confession, and counting in the flesh many of our brothers among your numbers, as well as some of our Ministers.

Since it is not our privilege to be present at your gathering in person, we, nevertheless hope to live along with you both in your struggles and in your sufferings, and it is our wish and our prayer that the great Shepherd of his Sheep fill you with his choicest blessings, and cause you to be a blessing to many others.

L. Stroeven, Pres.

E. Kolthoff, Clerk the Officers of the last

Session of the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim. Bunde, Laar.

May 17, 1894.

Page 67.

Supplement IV.

A Letter from the Reformed Church in South Africa.

Riddersburg, April 13, 1894.

The Holland Chr. Ref. Church in North America.

Honored Brothers:

We have received from your Rev. J.H. Vos, a communication in the name of your Church, dated March 1, 1892.

Since our Synod has been in Session just recently following the Session of 1891, it grieves us very greatly not to be able to accept the kind invitation extended to us in your letter, requesting us to send delegates to your Synod.

It is with much joy that we note the continued growth of the Holl. Chr. Ref. Church in North America. We also show our interest in your Church, since we feel that we are one with you in both Confession and in Doctrine, and we await the time when we shall meet in perfect union, in that eternal Church, triumphant. And therefore it will be very pleasing to us to see one of your brothers, or more, present at our Synod.

Our Church is also small, but thru God's goodness and with his blessing, it is increasing continually in this our land, and up to this time it has been a positive force for good. We number 34 Congregations, 13 Ministers, and a total membership of 8,000. In West Africa, in the Province of Angola, there is also one of our Churches, since a number of our people have migrated to that area, and attempts are being made to locate a pastor for the church at that place.

Two Professors labor at our Theological School, one in the Literary Department and one in our Theological Department. There are also two Assistants in our Literary Department, to train our youth for the Ministry of for other services in the Commonwealth. Our school population numbers 30 at this time, the School has been blessed and is in very favorable circumstances at the present time.

From our hearts, we extend to you, our worthy Brothers, the blessing of the Lord. The Lord bless your efforts for the good of his people and also for extending his Kingdom among the Heathen. May he lead both you and us according to his plan, and at one time unite us all in his eternal Kingdom.

With best wishes and fraternal greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are
P. Postma, Pres.
L.P. Vorster, Clerk.

Supplement V.

The Report of the Jewish Mission work.

Honored Brothers in Christ:

It is my duty as the Treasurer of the Jewish Mission Fund, to give an account of the receipts and expenditures of this Fund. With a joyful and a grateful heart, we appear before you, that we may make you acquainted with one another. When the matter of Missions among the old Covenant people was begun by the Synod in 1891, we gave thanks to the God of our Fathers, that he opened their hearts to remember the unfortunate, those spiritually in need, the blind descendants of Jacob. Willingly a Committee was named, and an earnest petition was inserted in the "Wachter" informing all the Congregations of this project. The Lord has heard our prayers and has not put us to shame. Because of the neglect of larger Congregations many others, Young Men's and Young Ladies' Societies, Older Ladies Societies, Reading Clubs, Sunday Schools and single persons, have served the Lord in this with both zeal and love, mindful of the words of the Apostle, "that they thru your mercy, might also acquire mercy." Truly, the voice has sounded thruout our ecclesiastical borders-the Lord be thanked-that we are giving attention to the needs and the miseries of the people of Israel. From a few Congregations, Societies, and organizations, and from private individuals in the Reformed Church, we received gifts and other moderate contributions.....

which we acknowledged in the "Hope," as we announced those from our Churches in the "Wachter" Four different groups were supported by us: In Chicago, New York, the Reformed Church in the Netherlands, and the Netherland Society for the Jews. Often requests for information came to us; recently one from Boston, Mass. where the present Rabbi, Samuel Freuder, has established a new Mission Station for the 30,000 Jews living in that city. Under the leadership of the zealous Bernhard Angel, the work progresses regularly and with blessing in Chicago, Illinois under 60-70,000 Jews. In New York where men of conviction, struggling thru a period of testing, such as Herman Warszawiak, Daniel Landsman, and others, who stand at the helm; the bread and water of life is brought to thousands and tens of thousands of those of Israel. All these fields of labor have the greatest need of our support, our gifts, and our prayers. The reseipts of the past two years amounted to \$915.16. The expenditures were \$839.70, and this was divided between the four Missions.

