

The Acts of Synod of the Christian Reformed Church
in America

Held at Grand Rapids, Michigan, from June 15 - June 24,
1898.

Ref. BX 6820. A3 1898/1900 Em c.1

The first session, June 15, Wednesday.

Art. 1 After the delegates had convened on the evening previous to this session, under the guidance of the Rev. A. Keizer, President of the previous Synod, at the Christian Reformed Church on Spring st. (Commerce st) where a service of prayer was held to ask the Lord for his blessing; the delegates now assemble to the appointed time in the spacious auditorium of the Theological School.

The Rev. Keizer calls the Assembly to order, and after Psalm 84 vs. 1,4 are sung and after Scripture reading, Matthew 5, 1-18, the Rev. addresses the Assembly as follows.

Honorable Brothers in Christ; Brother Ministers and Elders, delegates to our highest Assembly; Honored Professors of our Theological School, Pre-Advisors of the Synod:

Grace, mercy, and peace, be granted to you from God the Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, Amen.

When Alexander the Great on his famous expedition to Persia, after an unspeakable campaign, finally broke the strength of Persia, at Issus; and when King Darius could scarcely save himself by abandoning his Chariot, shield, bow, and his mantel; and when the whole Persian encampment, with the mother and one of his wives, with two daughters of the King fell into the hands of the Conqueror; then Darius, who had fled over the Euphrates, offered Alexander all the lands on this side of the river to buy his peace.

The great Macedonian conveyed this message to his grey-haired field general and friend, Parmenio, and asked him what he thought of it. Without hesitation, Parmenio answered, "If I were Alexander the Great, I would accept the offer." The King said, "I would do so too if I were Parmenio." And the campaign was renewed.

Alexander wished to conquer the world, and not a bit less. Whether this was good or bad was another question. But if his King was determined to carry this out, then his servant took a rather dim view of the matter. There are the same type of people in the Service of the Christ, who hold that religion must be confined to the Church and to the inner Chamber and that it must be divorced from social life, nor should it be exposed to the public market place, nor have anything to do with school, church, or with society. No one is moved by that type of Christianity. To sing praises to one, lauding another for his tolerance, and considering champions as mighty men; this avails nothing.

My Brothers, Christ is the light of the world. His word is light. It must shine in the darkest areas of the heart and of life. Let us then as churches be guided in our ecclesiastical life by that light; and that we also permit that light to shine in the areas of society.

Alexander desired to conquer the whole world, and punished his servant who was of a different opinion. Christ likewise demands the whole world of our spiritual being. Do we confess, do we honor.....

Him as the King of his Church; but do we also acknowledge him in all walks of life as good Calvinists sould?

Our churches also - how can it be otherwise - come into contact with the social life in various ways, we even not this in the Agendum. May this Synod be of service to the welfare of the churches, enlightened and supported by the decisions it makes, and may it bring all justifiable means to bear so that it may be a positive force in our social existence. Church and society are two. But their relation must be such that the church spreads the light of Christ abroad and also the light of his word. Nor is this a special grace. In this we are still in the realm of common grace. But the church is there and it must be a blessing. But the church is there and it must be a blessing to society.

May the decisions which are to be made by this, our highest assembly affect our holiest needs, first for a blessing to the church, and then to our social life.

Christ is the light of the world.

The Prayer.

Art. 2. The mandates are requested. They are handed in by the delegates and read to the Assembly.

Page 6

The delegates are listed by Classes, however, they are not listed in the translation.

Page 7

The list of delegates concludes on this page.

The mandates are approved and accepted.

The professors of the Theological School are present in an advisory capacity. They are Prof. Boer, Beuker, and Hemkes.

Art. 3. The Officers of the Synod are chose. They are:

Rev. J. Manni, President
Rev. G.D. De Jong, Vice-president
Rev. W. Heyns, Clerk
Rev. P. Ekster, Assistant Clerk

The past President transfers his duties to the newly appointed President with a few appropriate words, and the new President asc-nds the praesidium with a few words in reply. He states that he is incompetent to undertake this task and request the assistance of all the delegates in carrying out his work.

Art. 4. The President now reads the "Form of Unity" and all delegates while standing, agree with an audible "YES".

Art. 5. The Synod is informed that the Rev. M.A. Gault is present, from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Chicago. He is the Editor of the "Christian Cynosure". The brother is welcomed and is then seated with those present in an advisory capacity. He is then questioned reagrding his presence, and if he desires to address the Synod. He replies that he has not come as a delegate from his church, but at the request of one of our ministers, to represent the National Christian Association. This Association campaigns against Secret Societies, and thus he would very much desire to address the delegates. It was decided to give him permission for this after the afternoon intermission.

Art. 6. The time of the Sessions will be as follows:

A.M. Sessions 8:00 - 11:30

P.M. Sessions 2:00 - 6:00

There will be a 15 minute intermission in each session.

Art. 7. The Revs. K. Kuiper and J. Wyngaarden are appointed to review the previous Acts of the Synod of 1896 and to choose those which need more discussion.

Art. 8. Closing Devotions.

The Second Session, Wednesday, June 15.

Art. 9. Opening Devotions.

Art. 10. The President now introduces the first matter to be discussed as it is stated in the Agenda.

A ruling for the method of carrying on the work of the Synod.

a) The Synod demand that by the appointment of Committees on Pre-Advice, that they do more than has hertofore been done by such Committees up to this time, and that they shall serve the Synod with reports which are thoroughly worked out, in which reasons and motives are clearly stated, as well as reasons for the advice they give, and then that they be given plainly and completely.

Classis Iowa

b) The Synod will consider using Committees on Pre-Advice as little as possible.

Classis Muskegon

After a discussion of the above, the Synod decides to use Committees on Pre-Advice, and it thus adopts the proposal of Classis Iowa. The President now appoints the Committee which will appoint committees on Pre-Advice on the various proposals in the Agendum. It also sets the time in which they are to report. Each Committee that is chosen will choose its own reporter.

Art. 11. The Committee (ad hoc) reports, a) that they have found the Minutes of the previous Synod in perfect order, and that they are included in the Book of Synodical Minutes. The Committee for reviewing these Article reports on those which need to be reconsidered. Among the others mentioned the Committee finds Articles 23 and 91 contain resolutions for the deceased ministers, and these resolutions should be continued in this Assembly also. This is approved by the Synod.

Art. 12. It is decided to formulate a resolution of sympathy for those who have passed away since the previous synod, and that this resolution be placed in the Minutes of this Synod. The Revs. C. Bode, H. Van Hoogen, and K. Kuiper are chosen for this task.

Art. 13. The matter of the division of Classis Iowa, (Art. 13, 1896) has been completed. However the Classis is informed of one change which was made. The newly formed Classis has taken on the name, Classis Oost Friesland rather than the name of Classis Ackley. Alos Prinsburg has remained in Classis Iowa, and Baldwin with Classis Illinois.

Art. 14. According to Art. 17 of 1896, the President asks if anyone should be appointed to arrange special railroad permits for half fare tickets for the delegates. But since the railroads have now arranged matters in such a way that each delegate can arrange his own deductions, it is not thought necessary. Therefore, the sum of \$20.00 set aside for this will be returned to the Treasury.

Art. 15. The Collector for the Theological School is now asked about the \$6000.00 which is still unpaid, and which Grand Rapids had promised to give to the School, if the school were placed in Grand Rapids. The Rev. Noordewier states that this matter might have been taken care of more efficiently if the previous Synod had dealt differently concerning it. A proposal was now made and accepted. The Synod returning to Art. 76 and Art. 82 of the Synod of 1896.....

resolves to cancel the staement concerning security and interest, and then mandates the Collector to procure the amoun in the best way possible.

Art. 16 In Art 92 of the previous Acts, it was decided to cancel the statement concerning the auditing of the books on the day set for doing so. In place of this a committee was asked to audit and check the various funds. But after each committee had checked the accounts of the Treasurers with the day books of the Clerks, it was found to be superfluous to appoint Committees in addition. Thus point "d" the last phrase is thus omitted; i.e. by a Committee chosen by synod.

Art. 17. According to Art. 94 of the Acts of 1896, in which the Rev. Noordewier was appointed as the Collector for the Theological School, he is now asked to report to the Synod on this work and he states that he has handed over to the Treasurer the amounts of \$65.00 and \$8.60 for this fund. This is accepted and he is requested to continue in his office.

Art. 18. Since all the above matters concerned old business, the President now introduces the matter of the division of a Classis.

The Synod saction the divison of Classis Grand Rapids into Classis Grand Rapids East and Classis Grand Rapids West.

a) Classis Grand Rapids East:

Dennis st	Spring st	Cleveland, East Side
East st	Kellogsville	" West "
Oakdale Park	Fisher Sta.	Saron.
Coldbrook	Perch Lake	

b)

Classis Grand Rapids West:

Crosby st	Grandville	Kalamazoo, Walnut st
Alpine	Jenison	" S. Burdick st
Broadway	Lamont	North West st.
LaGrave	Eastmanville	Sun
Fifth Avenue	Allendale	

In Name of Classis Grand Rapids,
P. Ekster.

Since the delegates state that a division is a pressing need, because of the present size of the Classis, and that the classis had considered other divisions, but this one seemed to be the best, this request was granted by the Synod.

Art. 19. The various Committees on Pre-Advice have now been chosen and they are read to the Synod. (These committees are not listed in the translation)

Page 14

(The continuation of the Committees on Pre-Advice)

(Concluding the listed Committees)

Art. 20 The President now surrenders the floor to the Rev. M.A. Gault, who thus addresses the Assembly:

Mr. President, dear Fathers and Brothers:

It is truly a privilege which I have long anticipated, that of addressing this Assembly at this time. My heart was touched when I read the history of your church, and when I found that it was so similar to our church. Both of the churches were cradled in foreign countries; yours in Holland, ours in Scotland. Defending the highest power in church and society, was the basis of our existence. From that, both of us also turned away from Secret Societies, and began to oppose them. Both of us also hold that the Psalms are the only songs to be sung during worship services.

However, I did not come as a representative of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, to which I belong, but instead to represent the National Christian Association, an organization now in existence for 30 years. For its purpose, it distributes books and literature and

edits a monthly publication, the Christian Cynosure, which is printed to oppose Secret Societies. This publication is supported by various churches and by private individuals, thru offerings and various other methods, and it rejoices in a continual increase in subscriptions. And there is a good reason for rejoicing for it is a struggle against Secret organizations, which are bound together by oaths for:

1) They are opposed to Christian Doctrine, Did not the Lord state: Let your light so shine among men.....

2) They oppose the example set by Christ. He said, "I have spoken openly in all places, nor have I taught anything in secret."

3) They are drawing people away from the churches. They make a worship service of their organization, a church which they feel is good enough. They even declare that persons who live up to the rules of Free Masonry will certainly attain Heaven. And their works follow after them. The present conditions in Chicago are such that about only 5% of the young men in the city are church members. Most of the rest are connected with lodges.

4) And in those things in which they place the most honor, and in which they attempt to give themselves a show of respectability, and the means which they employ in enchanting and drawing persons to them; this assistance and show of affection is entirely false. They do do good but only to those who aid them - not to everyone. They love humanity but only so long as this part of humanity is a member of the lodge, and as long as these in whom they are interested have funds at thier disposal. Their show of affection is nothing but selfishness, a state absolutely foreign to Christian love.

Thus you can see why we take a stand against them, and why we prefer to have nothing to do with them. There are those who oppose Secret Societies, but who still wish to have the members of these societies in the churches as members of the church also. Then - so they say - one can work with them and persuade them to leave the lodge. A dangerous suggestion, to say the least. One person once had a parrot who was very adept at swearing. Another person who had one who had learned to pray. Someone suggested that they be put into one cage so that the latter would learn to pray also. No sooner said than done. But the results were just the opposite. And would it not be the same in our world? "Have no association with the wicked works of the Devil" the Word of God states.

And the evil of Secret Societies is spreading very rapidly. A minister from a neighboring denomination pointed out to me that the new membership for a year had dropped from 64,000 to 19,000 and he blamed this decrease on the growth of Secret Societies. This upset him and discouraged him very much. One can easily notice it in midweek prayer services. The Churches are filled with women but the men are absent. The latter are in lodges. In every sphere Free Masonry is the power behind the throne. It is coming to the point where a person can hardly begin a new project unless he is a lodge member. This is astounding. However a ray of light appears on the horizon. People are beginning to realize what a part Secret Societies are beginning to play in life. Their eyes are being opened.

I wish with all my heart, that matters may go well with you, and that we may become better acquainted. The hope also is that we may unite against this common evil, for in a struggle of this sort, we sorely need each other.

I thank you for the opportunity which you have given me to address you. If anyone wishes to question me further, I shall answer gladly.

After the speaker had answered a few questions put to him, the President asks the Rev. E. v.d. Berge to thank him in the name of the Synod.

Art. 21. The report of the Board of Heathen Missions is next in order. This report is given by the Rev. J. Groen. The report is approved and placed in the Supplements (Suppl. V) It is first handed over to the Committee on Pre-Advice, who will consider the sections which will need to be discussed.

Art. 22. The report of the Board of Home Missions is now taken up, with the Rev. G.D. De Jong reporting. This also contains sections which must be brought up for discussion.....

And it is thus handed to the Committee on Pre-Advice. After this it will be placed in the Supplements, (Suppl. III)

Art. 23. Closing Devotions.

The Third Session. Thursday, A.M. June 16, 1898.

Art 24. Opening Devotions.

Art. 25 The Minutes are read and approved.

Art 26. The Report of the Committee on Jewish Missions, the Rev. I.J. Fles, Reporter.

This report is approved by the Synod and placed in the Supplements (Suppl. VI)

1) A proposal is submitted to the Synod by the Committee that in the future it discontinue supporting a number of Jewish projects and rather concentrate on one Mission, and that it be the Jewish Mission in Chicago, and to contribute \$500.00 annually to its support since this amount is already received by the Committee. The Committee sees the advantages in the above proposal. Our work will thus be centralized in one section rather than weakly supported areas in various sections; moreover this tends to a more unified effort. That the committee suggests Chicago Hebrew Mission for its support, and that this is as an important area as any other....

is for the reason that it is centrally located, as far as our Church life is concerned. In addition, the mission has consented to accept on its Committee two Trustees names by the Synod, who can thus use their influence for a gradual change into our type of ecclesiastical life. The Committee recommends the Brothers J.I. Fles and S. Dekker for acceptance by the Synod.

This proposal is approved and the brothers mentioned above are chosen to serve on the Committee.

2) The Committee also feels the need for a more efficient set of rules for its work in the form of a constitution. Therefore, one has been prepared and it is submitted to the Synod. But the Synod judges that on account of the early stages of the Jewish Mission endeavor, the time has not yet come for a Constitution, and therefore the Mission continues on as formerly.

3) Finally, in connection with the correspondence in mind in connection with the Chicago Mission, as well as a previous Synodical decision, (Art. 33, Acts 1896) the following needs to be stated:

At the last Synodical Session of 1896, it was stated to the Jewish Mission Board that our Church would be more in sympathy with the Mission work in Chicago if it were conducted along more ecclesiastical lines. The Committee was informed of this. These brothers decided that it was necessary to adopt methods to make itself known to a greater extent. Therefore, on the 29th and 30th of September, 1896, the Committee met to discuss this. A committee was appointed to draft a resolution which would serve as a "Modus Operandi". The Committee consisted of W.E. Blackstoën, the Rev. J.J. Riemersma, and the Rev. E.P. Godwin, D.D.

The resolution which they formulated reads as follows:

Seeing that this organization is of an international character, which seeks and desires the co-operation of all Evangelical Churches, it takes the following stand concerning its beliefs and doctrines:

"We hold that the Holy Bible is the infallible Word of God, and that it states that the Gospel should be preached to the Jews. Therefore we feel called to engage in this task while we extend the hand of Brotherhood to any who desire to work with us, with the universal, indubitable confession of Christianity as the basis for our work.

Concluding this statement are the twelve articles which end with an "Amen". J.I. Fles, Reporter

Art. 27. The report of the Committee of Pre-Advice on the Section dealing with the Heathen Mission. The Rev. H. Walkotten acts as the reporter. The report reads as follows, which is accepted and approved by the Synod.

Honorable Brothers:

This section of the Agendum dealing with Heathen Mission matters which this committee received for its consideration, begins with a proposal from Classis Hudson:

1) The Synod shall consider it feasible to proceed with all caution in a beginning of Mission work among the Indians. In connection with this, the Synod speak our, and express a desire, that in as far as possible, it confine its efforts to Home Mission work.

However much the Committee sympathizes with the proposition of Classis Hudson it judges the answer to be as follows: Which mission shall have the most attention depends to a great extent on the gifts and the offerings received for the purpose of Missions, and the Synod cannot always control the disbursements of the funds received. On the other hand, your Committee thinks this is taken care of in Art. 5, of the Constitution for Heathen Missions. This the Board wishes to submit to the Synod for approval. This Article reads as follows:

"The Synod is to decided whether the Mission Field is to be enlarged or decreased in size and it shall also designate the number of mission workers. The Mission Board can make arrangements for only temporary assistance if the need arises."

2) Classis Holland submits:

The Synod shall see to it that the Board of Heathen Missions have a well formulated Consitution and that it consider the Constitution already prepared by the Mission Board.

Our advice is that the Synod act on the proposal of Classis Holland. All work by the delegates can than be lawful and safeguarded when they receive specific rules for their tasks and their capabilities. The Church will also be protected by this, and it will prevent any optional dealings by the Board. An yet on the other hand the responsibilities of the Board are lightened.

3) The matter concerning the Candidate, D.R. Drukker follows:

Classis OostFriesland submits:

The Synod sever all relations between Candidate Drukker and the Heathen Mission Board, and in addition that he return the proper treasury, the amount of money borrowed for his education or give suitable guarantees for the same.

Classis Hackensack submits:

In the case of D.R. Drukker, the Classis requests that he be released from his connections with the Board of Heathen Missions, with the understanding that he make restitution for all the funds used for his training.

A proposal from the Board of Heathen Missions:

The Synod will release Candidate D.R. Drukker from all connections with the Heathen Mission Board, with the understanding that he return all the monies to the Mission, or give a guarantee that all the funds be returned. Payments are to be no less that \$100.00 per year.