The Committee dealt with these funds to the best of its ability.

The Treasurer has given addresses here and there, in connection with the work among the Jews, about the darkness in which they find themselves, about the Mission work among them, so difficult, but also so full of blessing concerning God's promises, which leads us to expect great things from Israel. Your Committee hopes and trusts that the Synod will continue to support this Mission work among the Jewish people, and that it again name a Committee to function in this field of labor. Our work as a Committee in this field ends with this session of the Synod, our appointment expiring at this time. May we state one more thing. Our opinion is that the Synod continue along the same lines with free-will offerings for support, and use the funds collected where the need exists, so that no one is bound down by a pledge that might be too heavy to bear.

We thank all our dear brothers for both the confidence and trust extended to us, in the labor among those loved by our Father, which labor we most heartedly recommend to you with the hope that it may be continued.

Your brother,
L.J. Fles, Treasurer.

The Report on Home Missions.

To the Synod of the Holland Christian Reformed Church, meeting in Grand Rapids, on June 13, and the days following, in the year 1894.

Honorable Brothers:

As is customary, the Home Mission Board, presents its customary report to the Synod, concerning its activities. We began our work in 1892 without a Missionary. The Rev. Marcusse whom we had called declined. The call to the Rev. Bode was more satisfactory. He undertook the work and for twenty months labored with consecration and a rich blessing. This Brother has now left the Mission field for a Congregation established thru Mission efforts.

The Rev. J.A. Westervelt, called by Classis Hackensack.....

Page 71.

worked in the East for one year at Mission stations where the English language was spoken. This Brother left the Mission field since he was not entirely satisfied with the results. Moreover, he wished to continue his Theological education by enrolling for additional courses in Princeton University.

After the Rev. Westervelt had declined to continue the work, Candidates H. Walkotten and P. Bakker were called, both of whom declined. Thus Brother Bode was the only one on the field, altho he received much valuable support from the Seminary students during the summer vacation period.

We can in no way evaluate the work which has been accomplished up to this point. Many Congregations were organized mostly small at present; a few calling Ministers, and now enjoying regular services. Two Congregations were organized in Colorado, which labor soon came to naught, since the people settling there found the land so unproductive, that they were removed by assistance from other Congregations.

It is more pleasant to state that the Congregation at Spring Lake, Michigan, has become self-supporting, and the Church at this time wishes to thank the Church as a whole ~~for~~ for the assistance ~~they~~ received during trying times. This is the case also in Firth, Neb., Lansing, Ill., and Alto, Wisc.

At present we support thirteen Congregations. Also now we have no Missionary. A call to the Brother C. Bode of Austinville, Iowa, did not have the desired results. The field...

Page 72.

is a large one, the need is pressing. The Church should have at least one Missionary working among our German population, as well as one for our Holland people; while every effort should be made to combine small Congregations, who then with some Missionary aid could support a Minister. Difficult and expensive trips were decreased to a great extent, to the profit of the Congregations, and the Committee judges that then expenses would show a marked decrease. You can rest assured that until the Church arranges Mission matters in such a way that travelling Missionaries can be eliminated, who are required to be everywhere and in a certain sense are nowhere; they will make no lasting impression where they labor. The Synod can readily see how sad the state of affairs is, and it is to be hoped that suitable means may be instituted to advance the Mission endeavor with all speed and might so that needy Congregations which now receive support and will continue to receive it may soon be satiated with Ministers.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee,
P. Schut, Sec.