In addition to this the Board suggests that the Synod consider if it be not necessary for Candidate Drukker to confess to the church, to which he has given a promise, that he would devote himself to the work among the Indians.

All three proposals desire to see Candidate Drukker ordained in his office, and the Committee sanctions this. It also judges that if he is prepared to make restitution, he may not continue in his present status. The stipulations have been carefully formulated in the proposals of the Board, but there are two additional conditions which should be considered. Therefore your committee advises to accept the proposal of the Board with the following changes.

The Synod decide that Candidate Drukker be released from his status, in connection with the Board of Heathen Missions, if he restores the financial outlay expended for his training, or if he present a Chattel Mortgage, or repay thru person who are willing to go bond for him, and then in addition he accept the obligation of returning \$100.00 of his obligation annually. In case he pass away, the obligation ceases.

A confession, according to the Committee, must not be overlooked. Taking into consideration all the above mentioned matters concerning resitution, and that the Committee appear not too severe in its judgments, nevertheless the consideration must be taken into account that the brother has made himself guilty by:

- a) breaking his promise to the Heathen Mission Board.
- b) breaking his promise to the Home Mission Board.
- c) to permit himself to be trained for the work of a Missionary, when, as later was discovered, he had for some time already lost that desire.

Therefore we advise:

a) that a committee be named to meet with Candidate Drukker, and that a form for a Confession be prepared, and that it be presented to the Synod for its approval.

b) that this confession be then made in the presence of the Synod, and further, that it be published in the "Wachter".

4) Finally the Board of Heathen Missions in its report, requests that the Synod take on A. Vander Wagen and wife, and Mr. J. De Groot as a helper, for a period of seven years. Seeing that the mission field needs their assistance, and that they have a good reputation, and since the seven year period agrees with our program; the Committee advises the Synod to accept this.

For giving advice concerning the Constitution, formulated by the Board, the Committee asks that this be postponed, since the Committee has not had the time to study this carefully.

H. Walkotten, Reporter

For taking care of the matter pertaining to Candidate Drukker, the Synod has appointed the Revs. Ten Hoor and Van Hoogen, and Elder J. Bakelaar.

Art. 28. One of the members of the Committee on heathen Missions brings a special request to table, namely: The Board of Heathen Missions be empowered to begin Mission work in Cuba should Cuba become a free island.

From a discussion of this proposal, it appears that the Synod would gladly cooperate, if the Kingdom of our Lord could be advanced by this move, and once our arms would be victorious, as this would bring spiritual freedom to Cuba; but considering that we have our hands more than full at present with our present commitments, the Synod cannot consent to accept this proposal at this time.

Art. 29. Closing Devotions.

The Fourth Session, Thursday P.M. June 16.

Art. 30 Opening Devotions.

Art. 31. The President informs the delegates that during the intermission, one person from each Classis shall be named to prepare expense accounts, and to present these accounts to the Synodical Treasurer.

The report of the Committee on Pre-Advice for that section of the Agenda pertaining to the Christian Schools, (Education)

The Rev. K. Kuiper, Reporter

Honorable Brothers:

Your Committee, taking into consideration what the Agendum states concerning this; and keeping in mind the conditions of most of the Public Schools in the land and keeping in mind that there is little sympathy at present for positive Christian education, and that even by members of our own Churches who consider a public school education satisfactory; is of the opinion that the Synod can do no more than voice its opinion with the idea of awakening an interest, and admonishing the people of the need.

Therefore the Committee advises:

that the Synod speak out in this and not only in this Assembly, but also include this in the Synodical Minutes: that a positive Christian education with Reformed principles is a duty for Reformed Christians, and that an Article to this effect be published in the "Wachter" warning all ministers and elders to work with all their capabilities to advance the cause of Christian education in every place where such is at all possible.

The reasons for this according to the judgment of the Committee is as follows:

1. God's Word demands that our children be trained in the fear and admonition of the Lord.
2. the promises of the parents at the time of baptism.
3. there may be no separation between our civic, social, nor religious life, education and training.
4. the honor of our King demands it, since all power is given him in Heaven and on earth, also in the realm of education and all other knowledge.

No general, but a specific Reformed education is necessary for our children. No teacher-student relationship is satisfactory, but acknowledging the need of a rebirth, and our connection with this, and also recognizing the Covenant relation in which God has placed his children; these are the fundamentals from which all education must proceed.

As concerns point "b" the proposal of Classis Illinois in the Agenda, "that the Synod express a wish for Christian Education.....

but that it speak out that it is of the greatest importance that we also establish Secondary Schools on a thoroughly Reformed foundation"; the Committee can hardly say that it is entirely in accord with this proposal, considering it not so important as Primary instruction (schools). Classis Illinois adds to this, "and the Synod attempt thru such means, to carry out this project in a way which they consider most suitable."

In this the Committee feels itself incapable of giving advice, since what the Synod can do and desires to do concerning this, really should fall under another category for more discussion.

K. Kuiper, Reporter

This report is approved, and it is decided to name a Committee who will compose an article for publication in the "Wachter" first presenting it to the Synod for its approval.

The Revs. Ekster and Remein are chosen for this task.

Article 33. A report of the Committee on Pre-Advice concerning the section of the Agenda dealing with Home Missions is next on the order or business.

This report reads as follows with certain changes made by Synod:

G.D. De Jong, Reporter

Honored Brothers:

Your Committee has the pleasure of reporting that it has read the report of the Home Missions Board, and the Articles in connection with this. Considering one or more things, the Committee proposes:

- 1) that the Synod keep in mind the incorporation of the Board of Home Missions and for these reasons,
 - a/ that this Board has not been created with a permanent Board of Directors, with ecclesiastical authority, as it appears in the Agenda, and as one of the Classis meant,
 - b/ that the "act" by which the Board is incorporated, does not signify a self-supporting independent body, but that it gives it the character of a Committee, which carries out the Mandates of the Synod.

- 2) that the Synod stipulate that the Board may use the sum of \$4200.00 for Home Mission work.

- 3) that the Synod also stipulate that the Board be composed of the following persons proposed by the various Classes:

Classis Grand Rapids, Revs. Hulst & Noordewier
Classis Hackensack, Rev. J.N. Trompen
Classis Holland, Rev. M. Van Vessem
Classis Hudson, Rev. J. Manni
Classis Illinois, Rev. P. Kosten
Classis Iowa, Rev. H. Bode
Classis Muskegon, Rev. G.D. De Jong
Classis Oost Fr., Rev. C. Bode

4 e. That synod give the Board of Home Missions a constitution with the contents provided in Supplement IX.

G.H. De Jong, Reporter

After the report is accepted and treated point by point, it is approved, and the constitution as provided in Supplement IX is adopted. Synod also approves the list of delegates named above.

5) The reporter notes that one point of the report on Home Missions is omitted. It reads as follows: Classis asks that synod seriously consider the feasibility of mission work in the west led by a missionary who is fluent in the use of the English language. - Classis Grand Rapids.

The committee had not overlooked this proposal but had not acted upon it since there are already English speaking missionaries in our western states.

In response, Classis Grand Rapids states that something further was intended. Their request intended that a missionary should work exclusively among American speaking people, not only in the west but whenever the opportunity best presents itself, so that more influence may be felt from our church among the American people.

It is decided to take up this phase of mission work if the work among our own people permits it.

Art. 34. The President is informed that the Rev. Dr. Vincent from Detroit, delegate of the U. P. Church, has arrived, who desires to address Synod tomorrow.

Decided to grant him this opportunity.

Art. 35. Report of the Curatorium of the Theol. School. Rev. G. De Jong, reporter. Certain matters of the report were placed in the hands of the Comm. of Pre-advice pertaining to that section of the Agenda concerning the Theol. School. The remainder of the report was approved. (Suppl. II)

Art. 36. Closing Devotions.

The Fifth Session, Friday, A.M., June 17.

Art. 37. Opening Devotions.

Art. 38. The Comm. of Pre-advice pertaining to that section of the Agenda re Heathen missions has still the following to report:

Your Comm. has reviewed the draft for a Mission Order. It can advise Synod to adopt it as it is. There are a couple of particulars upon which the Comm. wishes to comment:

Art. 7 requests that Synod establish an amount, which shall be granted to the Board until the next Synod. Your Comm. advises Synod to establish the amount at \$5,500.00.

Art. 10 provides a remuneration for the Treasurer, the amount to be established by Synod. Your Comm. proposes to grant \$50.00.

Finally, Synod is informed that the following delegates have been appointed by their respective Classes as members of the Board:

Classis Grand Rapids - Revs. J. H. Vos and E. R. Haan
" Hackensack - Rev. J. N. Trompen
" Holland - Rev. J. Groen
" Hudson - Rev. R. Drukker
" Illinois - Rev. K. Kuiper
" Iowa - Rev. W. Heyns
" Ost-Friesland - Rev. C. Bode

To which is added by Synod as member of the Board and as Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Garvelink.

H. Walkotten, reporter.

This report is received and adopted. The Secretary in the name of Synod casts a ballot for the appointment of the delegates.

Art. 39. The President presents the Rev. Dr. Vincent, delegate from the U. P. Church. He speaks in Substance as follows:

Mr. President, Fathers, and Brothers:

It is for me a great pleasure to bring you Christian greetings from the U. P. Church, a church which has the highest esteem for you, and which feels closely united with you in the cause of Christ, our King.

I have the privilege of being one of her ministers, and also labor in the State in which your church has such a large predominance of your members. You then also are not ignorant of the movement which took place eight or nine years ago, which created quite a stir in the Presbytery of Detroit, the purpose of which was to transfer it to another denomination. In part this happened, and thereupon I was sent to those who maintained the old standards, to gather them together again. And God was with us. We were so successful that we now have a Presbytery of 15 congregations and 12 ministers, and even our ecclesiastical possessions are greater now than they were then.

There are good reasons why it is a pleasure for me to stand before you and speak to you. Indeed, we have the same confessions, and fight the same fight, which unites the hearts. When men fight next to one another for their fatherland, it binds their hearts together. And should that not be the case with the soldiers of Christ, who, as we, stand shoulder to shoulder in the fearful warfare against terrible foes?

As concerns the confession, must it not be refreshing for someone, who, with sorrow in his heart, observes how laxity reigns in our day, how, with respect to the Bible, destructive criticism is popular, unbelief appears more boldly in the press, and not seldom in the pulpit, and the exaltation of doctrine increasingly less--again I ask, must it not be refreshing to meet a church that has a confession, which maintains pure doctrine, maintaining it courageously and steadfastly? And the banner which we both hold aloft is the banner of Calvinism; the old banner for which our fathers fought and shed their blood; which glorifies God and humbles man, which bows not only before the love of God but also the justice of God. We preach, with Prophet and Apostle, as our examples, the triune God as the highest Good. But we also preach the law, which for us is the most sacred duty. And preaching demands the maintenance of God's justice, that for the transgressor the highest judgment awaits him, that the sinner must be born again, that he must not only be justified but also sanctified, if he is to enter the kingdom of God.

Our fathers in Holland and Scotland raised that banner, and gave it to us as a precious heritage. It is the banner of faith that overcomes the world, that casts down thrones, that gives strength to suffer and experience martyrdom, to enter into death singing. That faith brought us freedom, both political and spiritual. Let us rejoice that we together have this freedom, and let us make it our intent to keep it intact as an inheritance for our children.

A second reason for our joy is that we both maintain the Psalms for our congregational singing, given to us by God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, fitting for all times and for all different situations, which contain guidance and comfort. They were sung by the believers of the Old Testament, as also by Christ, the apostles, and the early Christian Church.

In so many churches unrest reigns because of congregational song, and what can you expect, when we permit all different kinds of people to make songs. How can such songs satisfy the heart and endure as those given by God? If we maintain the Psalms we are safe; those who do this will not wander far from the weightiest doctrines. Let us, therefore, teach our children to love the Psalms and hold them in high esteem.

A third matter that unites us is our common struggle against the lodge. Rev. Gault has already spoken to you about this subject, hence I shall say little about it. Only this: Brothers, let us stand firm in this struggle. The lodge sucks the life-blood out of our churches, spiritually and financially. Oh, that God would emancipate us from this wicked power! The Lodge is a system of dominion, a system of repression. Therefore, even though, in this struggle, we must put up with derision, scorn, and contempt, let us persevere.

There is still another matter that compels our esteem of you: the emphasis which you place on catechetical instruction for the youth. A certain minister once said: The U. P. Church is very successful in keeping her youth in the church. Whether we are worthy of this compliment is not for me to judge, but I am certain, in any event, it applies to you. Continue to embrace your children with the arms of love, seeking to bring them in and holding them. Thus you sow the good seed in their hearts so that they may be oak trees of righteousness in the garden of the Lord.

If we are so united internally, how desirous it would be to be more united externally, working together shoulder to shoulder against unbelief and rationalism, which exalt themselves from every side. Union is not yet necessary. I am not a fanatic about this. Under the Old Testament there were twelve tribes, and each was distinct from the other, yet they formed one nation. Such can be the case with us too. What we must firmly resist is that we, in this struggle, oppose one another, and, although we remain a separate church, we can, nevertheless, unitedly oppose the common enemy. Union is our desire and purpose, but if that is not possible, yet let there be love and esteem; then let there be ecclesiastical correspondence, so that we exchange certificates of membership, and send delegates to our Synodical assemblies,

and open our pulpits to one another. And should we not be able to support the same sacred concern with respect to domestic and heathen missions? Already brother Kruidenier came from your church to be sent out by us. Could he not be the fore-runner of many more?

I thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me to speak to you, for your attention, and your kindness. May the God of all grace be with you; gather you under his wings, and cover you therewith, also after sun and moon shall be no more.

The President request Rev. J. N. Trompen to respond to the brother. He addresses him in substance as follows:

In the name of Synod we thank you and your church for your generous goodwill shown to us, for your visit to our Synod, and for your inspiring message that we might hear from you. It is a cause for rejoicing that besides us there are others, who, with us, hold fast those principles, those truths, that confession, which we cherish so much, especially in these days of superficiality and mixture. And as far as our relationship to one another is concerned, we too experience a desire for a closer union. There are certain matters which make us, as a Dutch body, to judge that we must not be too hasty. Possibly that which now hinders will slowly on be removed, and the wish expressed by you may come to fulfilment, to be of one mind and heart to fight together for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Art. 40. Closing Devotions.

Sixth Session, Friday P. M., June 17

Art. 41. Opening Devotions.

Art. 42. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice for that part of the Agenda of the Theological School. Rev. G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

Esteemed brothers:

After examining the Report of the Curatorium of the Theological School and the Articles of the Agendum under the heading Theological School, your committee reports as follows:

1. With reference to Isaac Adams Synod decide that the Curatorium give him a certificate with the following contents:

"The Trustees of the Theological School of the Christian Reformed Church certify that Mr. Isaac Adams, a native of Persia, has for two years pursued studies in various branches taught in the Theological School of the Church mentioned above, and believe that he is able, as far as his education is concerned, to acceptably perform evangelistic labors among his own people."

Your Committee further advises that the relationship between I. Adams and the Board of Heathen Missions be dissolved:

- a. Because Brother I. Adams is only qualified to labor among his own people.
- b. Because Synod has already decided that one mission field is sufficient, and therefore cannot accept Persia as a field.
- c. Because, besides the references previously received concerning him, and the experiences presently with him, does not give us the liberty to recommend him as a missionary for our church.

Concerning D. Adams with reference to what the Report of the Curatorium says about him (namely, that the Curatorium does not doubt his good intentions, yet fears that he does not have the capacity to complete the whole theological course with good results) advises that a resolution be adopted that De Wachter no longer may be used to obtain gifts for D. Adams. An identical resolution be adopted with respect to I. Adams.

2.2. In the Report of the Curators the question is asked whether Cand. D. R. Drukker, should he ^{not} become a missionary among the heathen, whether he is obligated to pay tuition for the 7 years he studied. Your Committee judges that it is fair that he pay for the years after 1892, but not before

that time, since before 1892 no obligation existed to repay tuition for Student Fund recipients.

3. In the same report the following question is raised by the Curators: Whether the decision of 1886, stipulating that the Comm. for Heathen Missions annually contribute \$325.00 for the salary of a third teacher continues to be valid, your Comm. advises to reply in the negative since the Board of Heathen Missions has no missionary-student nor does it intend to have one.

4. The Curatorium further asks how to deal with persons ^{who have left} the school and the church without paying their financial obligations to the Curatorium. Your Comm. advises to answer: When they belong to any ecclesiastical body, to use every ethical means to bring these people to pay, and if that does not help, then to use the best possible means.

5. The Curatorium requests that Art. 9, 2nd line, the 2nd sentence of the Rules for the Theological School be deleted. This pertains to the words: "In exceptional cases the Trustees shall act according to their own wisdom." Your Comm. advises Synod so to resolve.

6. With reference to Prof. Schoolland, your Comm. advises, in view of the recommendation concerning him by the Curatorium, that he be re-appointed until the next Synod.

7. The Curatorium proposes for the consideration of Synod whether in the future it would not be more feasible that professors in the Humanities not be given definite appointments but rather be appointed for a specific term. Your Comm. advises Synod so to resolve.

8. The Curatorium proposes ^{that} of all re-imbursed funds in the General Students Fund, one sixth be placed in the Treasury of the Theological School. Your Comm. deems this fair, and so advises Synod.

9. Concerning the attitude adopted by Cl. Hackensack with respect to her obligations to the Theological School, your Comm. advises that the Officers of Synod send a communication to that Classis expressing its dissatisfaction with respect to the letter received from the secretary of the Committee appointed by that Classis,

and urge them to meet their financial obligations.

10. In the credential of Classis Holland your Comm. observed this instructions

"Classis directs itself to Synod for advice how to deal with the congregations of Oakland and Jamestown, which are delinquent in meeting their quota for the Theological School."

With respect to Oakland we advise that Synod and Classis by means of a letter of admonition to move this congregation to pay its quota.

With reference to Jamestown your Comm. can offer no advice as long as the protests have received no action.

11. Classis Hudson, Iowa, and Ost-Friesland request that a review be made of the Theological School, and your Comm. also deems this review as necessary. Hence your Comm., even as Cl. Grand Rapids proposes, advises to return to the former practice in compiling the same.

12. With respect to the proposal of Classis Holland to organize the Literary Department of our Theological School into a College, your Comm. will return to this matter later, since it did not have time to give it sufficient consideration.

13. The Agendum still has two proposals from Cl. Grand Rapids:

a. "Synod decide that of the two Curators from each Classis only one shall be seated."

Synod is advised not to consider this proposal because of practical objections.

b. "That Synod proclaim to the churches, with a view to our Theological School, it is less necessary to call ministers from foreign lands, and that vacant churches give earnest consideration whether they should refrain from this practice."

Your Comm. advises Synod to adopt this proposal.

14. That Synod appoint as Curators for 4 years the following as recommended by the respective Classes:

Cl. Grand Rapids East: Revs. F. M. Ten Hoor, Delegate, and L. J. Hulst, Alt.

Cl. Grand Rapids West: Rev. P. Ekster, Delegate, and Rev. J. Noordewier, Alt.

- Ol. Hackensack; Revs. E. Vanden Berge, Delegate, and H. Iserman, Alt.
Ol. Holland; Rev. A. Keizer, Delegate, and Rev. J. Keizer, Alt.
Ol. Hudson; Rev. J. Manni, Delegate, and Rev. J. Rensin, Alt.
Ol. Iowa; Rev. H. Bode, Delegate, and Rev. J. Wyngaarden, Alt.
Ol. Muskegon; Rev. J. I. Fles, Delegate, and Rev. H. Vander Werp, Alt.
Ol. Ost-Friesland; Rev. H. Potgieter, Delegate, and Rev. J. Timmerman, Alt.

And for a two-year periods

- Ol. Grand Rapids East; Rev. H. Vos, Delegate, and E. Vander Vries, Alt.
Ol. Grand Rapids, West; Rev. J. Post, Delegate, and E. R. Haan, Alt.

To which Synod adds Mr. S. S. Postma for four years.

G. D. De Jong, reporter

This report is received, acted upon item by item, and adopted.

The Secretary, in the name of Synod, casts a ballot of the proposed delegates, who are chosen as Curators.

Art. 43. Report of the Synodical Treasurers

Disbursements for re-imburement and current expenses	\$628.12
Deficit, Synod of 1896 (cf. Suppl. IX, p. 110)	<u>129.27</u>
Total	\$757.39
Received from four Classes	<u>756.30</u>
Deficit	\$ 1.09

This also includes the expenses for the Agenda of this Synod, which are paid.

The \$5.00 which the congregation of Burdick St., Kalamazoo, owed, has not been paid.

J. Noordewier

This report is approved.

The Synodical Treasurer also reports the following:

REPORT OF SYNODICAL EXPENSES

Classis	Quota	Traveling Expenses	Contributions	Re-imbursements
Grand Rapids	\$250.00	\$ 2.00	\$248.00	
Holland	220.00	13.50	206.50	
Muskegon	150.00	22.80	127.20	
Illinois	140.00	38.00	102.00	
Hudson	90.00	204.30		\$114.30
Hackensack	80.00	179.70		99.70
Iowa	120.00	161.00		41.00
Oost-Friesland	65.00	81.20		16.20

This also is approved.

J. Noordewier

Art. 44. Closing Devotions

Seventh Session, Monday P.M., June 20

Art 45. Opening Devotions

Art 46. Roll Is called. All the delegates are present with the exception of Elder S. Vander Laan of Cl. Muskegon, and we are informed that his alternate, Mr. A. Meeman, will arrive tomorrow.

Rev. A. Keizer ^{requests} that his alternate, Rev. M. Van Vesseem, be seated, so that he can devote more time to writing a report of Synod for De Wachter. Synod accedes to the requests, and Rev. Keizer is granted the privileges of an advisory member.

Art. 47. The minutes of the sessions of Thursday and Friday are read, received and approved.

Art. 48. The President reads a communication from the directors of the Holland Home, wherein they express the desire that the Synod, as in previous years, visit the Home.

Synod is of a mind not to accede to the request because of lack of time.

Art 49. The report of the Comm. appointed to prepare an article for De Wachter on behalf of Christian education (cf. Art. 32) is read, approved, and signed by the officers of Synod:

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

Appointed by Synod to prepare an article for De Wachter pertaining to Christian Education, we present the following for your consideration:

Decision of Synod

With Respect To Christian Education Based On Reformed Principles

In the Agendum of this Synod Classis Illinois proposes the following:

"Synod express itself clearly that our Reformed Principles demand that our children in elementary instruction be educated not only for social but also for religious and ecclesiastical life in schools that are not only generally Christian but which stand on the ground of our Reformed Confessions."

And from Classis Grand Rapids we read about the same matter as follows:

"Synod give encouragement concerning Reformed Christian education."

With reference to this weighty matter, Synod appointed

a committee to serve it with pre-advice. At the appointed time the Comm. rendered its report, which was received and approved by Synod.

Said report contained the following ideas:

Your Comm. for the cause of Christian Education having taken into consideration what is contained in the Agendum;
observed the condition of most of the public schools in our country;
having considered the little sympathy to be found for positive Christian Education, even by members of our own church, who believe that public instruction is sufficient,
judges that Synod can do no less than cause its voice to be heard to awaken and to admonish.

Your Comm. therefore advises Synod not only to proclaim in its meeting and note in its minutes that positive Christian Education according to Reformed Principles is the incontrovertible duty of Reformed Christians, but also that an article, in the name of Synod, be placed in De Wachter, exhorting all ministers and elders to labor to the utmost of their power for the promotion of Christian Education in all places where it is possible.

The Grounds among others are these:

- a. It is the requirement of God's Word to train the children in the fear and admonition of the Lord;
- b. The parents with the baptism of their children before the Lord and the congregation have promised to do this;
- c. There may be no separation between civil, social, and religious life, education, and nurture;
- d. It also promotes the honor of our King, to whom has been given all dominion in heaven and on earth, also in the realm of education and nurture.

Not a general, but a specific Reformed instruction is the requirement for our children. Indeed, no educational system is satisfactory, but the acknowledgement of the necessity of regeneration, and besidea, the acknowledgement of the covenant relationship in which God has placed our children, are the principles from which education must proceed.

That was the judgment of the Comm. of Pre-advice, and Synod, convinced that in it the truth of God's Word

was clearly expressed, ^{enjoining} these sincere suggestions and the entire accurate contents thereof upon the hearts of all the members and in particular upon all Consistories of our Christian Reformed fellowship.

In the Name of Synod, etc.

Art. 50. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice for that section of the Agenda pertaining to the Church Order of Dordt, the Yearbook, Statistics, National Day of Prayer, and Church Help. Prof. H. Beuker, D.D., Reporter.

1. Church Order of Dordt. This pertains to Art. XXVII: "The elders and deacons shall serve two years, and each year one-half changes and others are placed in their stead, unless the occasion and the profit for some churches demand otherwise."

Concerning this Classis Hudson placed the following on the Agendum:

"Considering that there are different opinions concerning the application of Art. 27, D.C.O. in the churches, and thereby friction often arises among the members, Classis petitions Synod to make a decision that would create greater unanimity."

The Comm. of Pre-advice judges:

- a. That the aforementioned retirement every two years as a rule must take place.
- b. That the Consistory reserve the right, if it judges necessary, to place the retiring brethren also on nomination.

Your Comm. deems the latter desirable:

- 1) Since the congregation is best served with the best talents and gifts;
- 2) Since the retirees are better qualified in the matter of experience;
- 3) Since in most congregations there is not such a supply of qualified personnel at hand, that one could not exclude the retirees without damage;
- 4) Since

eventual election by the congregation would be proof that they are the right persons.

2. Yearbook and Statistics:

The Agenda concerning these matters has the followings:

"Synod attempt to publish an official ecclesiastical Yearbook of the Christian Reformed Church in America."

Classis Illinois

"Classis calls the attention of Synod to the ecclesiastical Yearbook with reference to the statistics of the congregations within her confines for 1898."

Cl. Grand Rapids

"Synod decide that the report of families, members, and souls of the congregations be faithfully sent by the Classes for the Yearbook."

Cl. Illinois

"Synod establish a general rule for sending in Statistics."

Cl. Hackensack

Synod decides:

- a. Not to consider the first proposal, but to leave the publication of the Yearbook in the hands of those where it has been vested these several past years.
- b. To accept the second proposal of Cl. Illinois, so that henceforth each Classis will provide its statistics for the Yearbook.
- c. That, moreover, each Classis at every Synod shall present complete statistics of the congregations within her confines.

3. National Day of Prayer. The proposals in the Agenda are these two:

"Classis, convinced of the desirability that, besides our Thanksgiving Day, a National Day of Prayer might also be observed, proposes to Synod to urge our government to do so."

Cl. Illinois

"It is urged that the Spring Day of Prayer be made general."

Cl. Holland

Your Comm. advises Synod to enter into this matter, and approach the Government about obtaining a National Day of Prayer, since 1) without prayer we cannot expect a blessing, and 2) a National Thanksgiving Day will be better understood, if a National Day of Prayer precedes.

In order that this venture may be the more successful, Synod decide to request all denominations in America, and urge them to cooperate with us. Adopted.

4. Church Help

"Synod decide that the Treasurer of the Church Help Fund shall give no support to churches requesting aid, until the plans for building or enlargement of the church are first examined and approved by him."

Cl. Grand Rapids

Synod judges that what Classis proposes is incorporated in Art. 4 of the Rules of the Church Help Fund, "No church shall receive aid from this fund than those who through their Classis approach the Committee."

Art. 51. The Obituary Committee (cf. Art. 12) reads its resolution of sympathy concerning those ministers who passed away since the last Synod. It is as follows:

The Synod in remembrance

of the ministers K. Vanden Bosch and C. Vorst, both Emeriti ministers, and of S. Broekstra, active minister of the Chr. Ref. Church, who died since the last Synod.

While Synod, on the one hand, mourns its loss, it likewise is comforted with the hope that they have entered into their rest, and finds therein an earnest encouragement for us, who have been spared to work while it is day.

Received and approved.

Art 52. Report of the Comm. on Church Help. Rev. J. Manni, reporter.
It is accepted and approved. (Suppl. IV)

Art. 53. A letter is read from the congregation of Sully, Iowa, a youthful and weak congregation, which through much effort completed its sanctuary a few weeks ago, and which was struck by lightning, burning to the ground, requests; a) that Synod would recommend to all the churches to take a collection as soon as possible for a new church building; and 2) that it receive \$100.00 from the Church Help Fund immediately.

The first request is granted by Synod. With respect to the second request, Synod decides not to act because therewith no immediate help is obtained.

Art. 54. Closing Devotion.

Eight Session, Tuesday A.M., June 21.

Art. 55. Opening Devotions.

Art. 56. The minutes are read and approved.

Art. 57. A letter is at hand from Mrs. Anna Reed Mahood, Supt. of W.C.T.U, with the request that our church observe the fourth Sunday in November as Temperance Day.

Decided to receive this as information, and to take no action.

Art. 58. A communication is received from the Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts, Secretary of the Western Division of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, with the invitation for our church to join this Alliance.

It is decided to appoint a committee to investigate this matter, and report to the next Synod.

Art. 59. The Committee with respect to the confession of wrong-doing by Cand. D. R. Drukkers reports that it has conferred with Brother Drukker, and found him prepared to confess and promise the followings:

The undersigned, D. R. Drukker, declares by this his agreement with the decision of Synod, held June 15, ff., 1898, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, concerning himself. He declares that he is sorry that he has disappointed both the Board of Heathen Missions and the Board of Domestic Missions. Although there were circumstances that caused him to waver and change his mind, he does not consider himself to be guiltless. He fosters the hope that the Church, which he has grieved by means of his actions, as well as the Lord of the Church, will grant him forgiveness, and that he may be able to devote his strength to the coming of the Kingdom of God. Moreover, he pledges himself repay the financial outlay for him during his training for missionary work, including college debts beginning with the year 1892 to the end of his study at.....

Theological School, in as far as that has not yet been met. This repayment shall be at least \$100.00 per year. Up until the time of full repayment security shall be given or satisfactory underwriting. Should, however, the debtor die, then the obligation of the guarantor shall cease.

The committee wishes further to report that Drukker proposes as guarantors: Mr. Lambert Bewkes, Paterson, N. J., Rev. John C. Voorhis, Hackensack, N. J., and Mr. Jacob J. Van Noord, Passaic, N. J.

This report is approved, and it is decided:

- a. That this confession shall be read to Drukker, that he agree to it before Synod, and thereafter sign it;
- b. To appoint a Committee of brethren from the East whose duty it shall be to obtain written pledges from the guarantors;
- c. That this Committee shall also provide for the publication of this confession in De Wachter, but not until it has received written proof of surety.
- d. That when all these requirements have been met, to declare Cand. Drukker together with the other candidates, as eligible for a call.

The decision concerning sub a. is immediately transacted, and with respect to sub B. Rev. J. Manni and Rev. J. N. Trompen are appointed.

Art. 60. Report of the Comm. pertaining to that section of the Agenda concerning Report of Church Finances, Recommended Rules, Lagrave St., General Student Fund, Acts of Synod, and Incorporation. Rev. G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

The report is received, and considered item by item.

1. Report of Church Finances.

Synod decide that an annual report of

of church finances be placed in De Wachter."

Your Comm. advises that such a report be placed, giving the totals, with amendment that treasurers shall also report in De Wachter the contributions of each congregation. Approved.

2. Rules Recommended

"Synod insist that all Committees operate according to well-defined Rules and Regulations."

01. Oost-Friesland

The Comm. judges that Synod does this. Approved.

3. Congregation of La Grave Ave., Grand Rapids:

"Classis places before Synod the urgent and kind request of the consistory of the congregation of Lagrave Av., Grand Rapids, for support in its financial need. Especially the 'notes', \$300.00 of which is owed to Heathen Mission Fund and \$550.00 to the Domestic Mission Fund. The consistory requests that a collection be taken by all the churches in our denomination."

01. Grand Rapids

The Comm. advises: With respect to the "notes", Synod grant the Committees concerned the authority to replace the "notes" with others at the rate of 4% per year. Approved.

4. General Student Fund.

"With respect to the General Student Fund, Synod decide that the brothers who are indebted to this fund, and who repay two-thirds within ten years, shall have the remaining debt cancelled."

01. Muskegon

Your Comm. is of the opinion that Synod has no authority to determine the use of these funds in this sense. It does however advise Synod to call to the attention of the various Classes to pass a resolution at their next meeting with the following contents: That ministers who owe \$200.00 or less shall be granted a reduction of one-third providing they repay two-thirds within one year, that ministers who owe between \$200.00 and \$300.00 shall be granted a reduction of one-third providing they repay two-thirds within two years, and this method to be used for greater debts.

A motion is made that Synod first determine whether or not it has the authority to make such a provision. The answer of Synod is that it has. Thereupon Synod approves what the Comm. of Pre-advice advised and which Classes wanted to be decided.

5. Acts of Synod.

"That Synod decide to print more Acts than in 1896."

Cl. Holland

The Comm. advises that Synod print 1000 more copies of the Acts. This is approved, and with respect to Cl. Hackensack, it is decided that it be appointed to translate as much from the Acts as it deems necessary into the English language to be published in the Banner of Truth the expenses of which will be assumed by Synod.

6. Acts of Incorporation.

"Synod provide for a review of the Acts of Incorporation for the churches in Michigan."

Cl. Grand Rapids

The Comm. is of the opinion that there is no necessity to try to change the Acts of Incorporation for the churches in Michigan.

There is an objection to the advice of the Committee. Classis Grand Rapids doubts whether the Articles are sufficient to assure legal standing. Having procured competent advice that there is no ground for this doubt, since the State takes into consideration not only the Church Order of Dordt but also the decisions of Synod, the advice is approved.

Art. 61. Report of the Comm. with respect to supervision of De Wachter. Rev. J. Noordewier reporter. The financial report is approved and will appear in the Supplements. Matters that must be considered will be presented by the Comm. of Pre-advice.

Art. 62. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice pertaining to Psalmsinging and matters pertaining to De Wachter. Rev. P. Skster, reporter.

Esteemed brethren:

That section of the Agenda pertaining to Psalms and congregational singing contains the following proposal:

"Synod maintain Art. 69 of the Church Order of Dordt, and revise Art. 49 of the Acts of Synod of 1890."

Classis Holland

Your Comm. seriously advises Synod not enter into this matter, since

- a. The Synod of 1890 devoted more than one session to this question, and gave it very weighty consideration, and
- b. The grounds in Supplement VIII of Synod of 1890 are also adequate for this Synod.

With reference to matters pertaining to De Wachter the following proposal appeared in The Agenda:

"Synod endeavor to enlarge De Wachter, and if possible without increasing the cost of circulation."

Classis Holland

Your Comm. strongly urges Synod not to enlarge De Wachter:

- a. Because the present outlay works very well. This appears from the fact, that since the last Synod, after all expenses were paid, there was a balance of \$1,200.00 for the Theological School;
- b. Because by enlarging it there is naturally greater expense;
- c. Because De Wachter is larger now than many other denominational periodicals;
- d. Because De Wachter, by decision of the last Synod, and except for the editorial, is printed "solid", and contains more printed matter than periodical of greater size, which print everything "loosed".

P. Ekster, reporter

This report is approved, and herewith the first point of the report of the Comm. of Supervision, which contain substantially the same material, is disposed of.

The Comm. of Supervision, moreover has the following to present:

1. In Art 155 (4), Acts 1896, it is stated; "He, i.e., the Administrator, called to the attention of Synod, that he would prefer to receive a fixed amount rather than a percentage of the advertising receipts. It was decided to place this in the hands of the Comm. of Supervision." Concerning this we inform Synod (a) that the formulation of this Art. is incorrect. The Administrator did not prefer a fixed amount rather than a percentage, but has received nothing so far because the instruction regarding this work took place after the contract had been let; and (2) that the Comm. of Supervision granted the Administrator a gratuity of \$10.00 per year in appreciation of this special work.