The Report of the Committee on Heathen Mission Matters.

Honored Brothers:

This Committee has very little to report, in fact it could end its report right here and state, "We have nothing to report". Circumstances are very similar to those of 1892. The Synod at that time thought it best to wait with sending anyone out into the field until our Missionary Students are prepared to go, unless unforeseen matters should arise before that time. However, our prospective students are not yet prepared; one needs one more year of work, the other, two. No courses in Medicine could be taken, since their regular subjects occupied all their time. This will have to wait until all their other studies are completed.

No extra-ordinary opportunities presented themselves. Considering this our thoughts turned to the Netherlands. We learned that there was one Missionary there ready for the work of Missions, but the means for sending him out were lacking. But upon investigation, and after the Synod of Dordt, of the previous year, it became very apparent that the only reason for delay was due to other matters. Thus the whole idea of receiving any aid from the Netherlands was dropped at once.

Therefore we could only wait. And what a painful thought that was, while Heathen lands lie fallow, and the inhabitants in those lands in their existence and in their daily lives are awaiting us, even though this is unknown to them. They -the Indians especially- who in their spiritual and eternal needs are identical with us, exist without the knowledge of God, and one generation after the other passes away without having experienced the opportunity of knowing of the salvation in Christ. How are we to proceed in such a case? Our Missionary students are not prepared, we have no other way to turn. In our own circles.....

Page 74.

there is no outlook. Neither do all persons possess the necessary qualifications needed for Mission work, and we believe this to be true in our case also; but if we lack the courage, the moral drive, the holy force, then what? Wait! Yes, but then with a living belief and with a continued prayer that this may be the watchword in our Church.

And yet it is to be feared that our puny Missionary efforts, those efforts so marked a few years ago may finally dissipate. The previous Synod decided first to use its resources especially the offerings, for the cause of Home Missions. Little can be said in that regard, and yet this has an unwholesome effect on foreign Mission work. Attention is thus diverted from one cause to another. And this is very noticeable in the offerings for Heathen Missions. The Pentecostal offering here as well as elsewhere, earmarked for foreign Missions, was retained by many Congregations, and strange grumblings were heard, viz. that the offerings for Heathen Missions were sent elsewhere, when it was so necessary to use these very funds at home.

Nor do we find it very enjoyable that the Mission funds are drawing interest all this time. Consider this. If the offerings for Heathen Missions remain as they are now, and we have two Missionaries to send out in the near future, we in a very short period of time shall have an empty Treasury. This will necessitate our going into debt by borrowing funds or to curtail the work. The prospective students must receive their monthly supports.

Moreover, is it not both necessary and expedient to have more funds on hand than the amount that is handed out from day to day? Also, is it not wise that when in a family, there is a greater financial return than is required for one's daily needs, and when one can see that in a short time there will be greater expenditures, -then I ask you, is it not wise that one then should consider saving, and keep in mind the disbursements which are made, so that the day may not come when there are no more funds available for use? Methinks the answer to this is all too plain. And should we now close our eyes to this situation, then there will one day be a rude awakening, which should make us a lot wiser than now.

Therefore, Brothers, let us consider our holy calling and our responsibilities toward the heathen peoples, and especially those living in this land, and to them first of all. May the Lord give us to understand.....

Page 75.

the command which he gave, when he went forth, and as his own words must permeate our thought and very lives, "Preach the Gospel to all peoples".....

May this be a living Word. And may the love for Heathen Missions in the Holland Christian Reformed Church of North America continue.

The Committee, J.H. Vos, Secretary.

Supplement VIII

The Report of the Curators and the Trustees of the Theological School.

To the Holland Christian Reformed Church Synod, meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich.
on the thirteenth of June, 1894.