Received as information

2. Your Comm. advises Synod to continue the personnel of De Wachter:
 1. Mr. H. Holkeboer as printer
 2. Rev. A. Keizer as editor-in-chief
 3. Mr. W. Brink as administrator
 4. Rev. K. Kuiper as the reviser of the Sunday School lessons, if

Synod should decide to continue the International Sunday School lessons.

5. Concerning the other personnel Synod decide its own preference.

In agreement with this advice Synod decides to re-appoint the following under the same conditions Rev. A. Keizer as editor-in-chief, Mr. W. Brink as administrator, Mr. H. Holkeboer as printer. The nomination of an editor for the Sunday School lessons is postponed until a report of the Comm. of Pre-advice is received and acted upon. Furthermore, Revs. L. J. Hulst and H. Vander Werp are re-appointed as co-editors, and a fourth co-editor Rev. G. D. De Jong is appointed, with the stipulation that the \$100.00, which the former two co-editors received, shall now be divided among the three. On the motion of one of the co-editors it is decided to appoint Rev. G. D. De Jong as Alternate editor-in chief.

3. Your Comm. of Supervision also calls to the attention of Synod whether or not ministers should not pay the full subscription price for De Wachter, except the personnel of De Wagter.

The Committee:

J. Noordewier
H. Beuker
A. Keizer
S. S. Postma
W. Brink, Adm.

remarks

After . . . had been made that when ministers received the paper gratis there were no objections, and where generally church periodicals

for ministers is half-price, and that even railroads permit them to travel for half-price, the proposal is defeated.

Art. 63. The following are appointed to develop a new roster of the Theological Schools:

Classis Grand Rapids - J. Noordewier
Classis Holland - J. W. Garvelink
Classis Hudson - B. Botbyl
Classis Illinois - S. Dekker
Classis Iowa - J. Wyngaarden
Classis Muskegon - A. Bolt
Classis Oost-Friesland - G. Hofker, and
S. S. Postma, Treasurer of the Theological School

Art. 64. Rev. J. De Vries requests the floor, which is granted him. He informs Synod that the congregation of Sun would like to obtain a loan of \$75.00 to complete its church building. Church Help has granted this amount but not until the Fall, and Sun would like to complete its building now. He asks whether there is anyone who would be willing to loan the \$75.00, and if so, to please inform him.

Art. 65. Closing Devotions.

Ninth Session, Tuesday P.M., June 21.

Art. 66. Opening Devotions.

Art. 67. The Comm. for the preparation of a schedule for the Theological School (Art. 63) reports as follows:

Your Comm. has judged that the quota for the Theological School should be \$5,700.00. This amounts to 55¢ per family. On this basis the quota for the various Classes is as follows:

Cl. Grand Rapids -	\$1437.70	Cl. Iowa -	\$596.20
Cl. Holland -	1161.55	Cl. Hudson -	460.90
Cl. Illinois -	708.35	Cl. Hackensack -	301.95
Cl. Muskegon -	798.60	Cl. Oost-Friesland -	266.75

J. Noordewier, Reporter

This report is approved.

Art. 68. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice for those sections of the Agenda pertaining to Correspondence with Sister-Churches and union with the U. P. Church. Rev. J. Wyngaarden, Reporter.

This report is received and considered item by item.

Esteemed Brothers:

1. Thus far little attention has been paid by our Church to correspondence with Sister-Churches. Classis Grand Rapids did well by placing the following proposal on the Agendum:

"Synod regulate correspondence with sister-churches, both domestic and foreign. It decides:

- a. With whom this shall take place,
- b. Wherein it shall consist, and attempt
- c. As much as possible to bring unity therein"

Your Comm. with Cl. Grand Rapids is of the opinion that this matter should be taken more seriously than it has up to this time. Our Inter-Church correspondence confined itself mostly to an exchange of greetings by letter by means of delegates. For the rest each went its own way without obtaining any profit from the correspondence. This was entirely different with our fathers of Dordt. In the flourishing era of the Reformed Confession and Church-

government the sister-churches held fellowship with and supervision over each other for the prevention and purging of all un-Reformed intrusions. How vigorous and blest Inter-Church correspondence operated in those days, we witness in the Netherlands from the time of the Synod of Emden 1571 to the Synod of Dordt 1618; in England at the Synod of Westminster 1648, and in France at the Synod of Paris 1559. Such Inter-Church correspondence is grounded in the Word of God, which teaches that eye, ear and hand need one another, and cannot say to one another: "I have no need of you."

When later collegialistic leaven began to permeate more, this correspondence lost its integrity and meaning; one began to patronize "congregationalism" and every one secluded himself in his own church. Now, however, the old teaching of the catholicity of the church is again awakening, in agreement with the New Testament principle of the world-church, and hence it is necessary that Inter-Church correspondence be more closely regulated.

Such correspondence in our opinion should not only consist of an exchange of greetings or courteous visits; but also (a) in sending deputies to each others major assemblies with advisory vote; (b) to give consideration to one another that we neither in doctrine, nor in service and discipline depart from Reformed principles; (c) in mutual consultation how to deal with a third party; (d) to serve one another with enlightenment, especially when there is consideration of the revision of the Confession, Church Order, or Liturgy.

Therefore it appears desirable to us that such correspondence with sister-churches, with acknowledged Reformed Confessions, be sought in order that--may God grant it--that in his time a well-defined correspondence be established with sister-churches of Reformed stamp. Your Comm. would indeed welcome if a General Synod or a Council of Reformed Churches might meet, with the specific purpose to root out strange teachings in the Reformed Churches of our day, and to promote a wholesome trend. Only then can there be established a complete unity and a well-defined correspondence with Reformed sister-churches, and only then can it be determined with which churches correspondence shall be established. We are of the opinion that this Synod would do well to instruct the deputies for Inter-Church correspondence, that at a convenient

time and place to confer together , and work in the direction for the purpose of the preparation of a general Council of the Reformed Churches.

With respect to the question of Classis Grand Rapids; with whom this correspondence should be established, Synod reply for the time being: Concerning Foreign Churches to confine ourselves to the churches with whom we have so far corresponded, namely, the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Gereformeerde Kerken), the Old Reformed Churches of Germany, and the Reformed Churches of Sout Africa; concerning the churches in our country to correspond with the U. P. Church and the Reformed Church, especially with the Dutch branch of the Reformed Church.

This is approved with the following additions:

- a. In recognition of the varique branches of the Presbyterian Church in America and Scotland, a committee is to be appointed to investigate and to report to the next Synod to what extend this correspondence can take place;
- b. This correspondence naturally does not mean that those chrches must not be considered to have in every detail the same view of the Confessions, the Church Order, and Practice that we do.

Besides these matters the the matter of our delegate to the Reformed churches in the netherlands held at Dordrecht is discussed,, and the resulting correspondence. After some discussion and the reading of two letters from the Deputies for Correspondence from the Reformed Church of the Netherlands it is decided not to enter the matters (Cf. Suppl. I).

2. The same section of the Agenda also contain a proposal from Classis Illinois. It is as follows:

"Synod decide that Certificates of Membership may only be accepted from officially acknowledged Sister-Churches".

Your Comm. advises that pertaining to this Synod establish no new decisions, since for the time being there are enough decisions concerning this matter, and church correspondence has no established rules.

Classis Illinois sheds more light on this item. The last edition of the Church Order (1897) has the following decisions in connection with Art. 82 of the Church Order of Dordt:

Dismissal of Members to Other Churches

Members, who leave for other churches, which, with us maintain general Christian truths, at their request, are to receive a statement of faith and conduct.

Admission of Members from Churches of Less
Definite Formulation

Members, who come with a certificate of membership from churches of less definite formulations, yet being sound in doctrine and life, shall be admitted, providing they promise to submit themselves to the admonition and discipline of the church.

Classis Illinois is of the opinion that these decisions should be sufficiently circumscribed, hence the proposal.

Synod judges, however, that the time is not ripe for this, and thus approves the Pre-advice.

3. With respect to the matter of union with the U. P. Church, your Comm. learned that only two Classes favored the provisionally adopted decision of the previous Synod to be accepted unchanged, while all the other Classes desired to see it rejected in whole or in part. As far as we can ascertain the reason is found partly in the limited knowledge of our people concerning this church, and partly in rumors that some of the congregations are lax in exercising discipline with members belonging to secret societies.

Your Comm. believes that Synod would be in agreement with most of the instructions en~~g~~t in by permitting the provisionally adopted decision to lapse, and that correspondence with the U. P. Church be in harmony with other sister-churches.

4. Classis Iowa also presented a communication from Rosario, Argentine Republic, South America, and Classis requests Synod to note its content, and to consider whether something can be done for this settle-ment. (Agenda, page 11)

Your Comm. was informed, by means of a letter received from the Synodical Committee, that the Holland Christian Reformed congregation at this place, upon the advice of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, to come to us with the urgent request that Synod delegate someone to visit them in order to ascertain their circumstances, and that this delegate be given an all-encompassing mandate to act in matters that demand immediate attention, and also to regulate matters in Buenos Aires, according to God's Word, our Confession, and the Church Order.

Your Comm. advises Synod to comply with the request, and that such a delegate with such a mandate be sent to do all that is necessary to establish an orderly congregational life among them, and afterward to file a report concerning the circumstances and needs of this congregation, which is to be published to awaken sympathy, etc., for them. That Synod also instruct the administration of De Wachter to send them gratis a copy of De Wachter regularly, and that the Officers of Synod provide for the sending of a copy of the Acts of Synod.

A lengthy discussion follows, which indicated the sympathy of Synod for these brethren. The general consensus, however, indicated that in some measure financial help would be needed with the cooperation of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, since our own church, because of its meager ability and the urgent needs in our own circles, prevents us from doing that which we otherwise would gladly do.

It is decided: (a) to place this matter in the hands of the Board of Home Missions, and (b) to send to this Consistory 3 copies of the Acts of Synod, and weekly 6 copies of De Wachter gratis until the next Synod.

Art. 69. Closing Devotions.

Tenth Session, Wednesday A.M., June 22.

Art. 70. Opening Devotions.

Art. 71. The minutes are read, received, and approved.

Art. 72. On behalf of the Comm. of Pre-advice for that section of the Agenda pertaining to the Theological School, the reporter, Rev. G. D. De Jong, presents the following to complete its report, Art. 42.

When the time arrived for the Comm. to report on matters assigned to it, there were still two matters which the Comm. had not yet resolved;

a. Landed property in Minnesota. In its report the Curatorium informs Synod that in the Fall of 1896, for the use of the Library, and through the arrangement of Mrs. Ellen V. De Jong, nee Vanden Berge, the Trustees, became the proprietors of 320 acres of ground in Pipestone County, Minnesota, under the name of the "Jacobus Vanden Berge Fund", and that the Trustees empowered the Consistory of Orange City, which willingly served with word and deed, to sell the land for not less than \$22.00 per acre. The Trustees seek further advice from Synod.

Your Comm. advises Synod to empower the Curatorium to sell this property for not less than \$20.00 per acre. In figuring the production of the land, your Comm. deems this to be a fair price, and experience teaches that it is more advantageous for the School to sell the property than to have others administer this matter in the name of the Curatorium. Adopted.

b. A proposal on the Agendum from Classis Holland reads as follows:

"Synod endeavor to organize a College in conjunction with the Literary Department of our Theological School, so that our young people, who received advanced education, no longer have to wander in various institutions outside our circles, but can be moulded by our own reformed interests."

Your Comm. agrees with this proposal of Classis Holland, and advises the approval and implementation thereof. It is convinced of the desirability of a college for the following reasons:

- a. In comparison with other churches, which have their own Institutions, there are only a few of young people in our church who receive an advanced education.
- b. Individuals in our church, who seek advanced education, are necessitated to seek this elsewhere, and thereby they often come under influences which are detrimental to their Reformed ecclesiastical principles.
- c. Our Church has no Institution where teachers can be educated according to the principles advocated by her.
- d. Many Public Schools give preference to teachers educated in an Institution which would obtain by this proposal.
- e. Our ministers are not receiving such a well-rounded education such as a college could offer.
- f. When there is a College Curriculum, one can, during or after receiving a College training, who judges himself not qualified or that he is not called to be a minister, choose another vocation.
- g. Accepting this proposal, the Professors of Theology can devote their time to teaching Theology.

G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

This pre-advice provokes and important and animated discussion. In consideration of the necessity of a College, there appears to be unanimity of opinion, but there is a difference of opinion concerning the question whether such a College can or should be promoted

by the Church. Finally, the advice is adopted and therewith the desirability of a College is pronounced, and thereafter it is decided to re-commit the matter once again to the Comm. of Pre-advice to take into consideration the discussion, and to come with a definite plan. Added to the Comm. are the brethren H. Van Hogen and F. M. Ten Hoor.

Art. 73. Closing Devotions.

Eleventh Session, Wednesday P. M., June 22.

Art. 74. Opening Devotions.

Art. 75. Synod meets in Executive Session.

Art. 76. The Comm. of Pre-advice for the Theological School, for the establishment of a College, has formulated the following plans:

Your Committee,

having considered, that, however much a College as intended, must be under the supervision of the Church, that yet such an Institution both financially and materially, as far as principle is concerned, cannot proceed from the Church;

having considered, that, notwithstanding, the help of the Church is needed for its founding, and

trusting, that Synod, which already signified the desirability of a College, will be prepared to offer this help, providing no greater burdens are placed upon the Church,

judges, that the following plan answers these conditions, and advises Synod to accept it;

- a. The college Trustees consist of one delegate from each Classis, appointed by Classis.
- b. The curriculum be prescribed for 6 years, and consist of subjects which are generally taught in the preparatory department, and in the freshman and sophomore years.
- c. The expenses incurred be met by free-will offerings from the advocates for advanced education, and the eventual tuition, which will amount to about \$1,600.00 for the salary of two professors. Moreover, that the Church offer to meet the need as circumscribed in "d".
- d. The Church underwrite the followings:
 1. To provide as much room as is needed in the Theological School.
 2. To obligate itself to pay the two Literary Professors now part of the theological faculty.
 3. Grant the privilege and urge that the supporters of this institution to collect free-will gifts.
 4. To permit the Professor of Theology to teach courses in Bible, Dutch language, Dutch history, and the history of philosophy.
- e. In exchange the Church will receives:
 1. The privilege of students taking the entire course.
 2. Students, who enroll, to become Ministers of the Word, pay tuition to the Theological School.
- f. Since it takes several years to implement this plan, the Church obligates itself to cooperate in this plan for 10 years, unless it would appear at the next Synod to be unworkable.

G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

This report is discussed at length, and finally adopted.

Art. 77. The Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice concerning that section of the Agenda pertaining to

Meetings of Synod and Synodical Delegation. Rev. F. M. Ten Hoor, Reporter.

1. There is a proposal in the Agendum under the heading of Meetings of Synod:

"Classis is of the opinion that it is undesirable and unnecessary for Synod to meet every two years, considering the enormous cost and matters that need attention.

"Hence Synod decides:

"that the General Synod to institute three Particular Synods;

"that delegation to the General Synod shall be under the jurisdiction of the Classes, and

"that the General Synod meet every three years with one of the churches in Michigan to be the convening church."

Classis Grand Rapids

The Comm. of Pre-advice has in its possession a recommendation and a further development of this plan. It has also received several objections to this plan, namely, that by this method no expenses would be saved, but rather increased, and that instead of the entire denomination, the burden would fall on Classes Illinois, Iowa, and Oost-Friesland, and as for the consideration of matters coming before Synod which would meet every three years, it would be a hindrance in many cases. Consequently the first part of this report is unanimously rejected.

2. Synodical Delegation.

"Synod review Art. 71, Acts 1896, concerning the manner^{of} delegating to Synod."

Classis Holland

Recommendations: Your Comm. recommends to abide by the decision of Art. 71, Acts 1896, with the grounds given.

Adopted.

Art. 78. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice pertaining to that section of the Agenda concerning The Confession Of Faith (Belg. Conf.).

Rev. F. M. Ten Hoor, Reporter.

Esteemed Brothers:

Your Comm. has given consideration to the proposal found in the Agenda with reference to Art. 36 of the Confession of Faith, which is as follows:

"Gravamen with respect to the 2nd Section of
Art. 36 of the Confession of Faith."

"Classis having considered:

- a. "that the paragraph here considered in the above mentioned Article can be understood in no other way than that this was what our fathers had in mind according to the testimony of history;
- b. "that the meaning of this paragraph is that the magistracy has the right and the duty to prevent and to remove all idolatry and false worship with the sword;
- c. "that this is in conflict with the plain teaching of the Holy Scriptures;

"hereby presents its objection in the midst of Synod, and, at the same time, points out that it would also be advisable to clarify the expressions: that the office of the magistracy is...to cause the Word of the Gospel to be proclaimed everywhere."

Classis Grand Rapids.

"Classis presents to Synod for its consideration whether something will be done by it concerning Art. 36 of the Confession of Faith."

Classis Iowa.

Since the Synod of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands are studying Art. 36, and has requested the advice of all the Reformed Churches with which she is in correspondence, the recommendation of your Comm. is not to make a decision at this time, but to table the matter until the next Synod.

F. M. Ten Hoor, Reporter.

This report is received and adopted.

Art. 79. The Committee for the Emeritus Fund has its report presented by

Rev. J. H. Vos. It is received as information. Supplement VII.

Art. 80. Closing Devotions.

Twelfth Session, Thursday A. M., June 23.

Art. 82. The minutes are read, received, and approved.

Art. 83. The report of the Comm. of Pre-advice concerning that Section of the Agenda pertaining to the Emeritus Fund. Rev. J. H. Vos, Reporter.

Esteemed brothers:

According to the Agenda there are two Classes who are particularly concerned about the situation of the Emeritus Fund, and believing that there is great need for improvement, make proposals which they believe will bring such improvement.

Classis Muskegon is of the opinion that better care would be given to our Emeriti-Ministers with their widows and orphans if Art. 13 of the Church Order were transferred to the sphere of the office of mercy, namely, the Diaconate, in this manner:

1. The Emeritus Fund continue to exist as the general fund for the entire church.
2. Into this fund would flow the collections of the congregation from their diaconal funds on a percentage-wise basis.
3. Those congregations, who have no poor, to place all their benevolent offering into this fund.

Your Comm. is of the opinion that this proposal would be no solution, but rather lead us further astray, since we would then have no base at all, and our Emeritus Ministers would again be the dupes.

Classis Grand Rapids believes this fund would improve and promote a willingness on the part of the congregations, if a former proposal, which was rejected, would be adopted, whereby ministers would pay 1% of their salary into this fund.

Your Comm. cannot advise the acceptance of this proposal either, in the first place, because it is not equitable, and, in the second place, it remains a question whether it would be advantageous for this fund.

Up to this point the report is received and adopted, and in the discussion emphasis is placed upon the fact that the principle of Art. 13, C.O., is not one of mercy, but that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," that is, also the financial support to be provided by the Church, to which he has devoted his life, and when he is old and in need, and also the support of his widow and orphans, if he has made no provision for them.

What the Comm. advises as an improvement is rejected, and in its stead Synod decides:

Synod abide by the old set-up, but, in order that it may be administered in a more competent manner; that each Classis pay its quota, and that every Classis, which has not done so, appoint a Classical Treasurer for this fund, who will report at each meeting of Classis whether each congregation under her resort have met their obligations. The General Treasurer of the fund shall give a specific account in De Wachter stating the quota, the amount received, and the deficit of each Classis and Congregation.

Now follows the last part of the Report:

Concerning the question of Classis Hackensack:

Synod
"What does ^{Synod} advise be done with respect to the service or the support of one of our ministers, who is without a charge and has no means of support?"

The Comm. can give no definite answer. It would appear that he would not be able to draw from the Emeritus Fund, and only by his willingness to serve the churches, alert them, and recommend him

to this and neighboring communities. Adopted.

Finally your Comm. has this to report:

THE QUOTA

Before 1897	Classis	For 1897
\$400.00	Grand Rapids	\$487.50
350.00	Holland	321.25
200.00	Muskegon	257.50
175.00	Illinois	237.50
175.00	Iowa	172.50
150.00	Hudson	160.00
-----	Oost-Friesland	86.25
-----	Hackensack	70.00
-----		-----
\$1,450.00		\$1,792.50

Pensions for 1897

Mrs. Broekstra	\$300.00
Rev. Vorst	100.00
Mrs. Tempel	400.00
Mrs. Stuit	250.00
Rev. Frieling	200.00
Rev. Vanden Bosch	150.00
Rev. Stadt	200.00
Mrs. De Haan	200.00

J. H. Vos; Reporter

This is received as information.

Art. 84. Report of the Comm. of Preadvice pertaining to those sections of the Agenda: Doctrine and Discipline, Disciplinary Matters, And Secret Societies. Rev. J. Wyngaarden, Reporter.

Your Comm. found the following concerning Doctrine and Disciplines:

"Upon the basis of public writing in our Church periodicals, Synod is requested to make an investigation of Classis Hackensack concerning the situation.....

with respect to purity of doctrine and its attitude toward secret societies."

Classis Illinois

Upon investigation it appeared to us that Classis Illinois proposed that an investigation be made regarding purity of doctrine because of an article that appeared in "The Banner of Truth", Oct. 1897, that this article was unsigned, and that the writer has not yet been ascertained, which, nevertheless, was placed in the periodical by the Editorial Department, but only to give a better opportunity to warn against such a trend. Not only the Editor but also others earnestly warned against the content of this article. Concerning the placing of this article Classis Hackensack has already acted, and in the opinion of your Comm. Classis Hackensack must not be held suspect.

Concerning her attitude towards secret societies, however, it appeared that with some in that Classis it was questionable whether or not the Odd Fellows may belong to the Church, and that is the reason why Classis Hackensack has placed a question concerning it on the Agenda. Your Comm. was surprised about these matters, since it is known well enough that the Odd Fellows are a secret society with imposing promises, whose teachings are directly opposed to the teachings of Scripture and the way of salvation. Note just one clause in their statutes; "If in this life we faithfully perform our duties as men, and as Odd Fellows, be assured, that heaven will cast its rays of light and glory around the impressive lights of our order."

Hence your Comm. recommends to Synod that it explicitly declare to the support of Classis Hackensack that Odd Fellows cannot be members of our Church, likewise with respect to an instruction of Classis Muskegon that no Modern Woodmen are to be tolerated in the Church. While with respect to the desire of Classis Grand Rapids;

"Synod emphasize our standpoint with respect to Anti-Freemasonry; and refer to Art. 90, Acts 1886, to be placed word for word in the Acts of 1898, in order that we may once again be reminded of its contents."

Your Comm. recommends that Synod choose a more excellent way by appointing a committee of three to set forth the principal, both from the standpoint of theology and Church Polity, not only from a positive but also from a negative point of view, and report to the next Synod.

2. Under Disciplinary Matters there is an article from Classis Iowa as follows:

"With respect to Art. 62, 3c, p. 37, Acts 1896, Classis desires to send a communication to Synod, that Synod justify the conception which has been taken with respect to this matter, and requests more clarity."

This communication was given to your Committee. Classis Iowa has difficulty with the decision taken by the last Synod concerning the divorce of Rev. E. Bos, and requests this Synod to review the decision, or to give Biblical and historical grounds, with recommendations, how to deal further with this matter. The Classis does not believe that the action of the Synod of 1896 is the same as that of the Synod of 1894. Considering that the Synod of 1894 gave two grounds for divorce referring in the first place to Matt. 5:31,32, and, in the second place to I Cor. 7:15. And it is also confused by the differing opinions of Classis Holland before and after the departure of Rev. Bos, concerning which it desires more clarity.

Furthermore, it appears to us, that Classis Iowa, since the last Synod, in consequence of the decision of the last Synod, has labored to reconcile the marriage of Rev. Bos. Since Rev. Bos, at its meeting, declared that he is prepared to reconcile his former marriage, it has corresponded with Classis Holland, in the expectation that Classis Holland would likewise labore with this woman. This attempt proved futile. Then Rev. Bos was advised that he himself write to her, which he has done, and upon which he received a reply, so that at present there is correspondence between them, with the specific purpose that there be a reconciliation and a restoration of the marriage.

With respect to this review, your Comm. recommends that Synod do not refer back to the decision of the last Synod, but.....

abide by it, and so advise Classis Iowa, and accordingly so deal with Rev. E. Bos. And since two years have elapsed since this decision was made, Synod also decide that in the near future Rev. Bos;

- a. Request that the Court abrogate the divorce; should this prove to be impossible according to law, he request the Judge to provide a written explanation of this to be forwarded to Classis Iowa;
- b. that every means be used to restore the marriage. Should this, however, prove to be absolutely impossible, then to inform Rev. Bos that he may not marry another woman. However, if Rev. Bos, unhoped for, should decide not to abide by this decision, then Classis Iowa deal with him according to Church Polity.

Finally, your Comm. recommends that Synod advise Classis Holland to cooperate in this matter, if it finds the occasion to do so.

3. Furthermore, there is on the Agenda a question from Classis Muskegon;

"Whether a woman, a member of the congregation N.E., who is separated from her first husband, may marry again."

After a searching investigation, your Comm. recommends that this matters be returned to Classis, in order that it may continue to deal with this matter.

4. Finally, a question from Classis Hackensack;

"What should be done about a member, who, after he was censured, became insane?"

That Synod recommend not to proceed with censure, but to permit it to remain in status quo as long as he remains insane.

J. Wyngaarden, Reporter.

This report is received item by item, and adopted.

Art. 85. Brother I. Adams submits in writing the followings: "If you please, I like Synod to explain action 1 and 3, Art 42-1." Synod decides to accept this request, and that a committee be appointed, which shall give a written answer.....

to this question, and present it to Synod for approval.

Committees: J. W. Garvelink, G. D. De Jong, and S. S. Postma.

Art. 86. Closing Devotions.

Thirteenth Session, Thursday P. M., June 23.

Art. 87. Opening Devotions.

Art. 88. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice concerning that section of the Agenda pertaining to Songs for Sunday School, and Sunday School Lessons. Rev. H. Beets, Reporter. It is received and adopted as follows:

Esteemed Brothers:

1. Classis Hackensack requests Synod:

"To recommend a Song Book that is suitable for Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies."

Your Comm. recommends that Synod make the following decision concerning this: Synod, lamenting the fact that in many Sunday Schools and Societies of our church various hymnbooks are used, which are not ecclesiastically approved, strongly recommends to the English-speaking Sunday Schools and Societies the use of the U. P. "Bible Songs".

2. With respect to having our own Sunday School Lesson Series with more organic unity, giving better satisfaction to the demands of a Reformed Church, and consisting of two parts, such as Classis....

Grand Rapids desires (Agenda, p. 23), your Comm. advises the followings:

While not denying that a Series of our own would have some advantages, your Comm. cannot recommend to consider the proposal of Grand Rapids, and that for the following reasons:

- a. To draw up our own series year after year is a difficult task;
- b. To draw up and publish our own series, moreover, consisting of two parts, will occasion many expenses;
- c. By the use of our own series many outstanding English commentaries, which can be obtained at very reasonable prices, would become completely useless.
- d. It would also be difficult to obtain equally outstanding, comprehensive, and low-priced commentaries as can be obtained in the English language to be placed in the hands of our pupils and especially for our teachers, which, however, should be done, if we are going to dispense with the present useful supplementary material.
- e. The objections filed against the International Lessons, namely, that the covenant-idea does not receive sufficient emphasis and that there is an unsatisfactory organic unity, are not preponderant, and forget not, that the catechism classes provide for this both from the standpoint of doctrine and the unity of Biblical history.
- f. For these reasons your Comm. cannot advise otherwise than not to entertain the request of Grand Rapids, but to remain with what we have at present.
- g. Moreover, your Comm. recommends that Rev. K. Kuiper be continued as the commentator of the Lessons in the Dutch language under the old terms.

H. Beets, Reporter.

Art. 89. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice concerning that section of the Agenda that pertains to Protestants. Rev. H. Walkotten, Reporter.

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers;

1. Your Comm. having read and considered an appeal signed by 5 persons, who have grievances concerning.....

concerning the action of Classis Illinois with respect to the reinstatement of Rev. J. Riemersma, which in their judgment should not have taken place except after a longer period of probation in which time Rev. Riemersma has shown a favorable improvement,

is of the opinion that the probationary period was somewhat short; nevertheless, since this cannot be changed, and circumstances motivated this step, we shall have to be resigned to it, especially since the conduct of Rev. Riemersma conforms with his confession, according to witnesses.

After serious discussion this is adopted.

2. Your Comm. has further read and considered an appeal of Rev. J. C. Voorhis from Classis Hackensack concerning the decision of that Classis with respect to charges of the appellant against Rev. J. Wyckoff.

Your Comm. is of the opinion that Brother Voorhis in this matter at the very least has not conducted himself according to good procedure. He came with charges--and the charges were so ponderous--at the following meeting of Classis, without, in the six months intervening, speak a single word with the accused concerning this matter, so that his charges before Classis were an unbrotherly and unexpected attack. On the other hand, it appears to your Comm. that Classis Hackensack, in its action on this matters, also made errors:

- a. that it did not deal with Brother Voorhis, but, notwithstanding, considered the charges, and
- b. that at the meeting of the committee, appointed by Classis, they did not request the presence of either parties.

Upon these grounds your Comm. recommends to refer the matter back to Classis Hackensack.

Adopted.

3. Further, your Comm. has received a communication from Rev. E. L. Meinders wherein he declares that it would be unlawful for him to remain in his isolated position, if it could be proved that the Christian Reformed Church is a "protesting church". If this Synod would review the actions of 1886, and "the ministers, who published their doctrines (dogma's) before and after that Synod, including his own, in-so-far.....

as they are contrary to the Word of God and the teaching of the Reformed Church" to demand positive, unconditional, and public retraction, then the Christian Reformed Church will be considered by him a 'protesting church', and also therewith the unlawfulness of his isolated position.

Your Comm. recommends the following to be sent to Rev. Meinders:

Esteemed Brother:

Synod has received and considered your friendly letter. And since our Church is a Reformed Church, and wishes to remain so, but not being convinced of the legitimacy of your request, absolutely cannot enter into it.

Adopted.

4. Your Comm. has also an appeal from the Consistory of the Rochester congregation. This Consistory brought a proposal to Classis Hudson to rescind the words: "as also the widows and orphans of Ministers in general (shall) be cared for." Classis did not enter into this matter, and hence the Consistory appeals to Synod according to Art. 31 of the Church Order.

Your Comm. judges that Classis Hudson did well by not entering into this matter, nor should Synod. Leaving the content of the proposal out of consideration, changing an article of the Church Order is not in the domain of Classis, and not even for Synod without consultation and agreement of sister-churches, since the Church Order of Dordt is not a private possession.

Adopted.

5. Further there is an appeal from H. H. Westra of Fremont. This brother has objection to an elder of the congregation and his installation into the office of elder. Since sufficient information could not be obtained, your Comm. recommends that this matter be referred back to Classis.

Adopted.

6. Your Comm. also has an appeal from Mrs. Fischer, a member of the congregation of East St., Grand Rapids, who declares she can no longer receive a blessing listening to the Word of God in that congregation. Her reason is the acceptance of a member despite the protest of her husband

against him, and further resultant entanglements therefrom. She first addressed herself to Classis, and now petitions Synod to direct her to a place where she may hear the Word of God proclaimed with a blessing.

The advice of the Comm. is rejected, but in its place, it is decided: That a certificate of membership may never be given to anyone who requests it because of difficulties one has with other members of the congregation, but that these matters must be reconciled in the congregation where one is a member, according to the teaching of Jesus Christ, which He has given us.

Finally, the Consistory of Jamestown renews its protest to Synod against the organization of the congregation in Jamestown Center, because it believes that the Synod of 1896 did not sufficiently grasp the situation.

Your Comm. having considered this matter came to the following conclusion:

1. That this Synod review the resolution of the Synod of 1894, directing attention to Art. 38 of the Church Order, and declaring that the Consistory of Jamestown was in the right. Your Comm. is of the opinion, however, that Art. 38 of the Church Order cannot serve as a foundation for such a decision, since it bears no relationship to it.
2. That even so, regardless of whether there is no Article in the Church Order forbidding the organization of a congregation, it was not a prudent action, in the light of the protest of Jamestown.
3. That the distance of Jamestown Center (2 miles) is generally considered too short a distance.
4. That, nevertheless, we shall have to reconcile ourselves to it, because of the particular circumstances creating this situation.

H. Walkotten, Reporter.

The first item of this advice creates considerable discussion. It soon appears that the general opinion is that Art. 38 of the Church Order manifestly proceeds from the standpoint that every Consistory shall understand its calling for Missions, and shall thus be prepared to organize congregations where the opportunity presents itself; and, now, in order to place an impediment against overdoing this, it prescribes that no Consistory shall proceed without the advice of Classis; but that does not mean to say that.....

the organization of a new congregation is a special duty of the Consistories, in which a Classis has no more than an advisory vote. Finally, this point of the Comm.'s advice is adopted.

Art. 90. Closing Devotions.

Fourteenth Session, Friday A.M., June 24.

Art. 91. Opening Devotions.

Art. 92. The minutes are read and approved.

Art. 93. The Comm. appointed to formulate a reply in writing to the questions of I. Adams (Art. 85) reports as follows:

Brother I. Adams requested a further clarification:

- a. Concerning the first part of the decision, Art. 42: "Because Brother I. Adams is only qualified to labor among his own people." Synod answer that this decision is based on a Report of the Curatorium that his birth, history, and experiences in relation to the work which Brother Adams has undertaken, it is advisable that he work for the Kingdom of God in Persia or surrounding countries.
- b. Concerning the third part: "Because, besides the references previously received, and experiences presently with him, does not give us the liberty to recommend him as a missionary in our Church." The Comm. of Pre-advice recommends to revise Art. 42-c to read: "Because besides the former experiences with respect to him does not give us the liberty to recommend him as a missionary for our Church." Concerning this Synod replies that although Brother Adams was supported in his studies

by the Board of Foreign Missions, and was also placed under the supervision of this Board, he, nevertheless, did many things without corresponding with the Board, and also against their explicit wishes.

G. D. De Jong, Reporter.

Adopted.

Art. 94. Report of the Comm. of Pre-advice concerning that section of the Agenda pertaining to the Baptismal Question and the Legality Of Baptism. Rev. J. Wyngaarden, Reporter.

Esteemed Brothers:

Your Comm. has four proposals concerning this matter. Classis Grand Rapids requests that various steps be taken to repeal the so-called Baptismal Membership System, because it profanes God's covenant and paralyzes ecclesiastical discipline. Classis Hudson, Illinois, and Oost-Friesland speak more specifically about the administration of Baptism to children of baptized members. Classis Illinois requests that there be agreement with respect to the decisions of the Church Order on this matter, and Classis Hudson desires that this agreement be promoted by the decisions of Art. 77 (Baptized-Member - Censure, No. 1) to be eliminated, and only to maintain Art. 56 as the regular rule, while Classis Oost-Friesland points to the difficulties of maintaining this decision without delay.

The first proposal refers to steps formerly taken in the same direction. For years voices were heard regarding this same trend. Every Synod has been kept busy with such proposals. And the next to the last Synod (Art. 34) rendered its conviction that the Baptismal-System was a departure from the unadulterated truth, which departure, by further elaboration, the confessing Church of Christ would progressively degenerate to a non-confessing ethical fellowship, which according to humanistic insight would be instituted. It also gave a general procedure in dealing with censurable baptized members. Now Classis Grand Rapids requests that further steps be taken to rescind the Baptismal-Membership System, and Classis Hudson more specifically request the rescinding of the first decision of Baptismal-Membership-Censure according to Art. 77.

Your Comm. considers it advisable that Synod act according to the desires of these Classes by rescinding the disputed Article, and that for the promotion of a wholesome direction for ecclesiastical life Synod announces:

- a. That confession be made at a propitious time, and
- b. The necessity of disciplinary procedures in the event one fails to make confession.