Honorable Brothers:

The Curators can do naught else but deliver this report with thankful hearts to the Lord our God. Not all matters were a cause for joy, yet there were many blessings for gratitude by us. It must be reported that in general the students are applying themselves to their studies most diligently. No complaints were received concerning any student that would warrant a dismissal. Two minor matters made it necessary for the Curators to intervene.

Briefly, the events of the last two years are as follows:

The brothers, S. Koster and Th. De Lange took their final examinations and were subsequently placed on "Call". Twenty seven students applied for Entrance Examinations in 1892, fifteen of whom were accepted.

Final Examinations in 1893 were taken by brothers P. Bakker, H.B. Einink, G.G. Haan, and H. Walkotten, all of whom were placed on "Call". Entrance Examinations were taken by eleven persons, nine of whom were accepted, one was rejected, and the other was taken on as a "Visitor".

The total enrollment now stands as follows: Freshmen, 7; Sophomores, 7; Juniors, 10; Seniors, 11; Theology: first Class, 3; second Class, 6; third Class, 4; a total of 48.

Page 76.

Our educational personnel presents a less pleasant picture. We refer the Synod to Art. 71 of the previous Synod. The Call to Dr. Stevens was declined. Professor Wielenga then received the call, and that shortly before his departure to America accompanying the Rev. Baayk. In September of 1892, the Curators exercised their rights in the naming of an Assistant Professor. It was, however, more convenient and more profitable to appoint an instructor. Thus Brother Berkhof joined the Faculty on a temporary basis, and thus the Faculty now consisted of the Revs. Boer, Hemkes, Dr. Vos, and Mr. Berkhof.

With hope and despair we await Professor Wielenga's answer. It finally came and he states, "Expressing myself candidly, I cannot accept the offer." Thus a second disappointment.

In December of that year, a special meeting of the Curators was held to discuss matters pertaining to the school. Since they were not free to proceed further than the Synod had mandated, they nevertheless agreed to appoint Brother Berkhof for the entire year, since all were convinced that he was doing a fine work, and matters were left thus until the Curators should meet in regular Session.

Everything was thus proceeding smoothly when Professor Vos in March, 1893, received a second call from Princeton University to the Chair of Biblical Theology. In spite of the many petitions and requests by the Curators that he remain with us, he felt it necessary to accept this call. The Curators were at a loss. Remembering that Professor Wielenga had been chosen unanimously, and that he had made such a fine impression on our people while he was in America, the Curators took it upon themselves to send the Professor a second call, but before the regular session of the Curators, word had already been received that he had declined once more.

The situation was desperate; now in place of four Professors, there were only two.

Page 77.

on of whom consumed at least one half of his time in his work as the Editor of the "Wachter". The Curators then decided to appoint Brother Berkhof for another year as an Instructor, and to call an Assistant Professor of Theology. The Rev. Beuker from Muskegon was then called, but he also saw fit to decline. Then the Curators decided to get more Assistants and four Brothers were appointed for part-time work: the Rev. Vos, 3 hours; the Rev. Hulst, 3 hours; the Rev. Kuiper, 4 hours; the Rev. De Jong, 9 hours.

Thus in the 1893-1894 school year, our Faculty consisted of the four ministers mentioned in the preceding paragraph, with the regular faculty of the Revs. Boer and Hemkes and with Mr. Berkhof as an Instructor. And since there were now seven members on the Faculty, the work could be distributed more equally. The classification of subjects was greatly improved. E.g. let us take the courses in Ancient Languages: Bro. Berkhof taught Latin I, the Rev. Hemkes, Latin II; the Rev. Vos, Latin III as well as Latin IV. In the study of Hebrew, the Rev. Hemkes taught the second class; the Rev. Vos III and IV. In Greek: the Rev. Boer, Greek I; the Rev. Hemkes, Greek II; and the Rev. Vos, Greek III and IV. Now with the revision: Mr. Berkhof, Latin I; the Rev. De Jong, Latin II, III, IV; the Rev. Boer, Greek I; the Rev. Hemkes, Greek II, III, IV; and the Rev. Hemkes teaches all the classes in Hebrew.