Surely the custom to become Confessors and Communicants first at an advanced age is not according to Reformed tradition nor is it Biblical. God's covenant requires that children of the congregation show their adherence and obedience to Christ as soon as possible by profession of faith and partaking of Communion. In that covenant there are two parts always binding from both sides. Those in Israel who came to years of understanding and were remiss in their civil responsibilities, lost their civil privileges. And so it remains in the Church of God. All those who are ^{not} amenable to the covenant-life, and thus do not produce the works of Abraham, lose their right to be recognized and dealt with as children of Abraham. Those who do not confess Jesus Christ before men and decline to proclaim the death of Christ, the same He will not confess before the heavenly Father and the holy angels, but will deny them, and such we may not recognize as citizens and saints and as fellow-members in the household of God. On the contrary, the congregation must exclude such children of the kingdom out of its midst, and thus in the name of God bind with the keys of the kingdom that which shall be bound in heaven.

In this connection Synod should also emphasize that the confession which is necessary for admittance to the full communion of the saints is not less than an authentic confession of a personal faith in Christ. "Authentic" does not mean that which awakens trust but that which can be believed. Such an authentic confession comprehends:

- a. A sufficient knowledge of the basic truths of Christianity,
- b. A declaration of a personal faith in Christ,
- c. A promise of obedient devotion to His service, and
- d. A walk of life in conformity therewith.

Synod declare that, after laboring patiently and exhausting every possible resource, all those who give no indication of a faithful confession, must be considered to have separated themselves by unbelief, and as such may no longer be considered as covenant children of God.....

and citizens of the kingdom of heaven, nor to be addressed as "Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ," nor comforted with the covenant blessings promised to the children of believers. The Consistory must not only forbid them the table of the Lord, but also the presentation of their children for baptism. Moreover, the Consistory must declare, and officially notify them that as long as they continue to neglect heeding the admonitions of the Lord, they cannot be considered as members of the church.

Classis Oost-Friesland, however, point out a difficulty with respect to those, who, because of conscientious objections, refrain from making public profession of faith and partaking of the Lord's Supper. There are instances where Christ is confessed in many ways by Christian conduct, but because of insufficient knowledge, prejudice, superstitious fear, or other influences, they are afraid to make confession. Such instances shall always have to be considered as exceptions, and especially in these days of returning to the old paths, to deal with them with great care and tenderness.

And herewith your Comm. has to some extent presented what the regulation must be with respect to our ecclesiastical life, to which we should all endeavor to be responsible. Should there be exceptional cases, then the Consistory will have to make certain exceptions from the rule.

After some discussion the following is decided: Synod agreeing with the tenor of this Report decides to delete line 1, p. 42, concerning the Rule of Censure of Baptized Members, of the Church Order, and only retain Rule 56, Church Order of Dordt, p. 53.

That section of the Agenda pertaining to the Legality of Baptism contains a question from Classis Hudson, which is as follows:

"Classis requests the judgment of Synod how it must consider the baptism administered by M. R. Likewise Classis desires a clearer understanding of the baptism administered by J. K."

Upon investigation it was learned that both of these persons were never called nor ordained to the Ministry of the Word, and therefore the baptism by them is not admissable.

J. Wyngaarden, Reporter.

In the discussion of the last matter it is learned that M. R. stands for Marinus Reinhout and J. K. for Jan Koppejan. With respect to the latter Rev. J. Schepers gives the following historical sketch:

"It was in 1865 or 1866 that Classis Illinois received a request from a few people from Gibberville, Wisconsin. Classis appointed Rev. D. J. Vander Werp to visit there, and found a few people with this Koppejan as their pastor. In one way or another he received the laying on of hands in an unecclesiastical manner, and now administers the Word and the Sacraments. What Classis decided at its next meeting I cannot say, word for word, but I do know that since then ^{the} so-called baptism of Koppejan is not officially recognized."

The resolution of the Comm. of Pre-advice is adopted.

Art. 95. Closing Devotions.

Fifteenth Session, Friday P. M., June 24

Art. 96. Opening Devotions.

Art. 97. Report of the Synodical Committee. Rev. J. H. Vos, Reporter. Approved, Supplement I.

Art. 98. Appointments:

It is decided that Standing Committees henceforth at every Synod.....

the entire committee shall be chosen until the following Synod.

Appointed for:

1. Synodical Committee: L. J. Hulst, K. Kuiper, and J. H. Vos.
2. Emeritus Fund: J. H. Vos, Alt. H. Van Hoogen;
F. M. Ten Hoor, Alt. M. Van Veesen;
S. S. Postma, Alt. W. Brink;
G. W. Mokma, Alt. S. Dekker;
J. Heeringa, Alt. A. Van Bree.
3. Church Help: H. Bode, E. Breen, W. Heyns.
4. Jewish Missions: S. S. Postma, J. I. Flee, W. Heyns.
5. Supervision of De Wachter: H. Beuker, J. Noordewier, S. S. Postma.
6. Delegate to the Reformed Church of the Netherlands: H. Beuker,
Alternate A. Keizer.
7. Delegate to the Synod of the U. P. Church: J. Manni, Alt. J. N. Trompen.
8. Alliance of the Reformed Churches (Art. 58): H. Beuker, F. M.
Ten Hoor, P. Ekster, H. Beets.
9. Secret Societies (Art. 84) A. Keizer, J. Groen, K. Kuiper,
J. Wyngaarden.
10. Searching for Old Acts and placing them in the hands of the
Archivists: J. W. Garvelink, G. D. De Jong, and J. Brink.

Art. 99. Decided to discharge the Deputies for the alliance with the U. P. Church with thanks for their services. The Deputies are requested, however, to notify the Deputies of the U. P. Church, that our Committee has ceased to exist with accompanying reasons.

Art. 100. With respect to the decision, Art. 42, we reconsider the Instruction of Classis Holland concerning the failure

of the Consistory of Jamestown to pay its quota for the Theological School. It is decided that the Officers of Synod send a letter of admonition to this Consistory to meet its responsibility in this matter.

Art. 101. Decided to appoint the Synodical Committee to prepare the Agenda for the next Synod, and also that henceforth it be published by the beginning of April before each Synod.

Art. 102. It is decided:

- a. To give the janitor of the Theological School an honorarium of \$10.00.
- b. To appoint the Consistory of the Commerce St. Church to convey our thanks to congregations of this city for the hospitality shown to the delegates of Synod.
- c. To appoint the Consistory of Commerce St. to convene the next Synod in Grand Rapids.

Art. 103. The minutes are read and approved.

Art. 104. With the adjournment of Synod the president addresses the delegates as follows:

Brothers, it appears to me we have come to the end. We may well thank the Lord for the completion of our Synodical work, and particularly render thanks for performing our duties in peace, love and harmony.

We hope that with respect to the decisions that have been made the minority will submit to the voice of the majority, and acknowledge therein the voice of God. That, after all, is what....

it is all about. There were difficult cases for which we thought we lacked the wisdom to solve, but, finally, a decision was taken. And although such a decision was not always to our liking, it always took place according to the providence of God.

We thank the Professors of Theology for the much appreciated services given by them as Pre-advisors of Synod. May God grant that you may continue to serve our Theological School for a long time to prepare students for the Ministry of the Word, and that you may continue to serve many Synods in this capacity with your advice.

We, furthermore, thank all the Committees of Pre-advice who with diligence expended their efforts from early morning until sometimes late at night, in order to serve Synod with well-motivated proposals.

Further, we thank the Vice-President for his diligent and alert help given to me personally and thereby also the assembly. And also the Clerks for their difficult tasks. And although we have no personal experience in this work, we are aware of it. And with the adjournment of Synod your work is not yet finished. You will again have to begin writing to prepare the Acts for publication. May God therein grant you strength and devotion.

And now we are ready to part, and parting is painful. From East and West we came together, and it was good to give each other the right hand of fellowship. Some of the brothers were here for the first time, and who shall say it may not be the last time for some of us. Soon we shall be separated by hundreds of miles.

And now the most difficult part faces us, namely, to execute the decisions, which we have made, in our own circles. Otherwise all our efforts shall prove worthless. May God grant that with the strength and the talents he has provided, we may be found faithful.

The soldiers of our country are fighting with weapons of the flesh against the bloody executioners of our fore-fathers. We fight.....

(the above refers to the Spanish-American war)

with the sword of the Spirit, a warfare unknown to the world; a warfare against all that the world wants to bring into the church. May it be our portion to serve in this warfare for a long time, and at the end be greeted by our King with the words, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The Vice-President thanks the President for the competent manner in which he acquitted himself of his duties to the full satisfaction of the netire assembly, and wishes him a rich measure of the Lord's blessing.

Art. 105. The President closes with prayer. After the singing of Psalm 121:4, he pronounces the apostolic blessing, with which Synod adjourns.

J. Manni, President
G. D. De Jong, Vice-President
W. Heyns, Clerk
P. Ekster, Second Clerk

SUPPLEMENTS

REPORT 1

SYNODICAL COMMITTEE

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in America
to be held June 15 ff, 1898.

Esteemed Brothers;

The Synodical Committee has the pleasure of giving
a report of its actions since the Synod of 1896.

What we undertook or what we did was not done as
an independent body, but as willing servants circumscribed
by a well-defined mandate.

And when we reminded you of or proposed something to
you for which we had no specific mandate, we did so with
the conviction that it would be received with the approval
of those who had appointed us.

The first matter that was addressed to us was a
communication from the Committee of Correspondence for
Foreign Churches of the Reformed Churches of the Nether-
lande dated Feb. 18, 1897. It contains;

An expression of disappointment that no one was
appointed to represent us as a delegate to their Synod
at Middelburg. Then a sort of a reply to our communi-
cation addressed to the above-named Synod. Further
that we might merge with the Reformed Church of America
since we have the same confessions.

Also; an official declaration that the Reformed
Churches in the Netherlands.....

recognize us as a Reformed sister-church, receive invitations to their Synods, and be seated with an advisory vote.

This communication along with a copy of the Acts of their Synod held at Middelburg was answered, accompanied with a copy of the Acts of Synod 1896.

There was also some correspondence between Classis Hackensack and us concerning the translation of the Church Order and the Rules of Order, while a brother of that Classis requested information concerning how to proceed in bringing a protest against Classis to Synod. The requested information was furnished.

At the beginning of the year invitations were extended to the churches with which we have correspondence, whereby they were invited to attend this Synod. They are: The Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, the Old Reformed Church of Bentheim, the Reformed Churches of South Africa, and the U. P. Church in America.

A reply was received from the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. They appointed Dr. Rutgers, but he writes that he will not be able to accept the appointment because "of the many duties involved in his office".

Herewith the Synodical Committee reminds you of a question which was discussed at the last Synod whether the Reformed Church of America should not be included with the other sister-churches with whom we correspond. Your committee submits this matter to Synod in order that it may express itself on this issue.

We also received a communication from the Consistory of Rosario, Argentine Republic. These brothers appear to seek a merger with us and also material support.

This letter and our answer can be examined.

Your Committee, furthermore, upon the urging of others, felt itself constrained to point out the involvement in which our country finds itself overagainst Spain with respect to Cuba. We considered whether this matter should simultaneously as a denomination be brought before the Lord in prayer. This was publicized in our weekly periodical.

Finally, we also had the task to prepare the Agenda for this Synod, and as much as possible to provide for its publication on time.

The Committee,

L. J. Hulst, President

K. Kuiper

J. H. Vos, Secretary

The letters received follow:

Rotterdam, 18 February, 1897.

To the Holland Christian Reformed Church of North America assembled in Synod.

(Sent to Rev. J. H. Vos, Grand Rapids)

Esteemed Brothers:

The Deputies for Correspondence of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands with Foreign Churches have the honor to send you a copy of the Acts of Synod held recently at Middelburg, August-September. That your Church was not represented by one or more delegates was, of course, a disappointment to us.

Synod has designated us to inform you that it can give you no further correction of what transpired at Dordrecht. Grateful for the warning given, Synod was of the opinion, because of the incompleteness of the.....

charge not to enter into the matter further. Concerning the merging of the Reformed Churches in America, Synod wishes to point out to you the merging of the Churches in the Netherlands. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity," and Churches that have the same Confessions and the same form of Church government should not remain separated. May the Lord pave the way for your churches.

Meanwhile the Deputies, in the name of the Church assembled in Synod at Middelburg, come to you with the proposal that the correspondence that exists between our Churches and your Church be strengthened and broadened in the sense that mutually not only delegates be appointed to the General Synods, but that these delegates be seated with advisory vote. Thereby the ties would be more closely drawn in the unity of the Spirit and in the love of Christ, and cause us more clearly to understand how we are members of the same body, namely, Christ; especially the discussion of matters which are of mutual concern would be facilitated (e.g., the revision of any Article of the Creed, about which we shall at a later date correspond with you). Esteemed brothers, please let us know as soon as possible your reactions to this proposal.

With hearty greetings, Esteemed Brothers,

The Deputies,

B. Van Schelven, President

F. Lion Cachet, Secretary

Address for Correspondence: Rev. Lion Cachet, Kruiskade 18, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Rotterdam, May, 1898.

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in America.

Esteemed Brothers:

The Deputies for Correspondence of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands with Foreign Countries have with satisfaction received by letter the invitation from Rev. J. H. Voe, 17 January, 1898, for delegates of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands to attend your Synod to be held 15 June, ff. As delegate to your forthcoming Synod Prof. Dr. F. L. Rutgers was appointed. To our regret, however, we must inform you that the Doctor declared that he would not be able to honor this appointment because of the manifold duties connected with his office. May the Lord bless your Synodical Assembly, guiding it in the truth by His Spirit, to His honor and the well-being of your Church.

We would appreciate receiving a copy of your Acts of Synod.

With best wishes and fraternal greetings,

In the name of the Deputies,

B. Van Schelven, President
F. Lion Cachet, Secretary

Address: Rotterdam, Kruiskade 18.

Rosario, 8 April, 1898.

To the Honorable Synod of the Chr. Ref. Church in N. America.

Esteemed Fathers in our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Holland Chr. Ref. Church of Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentine Republic, in answer to a letter written 5 July, 1895, to the Synod of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, received a missive from the Deputies for Correspondence.....

of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands for Foreign Churches, that our Church should address itself to the Reformed Churches in North America.

Awaiting a known address, the Consistory received a letter from Rev. J. Wyngaarden of Firth, Nebraska, which the Consistory answered as much as possible, concerning which a copy was sent to the Board of Home Missions.

The Consistory received a reply from Rev. J. Groen, Secretary of Home Missions. This letter was also answered by the Consistory, and a copy was sent to the Deputies for Correspondence of the Reformed Church of the Netherlands for Foreign Correspondence.

Moreover, the Consistory felt duti-bound to send a communication to the honorable Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, so that the following matters receive consideration, beseeching the blessing of the Lord that its work may be of service to the glory of God and the welfare of the churches.

1. In consequence of a decision made by the General Synod of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, assembled in August-September, 1896, in Middelburg, that the Church of Rosario address itself to the Reformed Churches in North America (cf. Acts 1896, Art. 132, pp. 88-89) she addresses herself to your Synod with the request that you remember us in our situation.

2. The Consistory deems it extremely necessary, should Synod decide to extend a helping hand, to delegate someone to investigate the situation here, so that, after mature consideration, action can be taken in the light of God's Word.

3. Synod give the minister, whom it appoints, complete mandate to act in matters that demand haste, so that as soon as feasible everything may be regulated in conformity with the infallible Word of God and our Creeds.

4. Synod also delegate this Minister to regulate matters in Buenos Aires, if they will receive him, since some in this city have crept in who adulterate the truth.

5. The Consistory kindly requests Synod to send a copy of the Acts and a letter as soon as possible after adjournment with reference to the decisions made with respect to the concerns of our Church.

Further, Beloved, the Consistory prays that God's blessing be your portion, and that she seek wisdom from Him, who is the supreme Wisdom. The God of heaven, the King of his Church establish his Zion both yonder and here and everywhere with his Word: "I am with you."

Our wish and prayer is that He therefore be the beginning, the middle, and the end of your honorable assembly so that his Name be glorified thereby, and that it promote our temporal and eternal well-being.

Per the Consistory,

A. Struis, President
G. Helder, Secretary

REPORT 2

REPORT OF THE CURATORIUM OF THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN
AMERICA

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers;

The Curatorium of the Theological School has the pleasure to present to you the following Report concerning its activities since the
.....

last Synod. With thanks to God we may now again testify, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." He granted the teachers and professors health, desire, and strength to perform the manifold duties entrusted to them. The students in the Literary Department as well as the students of Theology were spared severe illness, and have, the one more the other less, studied with diligence and devotion. No one, who formed part of the school, was taken away by death.

a. The Curatorium. Since the last Synod decided that the college of Curators should consist of sixteen members, fourteen from the various Classes and two appointed by Synod, we have submitted an amendment to the "Articles of Association" of the Trustees to the Secretary of State. Under the date of the 7th of november, 1896, this amendment, according to law, was registered at Lansing.

b. The Faculty. The Faculty of our School is the same as two years ago, consisting of the honorable teachers of theology: Rev. G. E. Boer, Rev. G. K. Hemkes, and Rev. H. Beuker, D.D. Concerning the honorable Professors, Mr. A. J. Rooks, A.M., and Mr. K. Schoolland, we have received letters that they have accepted the appointments given by the last Synod. The latter gave outstanding instruction in the Literary Department. Prof. Rooks commenced his labors with a lecture on: "The Aim of Education" in Sept. 1896. In Sept. 1897, Prof. Beuker delivered the rectoral address on: "TUEANTIANA". Something concerning government of Church and State in Graafschap, Bentheim.

The Faculty of Westminster College of the United Presbyterian Church, New Wilmington, Penn., last year conferred on Prof. Beuker the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

c. The Curriculum. Concerning the courses of study.....

no major changes were made. Civil Government was added as a subsidiary to the course in the History of America and Netherlands. With the introduction of passing-examinations the course of study has been circumscribed more carefully than formerly. This improvement requires that now the examinations last two weeks, where formerly they took one week, yet the Curators comfort themselves in the fact that this increased labor is for the welfare of the School. The honorable teachers and professors give instruction in the subjects as they are published in the Catalogue. If the faculty could be expanded or one or more professors added, we would be better prepared to regulate the subjects better according to the principle of the "Encyclopaedie". At present this cannot be done. In consultation with the faculty the work-load is divided so that each one has about the same amount of work. In other Seminaries they of necessity do the same. Even at the Free University of Amsterdam the professor who teaches Systematic, Practical, Historical Theology is also required to teach a course in Hebrew, although Hebrew Exegesis is the responsibility of another professor.

d. The Student Body. In sept. 1896, there were eight applicants for admission examinations; four were admitted for a probationary year. As auditors the following have attended the course of study: A. Pluymert, G. Schuyleman, I. Adams, and D. Adams.

All the students, who took their final examinations in the Literary Department, were admitted to the study of Theology. The students, who took their final examinations in Theology, with the exception of one, were declared candidates. In Sept. 1897, there were eleven applicants for admission examinations; of these one was not accepted. In June 1898, the regular promotion and.....

final examinations took place. The students in the last year of the Literary Department were all admitted to the study of Theology. The students who took final examinations in Theology were all declared candidates.

Only with respect to one student was it necessary to inform the Classis, who was giving aid from the Student Fund, that his conduct was less than desirable.

Concerning the brothers Adams we can inform you that Isaac attended the courses in part; lately he has kept himself busy in private with the study of medicine. The examinations which he took were of such a nature that the Curators did not get much satisfaction from his first year, to give Adams a diploma for the subjects in which he was examined. And while the Curatorium could not give brother Adams a regular diploma after the last examination, it nevertheless was of the opinion that his studies at our school has brought him to that measure of development, that he, under the blessing of God, can work with effect under his own people. His request to be dismissed from the supervision of the Board of Foreign Mission was not in the province of the Curators.

David Adams, no more than his brother, could be enrolled in a regular class. Although his good intentions are not doubted, we fear that he does not have the capacity to complete a full course of theology with good results.

e. Property. The Trustees for the benefit of the Library, in the Fall of 1896 became the owners of a legacy of Mrs. Ellen Dandong nee Vanden Berg. The property has the following description: North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sect. 9, Township 106, Range 15 West, of 5th P. M. Minn., (320-6 acres of land, Pipestone Co. Minn.), which the Trustees have accepted under the name of the "Jacobus Vanden Berge Fund" for the Library of the Theological School of our Church.....

with the stipulation that as long as Mrs. De Jong lives, she will receive \$210.00 annually; and after her death, her husband will receive a like amount as long as he lives.

The Consistory of Orange City deserves the thanks of Synod for its willingness to serve the Trustees with advice and action in this matter. We have empowered them to sell this property for not less than \$22.00 per acre, and we further request the judgment of Synod in this matter.

f. Finances. Our School Building still has an indebtedness, as it had two years ago, of \$5,300.00. The Trustees have obtained a loan from the Board of Foreign Mission of \$1,800.00 at 4% annually, and paid off 35 notes of \$100.00 each at 6% interest to various individuals. The contributions which will still be received for the School building will henceforth be deposited in the treasury of the Theological School.

We have informed the Classes how much the various congregations have contributed with the reminder that they as much as possible meet their quotas. In general this was received favorably by the churches. With respect to the correspondence with Classie Mackenack, we shall inform Synod.

A letter was sent to all ministers who are still indebted to the General Student Fund or to the School Fund to honor their obligations. The result was that more was paid off than in other years. In the Financial Report that follows it will be noted that \$2,000.00 more was received than last year. The reason in part is that a firmer adherence to the rule was adopted that ^{one}no_A would be permitted to take their examination unless tuition and.....

and examination fees were paid. By way of exception the Trustees would receive a note from the person concerned.

Further another letter was sent to the Classes requesting that the receipts in the General Student Fund in whole or in part be used for unforeseen expenses caused by the improvement of Madison Avenue. The Trustees believe that part of these funds by rights should be credited to the Fund of the Theological School, since the students, who received aid from this fund, did not pay tuition. This fund is no longer in operation. By restoring this money to the Classes a portion thereof should be for the benefit of the Fund of the Theological School. Some Classes advised to place this question before Synod, which we hereby do.

REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 1896-'97

Theological School

Balance	\$1,062.91
Receipts	5,967.78
Disbursements	<u>6,452.79</u>
Balance	\$ 570.90

General Student Fund

Balance	\$ 49.62
Receipts	724.00
Disbursements	<u>720.00</u>
Balance	\$ 53.62

Dollar Fund

Balance	\$263.00
---------	----------

Library

Balance	\$61.11
Disbursements	<u>41.25</u>
Balance	19.86

FISCAL YEAR 1897-'98

Theological School

Balance	\$ 570.90
Receipts	8,348.80
Disbursements	<u>6,988.02</u>
Balance	\$1,931.68

General Student Fund

Balance	\$ 53.62
Receipts	1,004.50
Disbursements	<u>840.00</u>
Balance	\$ 218.12

Dollar Fund

Balance	\$263.00
Receipts	52.50
Disbursements	<u>52.50</u>
Balance	\$263.00

Library

Balance	\$19.86
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	<u>19.86</u>
Balance	\$ 0.00

Property in Minnesota

Disbursements	\$307.71
Receipts	<u>75.00</u>
Deficit	\$232.71

The following matters are placed before Synod for actions:

1. Whether Cand. D. Drukker, should he not become a foreign mission-
are, is obligated to repay tuition for the 7 years he studied.

2. Whether the decision of the Synod of 1886, instructing the Board
of Foreign Missions to pay \$325.00 annually toward the salary of a third
professor when there is no student in training for missionary at the
School.

3. How must persons be dealt with who have left School and Church but have not paid their financial obligations to the Curatorium?

4. For weighty reason the Curatorium requests that Synod rescind Art. 9, 2nd line, 2nd clause of the Rules for the Theological School.

5. Concerning Prof. Schoolland, appointed for two years up until this Synod, we can report: Prof. Schoolland has given good satisfaction; considering this we recommend him for a definite appointment. However, with respect to his health we recommend him for a re-appointment until the next Synod.

6. Finally, Synod is requested to give consideration whether in the future it would not be better to appoint Professors in the Literary Department for a definite term instead of an indefinite.

In the Name of the Curatorium,

G. D. De Jong

REPORT 3

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS

Esteemed Brothers:

Since the previous Synod Rev. J. Smitter has left the mission field; Rev. G. G. Haan was called, who continues in the work. Revs. J. Vander Mey and P. Koeten were called but declined, and Cand. W. De Groot, who accepted the call.

Rev. J. De Vries, who was without a charge, was engaged by the Board in consultation with Classis Hudson for a period of two years for mission work. In August this will terminate; after having obtained information, the Comm. informs Synod that the former agreement between Classis Hudson and the Comm. will no longer continue.

Missionary De Vries worked mostly in Michigan; Haan in Iowa, and De Groot in Classis Hudson at first. From the implications of the delegates to Synod and the Mission Committees we supposed that there (in Hudson) was much mission work to be done, but results have shown that no work could be found by the Classical Home Mission Committee of Classis Hudson, hence De Groot was transferred to Classis Iowa.

The missionaries engaged in their tasks regularly and with zeal, and were little hindered by illness, except that De Groot was sick for a few weeks.

The salaries of the missionaries were regularly paid.

Financial aid was granted to fourteen congregations. The ministers of these churches have performed their labors which they were obligated to do.

The Board further informs Synod that it was incorporated under Act No. 192, of the Session of Laws of 1867, and amended June 28, 1887.

The collections for Home Missions these years were not as plentiful as former years, and the Board ^{would} like to have Synod emphasize zealous support, since this work is of greatest import for our Church.

The Treasurer reports as follows:

1896-1897

Receipts

Balance	\$ 759.03
Contributions	<u>2,888.81</u>
Total	\$3,647.84

Disbursements

Missionaries	\$1,785.15
Subsidies	<u>1,246.08</u>
Traveling Expenses and Correspondence	<u>330.41</u>
Total	\$3,361.64
Balance	\$ 286.20

1897-1898

Receipts

Balance	\$ 286.20
Contributions	<u>3,465.91</u>
Total	\$3,752.11

Disbursements

Missionaries	\$1,817.00
Subsidies	1,331.66
Traveling Expenses and Correspondence	<u>324.24</u>
Total	\$3,472.90
Balance	\$ 279.21

The following subsidies for various churches have been fixed:

Classis Hudson	Sayville	\$150.00
Classis Muskegon	North Clam	150.00
	New Era	125.00
	Richland	50.00
Classis Grand Rapids	Lamont & Eastmanville	50.00
Classis Illinois	Baldwin	150.00
	Sheboygan	100.00
Classis Holland	Noordeloos	100.00
Classis Oost-Friesland	George	200.00
	Oost-Friesland	200.00
	(half-time devoted to home missions)	
	Parkersburg	75.00
Classis Iowa	Sully and Galesburg	150.00
	Hesper	150.00
	Rock Valley	75.00
	New Holland	75.00
	Harrison	75.00
	Maxwell	100.00
	Firth	125.00
	Hull	50.00

The heart's desire of the Board is that Synod and the Church....

show their love and arouse more and more interest in this work, so that through prayer and gifts the Kingdom of God may come through this mission.

In the Name of the Board of Home Missions,

M. Van Vesseem, Secretary

REPORT 4

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CHURCH HELP FUND

Esteemed Brothers:

It gives us pleasure to come with a short report to Synod. Not because we can bring such an important and imposing report, but because we foster the hope that it may find a small place in the heart of the brothers and sisters of our Church. Up to this time it appears that "Church Help" belongs to one of the smaller Funds. Many churches never remember this fund in its collections. Hence the income for this fund is far below the income of any other fund or any other cause for which collections are received. From the 135 congregations of our Church in the last two years we received 82 collections, while, according to the decision of Synod we should have received at least 250. Hudson and Hackensack have done the least. Hackensack contributed nothing, and from Hudson just two congregations. Muskegon sent 5 collections, Illinois 8, and Oost-Friesland 8 in the last two years, while the rest of the collections were received from the Classes Holland, Grand Rapids, and Iowa, who contributed most to this fund. Still from the last three named Classes there were several congregations who were negligent. These collections, with the.....

\$35.00 returned by the congregation of Sullivan, and also a little interest from congregations, which formerly received help, together amount to the total of \$767.44
Balance June 1896 75.84
Total \$843.28

Thus we see, notwithstanding the negligence of many congregations, the Comm. received a small amount, which it could, in small portions, grant to churches in need. However, because of lack of funds, it was impossible to satisfy the requests, and often we had to grant smaller amounts than asked by the Classes, and which the congregations actually needed.

In the Spring of 1897 we received a request from Classis Iowa to support the congregations of George, Maxwell City, and Hosper, the first congregation for the building of a parsonage, and the last two for obtaining church buildings. We granted these requests in-as-far as funds would allow. The Treasurer on May 19, 1897, sent George, Iowa \$125.00; on July 10, 1897, Maxwell City \$125.00; and on October 15, 1897, Hosper \$200.00. In the beginning of 1898 we received a request from Classis Grand Rapids to provide the congregation of Sun with \$100.00 so that they could make a beginning of obtaining a church building. We granted this request. From Classis Iowa three more requests were received for the congregations of Pella II, Leota, and Sully. We could only partially fill these requests. We gave Pella II \$90.00 for obtaining a parsonage, the congregation of Leota \$130.00 towards a church building, and Sully \$50.00 towards a parsonage.

All these small sums were loaned in accordance with the Rules for a small amount of interest, and notes signed by the Trustees of the congregations.

The disbursements amounted to	\$820.00
The contributions and the balance for 1896 amounted to	<u>843.26</u>
This leaves a balance of	\$ 23.28

If Synod and the congregations could gain the conviction of the value of this fund, experience some of the needs of these congregations, as the Comm. has often experienced, then this fund would surely receive more support. As long as these small and weak congregations have no ^{adequate} meeting-place, and are surrounded by other churches, then they generally cannot make any progress. Along with this comes the sad experience of the Sully congregation, which, through the zealous work of the missionaries, had advanced to the point wherein it could rejoice in completing a neat church and a suitable parsonage through the assistance of the Church Help Fund, of the church burned to the ground. A new church must be built. Church Help can be of no assistance because there are no funds. We trust that this congregation will be helped, if not through the Church Help Fund, then by other means.

Our sincere wish is that Synod will urge the congregations to be faithful in taking one collection per year according to the decision of 1894.

In the Name of the Committee
for Church Help,

J. Manni, Secretary

REPORT 5

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEATHEN MISSIONS

Esteemed Synod:

The Deputies nominated by the various Classes and appointed by Synod in the interests of Heathen Missions of our Church has the honor to report the following:

The Board began its labors in June 1896 under less than propitious circumstances;

a. Because Synod came to a decision under great stress, many with lack of confidence and with little courage looked forward to our work.

b. Because of and in spite of the long time that we considered Indian Missions, there was no preparation of a fixed plan of labor.

c. Because this matter, decided by Synod and mandated to the Board, contained so much and could be executed in so many ways, without Synod giving any indication in ~~what~~ manner it should be performed, placed a tremendous responsibility upon the Board.

d. Because both the Candidates for the Mission, the oldest (Mr. D. R. Drukker) took such an attitude, that not much could be expected from him as far as the Mission under the Indians was concerned, and the other (Mr. Fryling) was so weak, although willing, we feared that he would not be able to do much.

e. Because Miss Katie Hoozeboom, whom Mr. Fryling was to marry, was sickly, so that she, despite her love for missions and good attitude, not much could be expected of her in support of the work. And although she and many with her thought that the climate on the mission field would restore her to health, she, nevertheless, ailing a few months on the mission field, died.

After the Board, according to the mandate of Synod, incorporated itself under Act 192, Howells Statutes of Michigan, the first order of business, according to the suggestions of Synod, was to send a committee to find a suitable place for a mission field. Rev. J. Groen and Cand. D. Drukker were appointed. after.....

having received information beforehand, they visited the place which would be most suitable.

Although their thinking differed widely, they nevertheless were able to present a unified report to the Board. According to what was stated in this report, the Board saw the way opened to begin the work.

While the Board was making preparations for sending out missionaries, Cand. Drukker was constantly making objections, which made an unfavorable impression, and previous remarks to private persons did not improve the matter. Hence the Board felt it was necessary to place Cand. Drukker before the question, what his attitude was toward mission work. Thereupon Drukker declared that he had no inclination for mission work among the Indians, that he felt no calling for this work, and that thus in good conscience could not declare that in his heart he felt that God had called him for this work.

The Board then decided, and inform Drukker:

1. that the Board could in no event release him:
 - a. By virtue of the financial relationships,
 - b. by virtue of insufficient objections.
2. that the Board however could not send him in that frame of mind.

When Cand. Drukker asked what he should now do, the Board placed the following proposal before him:

- a. that Drukker work as Home Missionary providing the Home Mission Board agrees;
- b. that he promise to labor there ^{for} 3½ years;
- c. that half of his salary (i.e., \$400.00) be paid by the Board of Home Missions to the.....

Board of Heathen Missions to repay the money received by him for his studies.

This proposal in the presence of all was accepted by Drukker. But 12 days after he accepted, he also declined, and without any further contact with the Board, settled himself in Midland Park. His endeavor to be ordained, and his payment of \$340.00 to the Board, causes us to suspect that he has decided to become a Minister.

With the withdrawal of Cand. Drukker, the Board felt itself compelled to make a provisional appointment until the next Synod. Hence Mr. A. Vander Wagen, who previously had offered to become a missionary, and who had married Miss Effa Hofma, who had studied missions, was appointed. After Cand. Fryling has sustained his examination with Classis Grand Rapids and ordained in the Church of the congregation of Spring Street, he and his wife and A. Vander Wagen and his wife left on the 5th of October, 1896 for the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona. After they had been there for a period of time, the Comm. purchased the property of the M. E. Church for \$900.00, consisting of a house, barn, and other things.

After a period of time the opportunity presented itself to include another Indian tribe in our mission field. After obtaining information the Board decided to work among this tribe (the Zuni), and to send Vander Wagen there, and endeavor to obtain another helper for Missionary Fryling. In order to regulate the matters, the Board, in session in June 1897, deemed it advisable to send one of its members to the mission field. Rev. J. Groen was appointed, who surveyed all the work, and sought to bring everything on a more orderly footing, and completed his work to the satisfaction.....

of the Board. A helper was provided for Rev. Fryling provisionally until the next Synod; Mr. James E. De Groot from Prinsburg, who went to the field in Sept. 1897. The Board has also attempted to find a way by which some of our people may be placed in the Public Schools. This would be desirable because of the indirect opposition to our mission^{by} the generally irreligious government officers.

There you have a short survey of what the Board has done. Now something concerning the missionaries and the mission. After first having gotten their domestic matters in order, and having become somewhat acquainted with their surroundings, the missionaries have applied themselves to the study of the Indian language. they have a dictionary consisting of about 3,000 words in both languages (Navajo and Zuni). This was a difficult task since there is no alphabet in print. For this purpose the Board engaged a translator for three months. Moreover, the missionaries are giving instruction in three schools. At Fort Defiance and at Zuni children attend Sunday School, and at Fort Defiance worship services are held with about 120 Indians in attendance and some whites. So there are more than 200 Indian children and young people with whom we are working. With respect to the Indians, whether making calls at their homes or whether visit^{ing} the missionary, as much as possible the Gospel is proclaimed, and it may be said that the Indians show interest and some show great appreciation. House calls and preaching to the Indians can only be done with efficiency when the missionary has a greater mastery of the Indian language, to which they are assiduously applying themselves.

The state of the Missions is as follows:

Our Mission Field is: the Navajo tribe consisting of about 26,000, and the Zuni tribe of 1,600 souls. They are all heathen, and except for us, there are no others laboring among them, and they are attracted to our work.

The missionaries and helpers are: Rev. H. Fryling at Fort Defiance, who, formerly so weak, is now strong and healthy.

Mr. James E. De Groot and his wife, also at Fort Defiance with the Navajos.

Mr. A. Vander Wagen and his wife at Zuni, Pueblo, N. M.

All have love for their work, are full of courage, and are esteemed by the Indians.