A more convenient arrangement could have been made in Theology also. Up to this time there was no systematic division of courses. The Rev. Vos taught Systematic and Exegetic Theology; the Rev. Hemkes, courses in Syst., Hist., Exeg., and Pract. Theology. These courses the Curatorium were unable to change. No courses taught by the Rev. Vos

Page 78

were assigned to the other Professors, except the courses of the Rev. Hemkes which were divided among the other Professors.

The Curators were so bold as to assert the following into the Agenda: The Synod make a beginning of a separation of the Literary Department from the Theological Department. If the Treasury is able to support it, then two Professors for the Literary Department should be named as well as one for Theology. The men chosen must be efficient in the English, Dutch, and the German languages.

The Curators, L. J. Hulst, Pres.
G. De Jong, Clerk.

Supplement IX.

A Report on the Emeritus Fund.

Honored Brothers:

As per your request, the Committee is prepared to make a short report on the Emeritus Fund. The trouble with this fund is only one thing, the lack of funds.

This lack of funds greatly hampers the work of the Committee, and in addition causes the Treasurer much anxiety, so that an otherwise pleasant task of visiting the widows and orphans in their affliction, becomes year by year a more burdensome one, and also one more painful. The reason for this is obscure. Our people are not niggardly when it becomes necessary to contribute to various causes. Receipts for this fund are sluggish, and if there is a stimulation, matters soon fall back into the old rut, and no progress has been made. Therefore, it is necessary for the Treasurer to sound the alarm, as well as for others, but even that continues for a short time at best.

Page 79.

If it were at all possible, and if it could lead to any improvement, we would certainly wish to show a better way. What is of great concern to us is the idea that we are not carrying this project on correctly, and that thus we can expect no blessing from the Lord. Is it not pitiable when widows and children groan, and retired servants of the Lord find themselves in needy circumstances, while others dread the day when they must retire, and now when they have no means and they see poverty approaching as a traveller, and their need as an armed man. In such situations, one can easily understand that our aged Ministers continue to struggle, while making a choice between an almost impossible continuation of work and/or an unbearable lack of life's needs.

It also comes to mind that by a continuation of such circumstances, we are overstepping our Reformed bounds. Our Church Order teaches much else. It need not be stated that not all matters listed in our Church Order need be taken into account, since it is man-made and can be altered at will. Nevertheless, we have this order, and we have accepted it of our own free will, and we, as members of Christian Congregations, must live up to those which we have accepted and sanctioned. Moreover this is the basis of all our activity, remove these, or treat them arbitrarily, and we place ourselves on a plane with the Israelites

who when they had no King, did what seemed right in their own eyes. We are also powerless both with and against each other, and we can very well be compared with a City which has torn down its walls with its own hands, thrown down the bricks into the faces of the enemy, so that an easy ingress was provided for anyone wishing it.

But what is stated in the Church Order concerning our Emeritii? Allow me to remind you that Article 13 states: "Should it occur that a Minister incapacitated thru age, illness, or otherwise, becomes incapable of carrying on his activities, he shall in no way be deprived of the honor and the title of his office; and furthermore in an honorable manner be cared for by the Churches which he has served. And in this widows and orphans are included.

Let us be mindful of our calling in this, and carry out that which we have taken upon ourselves to do.

Page 80.

We entrust you to the Lord, and to his words of warning, and ask that you be mindful of our needs. The Committee, J.H.Vos, Sec.

Supplement X.

The Address of the Rev. J.H.Vos, at the Synod of Dordtrecht, the Netherlands, held on August 28, and the days following, 1893

Honorable President and Members of the Synod:

Our Church has mandated me to convey its greetings to you, our Sister Church, the Reformed Church in the Netherlands. It proposed that this be done when you, gathered for a General Assembly, would thus convene.

In spite of the distance which separates us, the ocean intervening, nevertheless, we are keenly interested in affairs of your Church, and we attempt to keep in touch with the matters connected with our unforgettable Fatherland. Especially those of the Church are of the greatest interest to us, as we experience both your joys and your sorrows. Many of us are the children of the secession of 1834. And in spite of our youth we remember those times with pleasure, as if we had experienced them our selves. We were at home in that Church. She took us unto her bosom, nurtured us, and then she sent many of her sons, after a thorough preparation, into the vineyard of the Lord, as Ministers of the Word. We loved that Church and even in the distant West, we cannot forget it.

Anxiously we took note of the disturbance in 1886. We knew that a large number of true believers in the secession of the Reformed Church had remained behind. we noted with interest their labors and their struggles. They wished to save the whole Church and remain in charge of it. And, truly, had such a thing happened, who would not have rejoiced at it?

Page 81.

But alas! that was not to be. Relief would be obtained thru another and a scarcely surmised way. The struggles began and thousands went forth to destroy the Cloisters, and to breathe in the freedom to which Christ had also called them.

But now there were two Church organizations, for by the above mentioned conflict, a younger Sister was brought into being next to the old. On both sides we acknowledged the relation to each other. Finally the question arose if we could not both dwell under the same roof. We hoped we might, yet not without a feeling of doubt. Our fraternal regard caused us to overlook any distasteful matters. However, we were not always successful in this. Even if the older sister leaned toward a mutual existence, the younger one nevertheless held herself aloof. There was feeling on both sides, and the Reformed blood showed itself, and the union of 1892 came into being, the Lord be praised! According to our way of thinking, she was the result of prayer, and a certain blessing for God's Churches, especially in the Western areas.

Just when you were about to adjourn, and both Synods had come to the Capital for this purpose, the Holland Christian Reformed Church held its sessions at Grand Rapids, Michigan. It prayed and hoped for the Lord's choicest blessings on your labors. It also decided that when a complete union came into being, one of this group, as was stated was to be sent to you. He was to see your regulations, and to be a witness of God's grace brought to the united Churches.

This has occurred. You are in session, and we have the pleasure of receiving official announcement of the fact.

As a result of these blessed events, I am now present with you. You have given me, and thru me to the Church which I represent, a place in your midst.

Thus I greet you in the name of my Church, offer you our communion as sister churches, and ask that you reciprocate with your interest and your love.

Our Church, -the Holland Christian Reformed Church in North America- had its beginning in 1857. it originated by a return to the position held in 1849, purporting to be an independent Church in America, and in agreement with the standards of the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands, and in as close a union with her as possible. This stand naturally meant.....

Page 82.

a separation from the Dutch Reformed Church after a period of eight years.

Our beginning was small and superficial, apparently insignificant, two Ministers with as many Congregations, and note that that was our status for a noticeably long time. Now not yet in existence for forty years, we number 110 Congregations, seventy Ministers, and 50,000 members.

We also have a Theological School with four Professors, but sad to say, there are two vacancies at present. The Students enrolled for the 1892-93 school year number fifty. Two of these students are preparing for Heathen Mission work.

Our Church has made a beginning of a Mission Program. Home Mission work among our own type of persons has received most of our attention up to this time. At present there are forty Congregations without pastors. Most of these are too small to support Ministers by themselves. Our Congregations are located in thirteen states. they spread from New York State to Colorado. For the vacant Congregations we have only two Missionary Pastors at present. These ministers carry on the work in both the East and the West. The headquarters are in New York and in Iowa. The Missionary Pastor in the East uses and preaches in English in his work, the other one uses the Holland language. In addition, the Churches more centrally located, are assisted by Classical supplies. As a rule each Minister has two Classical supplies to fill in in each three month period. Thus each Church has a Minister at least once a month.

Our interest in Heathen Mission work must be increased. For a few years we were interested in sending our Mission funds here, for the support of the Mission work of the Chr. Ref. Church here. But in 1888 we decided to establish a Mission area of our own. We felt that a Missionary Spirit could be instilled, and a warmth for Mission work created if we were to labor independently, and began the work among the heathen(Indians) in our land.

Thus two years ago we began our work among the Indians in the Dakotas. One of our Ministers undertook the task. But the lawless Indians, having been abused by renegades, did not accept our Missionary, nor would they warm up to him, but rather treated him with disdain, so that as a result he completely lost his courage.

Page 83.

He asked that he might be relieved of this task, and in spite of our disappointment, no other outlet for our endeavors could be found. Now it is necessary to wait for the graduation of our two students who are preparing for Missionary work. However these will not be available for two years.

One more fact must be mentioned, not to infringe upon your time nor your patience. I refer to the union of the Reformed and the Holland Christian Reformed Churches. When we consider the union which has come to the heirs of the Fatherland, we are very thankful to God, because there must be no disunion between our reformed peoples. Nor can this be brought about at the cost of a break-down of power, nor without harm in nearly all areas of our spiritual and ecclesiastical life. This union came into existence with you; it is very desirable with us. More than once attempts were made by us to bring us into a closer union. Should this ever come about, numerous stumbling blocks would be removed, detrimental to both sides.

May I cite an example. Among the approximate 100,000 population of Grand Rapids, there are almost 25,000 Hollanders. Outside of minor religious groups, most of the inhabitants belong to one or the other of the two Churches mentioned above. Each group has about ten Congregations, and about the same number of Ministers, while the members of both Churches live intermingled. Now it is luckily the case that we are not in each others hair day after day, and yet we strive altogether to lightly, each one of us for our Churches, and perhaps

do not hesitate to be prejudiced in case of each other. Were we united, then under our Parochial System that still might happen, but it certainly would be much less painful and take place much less often.

From both sides, especially by the Holland speaking population, a union is desired. But there are conditions on both sides. Those who are optimists, and they are found also in America, state that a reunion can easily be brought about. Others say that the rift is greater than formerly. We need God's help, that is sure, or a reunion can never be brought about. Their conditions, i.e. those of the Reformed persuasion consider us to be wandering children, and that we should return to them. Could we come to that decision.....

Page 84.

they would place no greater burden upon us and thus consider our return our confession. Our reasons for not doing this are threefold:

The first, and not yet the most important, is the matter of a rather large Hymn Book. If it came to a reunion, then there are more ways than one to discover if this agreed with Reformed principles.

The second, this is of more concern to us; the question of Free Masonry. We do not mean that we should act rudely to those who are members of secret societies, many of whom are unaware of what they are doing, but let the Reformed Church express itself: "These members do not belong in the Church, and if they do not resign from the lodges to which they belong, then we will be obliged to set them outside of the Church, and do this at once.

The third, And finally we are not satisfied with the Doctrine. The Brothers state that they are one with the Reformed Confession, and this we do believe of many, and believe further that they are in earnest; but concerning others, it is given us to understand that Arminius would feel very much at home in their presence.

It would cause us much pleasure, and we would be most thankful to God, if these hindrances were removed, either by advising against them, or by removing all matters that are not in conformity with a Reformed Church, and moreover never should be tolerated by them. Even from your side, it was shown by some of your interested brothers that a desire for a reunion was to be desired. This we appreciate. We also wish to add: help us, because you know how this can be brought about, as is shown in your Assembly.

And now while I wish to thank you for the patience you have had with me, and while I have taken so much of your time; permit me to end with the words of the sweet singer of Israel, "that peace be yours with pleasant rest, and blessings sweet may bring you joy!" and bid you in closing that all your decisions as well as your discussions and labors show that the glory of the Lord is sought by you, and above all else that you may have a great regard for both peace and truth.

J.H.Vos, Belegate from the
H.C.R.C. in America.