Besides language study, there are 10 catechism classes, 2 Sunday School Classes, preaching once or twice every Sunday, distribution of tracts and Scriptures, and distribution of clothing to the poor, two boxes having been sent by a congregation.

The confusion which existed concerning the mission in our denomination, has declined above expectations, and the collections were very satisfactory.

During the past two years our churches contributed	
handsome amount of	\$9,561.73
Disbursed for sending the missionaries, salary,	
house, house rent, interpreter, etc., etc.	<u>7,432.77</u>
Leaving a balance of	\$2,128.96

Ebenezer. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. So says the Board. So say the missionaries. May Synod also say so.

The Board did not undertake large and expensive plans, and does not advise Synod to do so; not as if there could not be more work done among these many thousands, than is not done,.....

but by making haste slowly, we become better acquainted with our new work, and more easily prevent mistakes out of ignorance.

The Board makes the following requests of Synod:

1. That Synod provide the Board with a set of Rules as complete as possible.
2. That Synod appoint Mr. A. Vander Wagen and his wife as helpers for 7 years.
3. Also Mr. J. E. De Groot for the same period of time.
4. With respect to Cand. D. Drukker:
 - a. That Synod release him from the Heathen Mission upon condition that he repay the Mission for benefits received, or give security to pay off \$100.00 per year.
 - b. Moreover, the board brings to the consideration of Synod whether it is not necessary for Cand. Drukker to make confession before the Church, to which he with enthusiasm committed himself to work among the Indians.

Honorable Synod, here you have the first report of our youthful Mission, which we love, and have tried to serve with our best efforts. Our wish and prayer is that God may supply you with love and light in all your labors, but especially with respect to the matter of Heathen Missions, so that it be dealt with in such a manner, that our work will be made easier, and our Mission may grow and flourish.

In the Name of the Board of Heathen Missions,

J. Groen, Secretary

REPORT 6

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MISSIONS AMONG THE JEWS

Esteemed Brothers:

Your Committee might execute her appointed task since the assembly of the Synod of June, 1896. With joy and gratitude she may place her report in your hands. With joy because our churches once again have so unambiguously shown their concern for this branch of the Lord's Vineyard; showing concern for the old chosen people of God to make His Name known among the Gentiles. With gratitude to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who has not put our hopes and prayers to shame, who moved hearts to remember not only in prayer but also by their gifts to remember Jacob's straying children, concerning whom Jehovah Himself declares:

"My sheep wandered through all the mountains,
and upon every high hill; yea, my sheep were
scattered upon all the face of the earth;
and there was none that did search or seek after
them." Ezek. 34:6

Praise and thanksgiving be to God, that there are ⁱⁿ Christian churches, also in our own Church, who show concern and seek after these wandering ones. And surely we know and confess that God's Word is true and faithful. Jehovah's calling and election are not repented of. The times of the Gentiles are being fulfilled. Jerusalem shall not always be as a forsaken one, as sitting in widowhood. For a small moment He has forsaken her, but with great mercy He will gather her. (Isaiah 54:7). The fulness of the Gentiles shall come in, and so all Israel shall be saved. This is believed by our people, and therefore they with their prayers add their free-will offerings, gifts as a sweet-smelling savor in.....

the house of the Lord, wherein Jehovah has His good pleasure.

The receipts have not completely reached the amount of June, 1896. We, however, do not want to complain, much less accuse, we are thankful. From two Reformed Churches, namely, the First Reformed Church of Orange City and the Fourth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, we received from each generous contributions, as also from the Holland Presbyterian Church of Baldwin, Wisconsin.

The receipts from June 1896 to June 1898 were	\$1,225.72
Balance, June 1896	85.30
Total	<u>\$1,311.02</u>

The disbursements amounted to \$1,242.00 which was distributed as follows:

The Hebrew Mission in Chicago	\$ 460.00
The Hebrew Mission in New York	460.00
The Hebrew Mission in Amsterdam	245.00
Rev. Kropveld, Mission of the Reformed Churches among the Jews	70.00
Traveling expenses, stamps, post card, etc.	7.00
Total	<u>\$1,242.00</u>
Balance	\$ 69.02

And herewith the Committee places its work in the hands of Synod. According to the best of its knowledge it has supported the missionaries with faithfulness and prudence. After we learned that Mr. Warszawiak was not under the supervision of the Presbytery of New York, but worked independently, we withdrew our financial aid to him.

In the name of the missionaries in Chicago, New York, Amsterdam, and of Rev. Kropveld, we thank the congregations, societies, and individuals, who faithfully made their contributions.

It is our firm conviction that the Church was in harmony with God's will, and acted according to God's Word, when she assumed the work of this branch of God's Vineyard.

Hence we whole-heartedly continue to recommend and call Synod with all the earnestness that is in us; Brothers, don't forget Jacob's dispersed, don't forget the Jew! He who blesses Israel, shall be blessed. "As touching the gospel, they are enemies for your sake; but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sake." (Romans 11:28).

We conclude with the prayer (poem) of old Father Groenewegen:

*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*

The Committee,

S. S. Postma, President
W. Heyns, Secretary
J. I. Flee, Treasurer

REPORT 7

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE EMERITUS FUND

Esteemed Brothers;

Of all the collections to which the Church.....

is obligated, the most difficult is for the Emeriti Ministers, ministers' widows, and orphans. This seems strange. We are unparalleled in being a godly people. In our banner we therefore write: Orthodox in doctrine and pious in conduct.

Hence we could reasonably expect from each other, that we all, as soon as the opportunity presents itself, to visit the widow and the orphan in their affliction, and at once resolve to do it because therein lies the pure and undefiled religion before God the Father. (James 1:27)

Now we shall have to withhold any charge that there^{is} such a neglect in our own congregational circles, because if there is need in this respect, the diaconate quickly finds a hearing ear and an open hand. But it is entirely different in the care of old and decrepid Ministers of the Word, their widows and orphans, when they make application to us.

Having considered various aspects of the matter, we decided to institute a different method. First, and that is to be understood, we issued a call for the beneficence of our people for free-will offerings. Thereafter, since we noticed that love could not produce these offerings, we tested the congregations of our Church by issuing an honest report. Pressure was suspected, and one does not contribute if he thinks he is being pressurized.

The result was that the Emeriti together with their widows and orphans became the dupes of history.

What then must happen? A greater wisdom is here necessary than what we can furnish. As it appears to us one of two things must take place---to leave these honorable men, noble widows and orphans to their destiny, probably with^{the} suspected wish; go in peace, be ye warmed and filled!--or once and for all to transfer them to.....

the official care of the Diaconates. As to the first, we know that no one would venture to do this because it would create a situation whereby the congregations would be burdened with a curse in their bosoms.

Therefore we shall have to advise the latter. Then we are also more in harmony with Art. 13 of the Church Order. Hereby we bring those in need, as soon as they need help, in contact with the officials of the church. They see them daily, live with them, and they (the deacons) call for help to the congregations where the Emeriti formerly served, and if this is not sufficient, then these caretakers make application to the General Aid Fund.

This general idea will become more manifest as we give a brief report of the events from the Synod of 1896 up to the present.

In March 1897 an urgent request for help was received from the widow of young departed brother, G. A. De Haan. We realized that \$200.00 per year was only partial help and not sufficient for her and her children to live on. She was promised, but the assessment could not be met, while it appeared that various congregations were unconcerned about her circumstances.

Although the Synod of 1896 (Art. 115) had given consent to increase the quota, alas! the depression and the disinclination to support this fund, caused us to give up the attempt. It was mutually decided to expose the condition of this fund in De Wachter, and in a special communication to alert the various churches how much they were in arrears. This seemed to create favorable action. Even individuals extended helping hands, to which the Comm. joined itself. Now we hoped that for a period of time we would be able to hold our own.

But they were different. Another youthful minister.....

of the Word, brother S. Broekstra* died unexpectedly, and soon there was a request for aid for the widow. And almost simultaneously a request for aid was received for the Emeritus Minister, brother C. Vorst (since deceased).

Now we had to consider increasing the quota. We could figure that at least 25% more was needed than what Synod decided. This increase would bring in \$358.00, while requests amounted to \$400.00.

Then, despite the fact that no one opposed this, it appeared that the deficit continued, and an increase in the Fund did not materialize.

The result was that the disbursements had to be limited in accordance with what had been received, which created an embarrassing disappointment.

What the state of the Fund is and how matters are going appears from the following report of Brother A. Van Bree, the Treasurer of the Fund.

June 1896-1897

Receipts	\$1,259.38
Disbursements	<u>1,099.09</u>
Balance	\$ 160.29

June 1897-1898

Balance	\$ 160.29
Receipts	<u>1,400.93</u>
Total	\$1,561.22
Disbursements	<u>1,425.48</u>
Balance	\$ 135.74

A balance in the Fund of approximately \$135.00. But don't forget that if we could have paid out according to Synodical.....

*In the Yearbook of 1898 his name is not mentioned.

promise, the disbursements would have been \$926.60 more, and there would have been a deficit of \$790.86. Hence, almost \$1,000.00, which was promised to those being supported, and not received by them, and not received according to the quota.

In order to arrange for a more orderly procedure in receiving funds, the Committee proposes that each Classis appoint a Collecting-Treasurer who will receive the monies for this Fund and send them to the Treasurer of the Emeritus Fund.

The Committee also presents to Synod for consideration the feasibility of appointing the entire committee at each meeting of Synod to serve until the following Synod.

The Committee,

S. S. Postma, President
A. Van Bree, Treasurer
J. H. Vos, Secretary

REPORT 8

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE OF "DE WACHTER".

Esteemed Brothers, Delegates to Synod:

The following is presented to you as informations:

Balance June 1, 1896	\$ 449.90
Receipts June 1, '96	
to May 31, '97	<u>3,072.63</u>
Total	\$3,522.53
Disbursements	2,671.21
To the Theol. School	<u>500.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$3,171.21
Balance	\$ 351.32
Balance June 1, 1897	\$ 351.52
Receipts June 1, 1897	
to May 31, 1898	<u>3,529.53</u>
Total	\$3,880.85

.....

Disbursements June 1, 1897	
to May 31, 1898	\$2,746.26
To the Theological School	<u>600.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$3,346.26

Balance	\$ 534.59
Profit for De Wachter in 2 years	1,184.69
To the Theological School	1,100.00
Balance June 1, 1898	534.59

The Committee found the books in good order.

Supervisory Committee,

J. Noordewier, Secretary

For the remainder of the Report see Art 62 of the Minutes.

REPORT 9*

DOMESTIC MISSION ORDER

A. Articles Pertaining to the Board

Article 1.

The name of the Board is: The Board of the Domestic Missions of the Holland Christian Reformed Church.

Article 2.

The Board is established in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Article 3.

This Board consists of one delegate from each Classis of the Christian Reformed Church.

Article 4.

The Board, being accountable to Synod, has complete control and supervision over all Domestic Mission work, in accordance with the decision of Synod.

Article 5.

The Board meets annually in the month.....

* The Rules are printed so that they can easily be removed from the Acts and placed in the Church Order.

of June. When a majority of the delegates are present, the meeting is legal. If a third of the Board judges that it is necessary to hold a special meeting, the Committee (cf. Art. 6) must call the Board together.

Article 6.

Since one meeting per year is insufficient to perform the manifold tasks of Domestic Missions, and the denomination is widely scattered, which does not permit the delegates to meet more frequently, the officers of the Board consisting of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall function as a Committee to conduct matters that demand attention.

Article 7.

The Committee shall meet regularly in the first or second week in May, August, November, and February. If necessary, it shall hold special meetings.

Article 8.

The duties of the Board are:

- a. Election of officers;
- b. Review and decide on requests from churches and missions stations for financial aid;
- c. If a missionary is needed, to present the person it desires, requesting.....

a Classis to call and install this person, and also to make a gross list which can be used until the next meeting of the Board, from which persons can be presented to a classis for a call.

- d. Examination of the books of the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- e. To approve the Report of the Secretary which is to be sent to Synod.
- f. To present overtures to Synod for its judgment.
- g. To engage in all other matters which it believes necessary for the cause of Domestic Missions.

Article 9.

The Duties of the Committee:

- a. To review the reports of the missionaries and Classical Mission Committees.
- b. To receive funds and to disburse them according to what has been allocated, with the understanding that the subsidy for ministers' salaries shall be disbursed equally according to the status of the fund, and to meet deficits at the end of the fiscal year as the treasury allows.
- c. If congregations or mission stations request support, which were not considered at the Board meeting, the Committee will decide.

- d. In as far as it was impossible to determine at the Board meeting in which Classis the missionaries should labor, the Committee will make such decision in consultation with the Classical Mission Committees.
- e. If, between Board meetings, the Committee judges that a missionary is needed, a letter shall be sent to each Board member, wherein:

- 1) It will be explained the need of another missionary, and adduce as many grounds as deemed necessary.

- 2) It shall present a nomination consisting of the first three on the gross list; for the second time the two who were formerly nominated and the fourth person on the gross list, and so on. If there should be overriding reasons for departing from this rule, or to nominate some one whose name does not appear on the gross list, the Committee will have the authority to do so, providing grounds for this departure are given.

The delegates shall send their votes to the Secretary of the Board, and as soon as they have arrived, the Committee, in the name of the Board, shall request a Classis to call and install the man of their choice.

- f. To prepare the Report of Synod.

- g. To keep informed about the condition of the mission in each Classis.
- h. To keep the churches informed about the mission by means of "De Wachter".
- i. To act on all matters that cannot await the annual meeting.

B. Articles Pertaining to the Mission
in each Classis.

Article 10.

Each Classis is to appoint a Committee of three to conduct the work of the Mission in their respective Classes.

Article 11.

The duties of the Committee are:

- a. To keep informed if there is need for mission work in the Classis.
- b. To investigate requests for aid from the Board thoroughly, with its recommendation either to accept or reject requests, and in ordinary cases with the approbation of Classis to send them to the secretary of the Board.
- c. To file a quarterly report with respect to the Mission and of the activity of the missionary laboring in the Classis.

- d. To regulate the work of the missionaries laboring in the Classis.
- e. To see to it that the churches or mission stations are fulfilling the stipulated conditions for receiving support.

Articles concerning Churches or Mission
Stations Requesting Aid

Article 12

No church and no mission station resorting under any Classis shall receive support or a missionary without a recommendation from the Classical Mission Committee.

Article 13.

Ministers of churches which receive aid must spend a period of time during the year in mission work outside their own congregations at places which the Board stipulates as being in greatest need.

Article 14.

The churches which receive financial aid covenant themselves to repay in full money received from former church properties in the event they disband or leave the denomination.

Article 15.

A promise for support is valid for only one year.

D. Articles Pertaining to the Entire
Denomination.

Article 16.

The Board must submit all its proposals and decisions to the judgment of Synod.

Article 17.

Synod establishes a fixed amount which the Board may disburse. If, in the judgment of the Board, there are unforeseen circumstances which may make it necessary to spend more, and the funds are in the treasury, it has the liberty to disburse the money. It may also appeal for a special offering through the channel of De Wachter, if there are insufficient funds to meet the promised aid.

Article 18.

At least two Sundays of every year offerings shall be taken in all churches for Domestic Missions.

E. Articles Pertaining to our Missionaries.

Article 19.

The salary of the missionaries shall be \$800.00 plus traveling expenses. In exceptional cases the Board will act according to circumstances.

Article 20.

Ministers, students, and candidates may, without

being called, be engaged by the Board for a period of time in the service of Domestic Missions, with a salary which the Board deems equitable.

Article 21.

Missionaries are to receive three weeks vacation.

Article 22.

The Board may not recommend a minister or a candidate for a call who is not in "good standing" in our church, or who in some way is being dealt with.

Article 23.

The missionaries shall have their membership in the church of the Classis wherein they are laboring.

Article 24.

The duties of the missionaries are in the church or the mission station where they work. They are:

- a. Preaching as much as possible.
- b. Visiting families, especially the dispersed, the neglected, and the irreligious.
- c. Teaching catechism classes.
- d. Preparing mission stations for organization into congregations as soon as possible.
- e. Finally, everything that promotes the building up of a church or a mission station.

Article 25.

The missionaries shall file an extensive quarterly report---by mid-April, July, October, and January---concerning their activities to the Mission Committee of the Classis in which they work, and these reports in turn shall be filed with the Committee of the Board before its next meeting.

Article 26.

Every provision in the Mission Order may be rescinded or revised by Synod.

Adopted by the Synod of 1898.

The Officers of Synod,

J. Manni, President
G. D. De Jong, Vice-President
W. Heyns, Clerk
P. Ekster, Second Clerk

REPORT 10

MISSION ORDER FOR THE BOARD OF HEATHEN MISSIONS

A. Articles Pertaining to the
Entire Denomination

Article 1.

Synod avails itself of the services of a Board of Heathen Missions for the execution of its decisions concerning Heathen missions. Each Classis in our denomination is to nominate one delegate.....

who is to be appointed by Synod to serve until the next meeting of Synod.

Article 2.

At each Synod the Board is to file a report of its work, which Synod will then assess.

Article 3.

All proposals and decisions of the Board must be submitted to Synod for its judgment.

Article 4.

Synod decides whether the Mission Field is to be expanded or curtailed, and makes the final decision concerning the number of employees. The Board can only provisionally send assistants or ministers, if necessity requires.

Article 5.

Synod has the exclusive right to dismiss definitely appointed employees, if it judges that it promotes the welfare of the Mission. The Board may only provisionally dismiss a person with or without salary.

Article 6.

Synod determines how much the Board may receive annually.

Article 7.

In all our churches besides the Pentecost collection.....

one other collection shall be taken annually for Heathen Missions.

B. Articles Pertaining to the Board.

Article 8.

The Board must be incorporated according to the laws of the State of Michigan in order that it may be officially recognized for the duties Synod has devolved upon it.

Article 9.

The Board consists of one delegate from each Classis, besides a treasurer appointed by Synod, who receives an annual honorarium of \$50.00.

The president and the secretary are elected by the Board for a period of one year.

Article 10.

The Board performs its duties according to the mandate of Synod, specified in the Mission Order, or by further Synodical decisions.

Article 11.

In situations for which Synod has made no decisions, and which cannot be delayed without detriment to the Mission, the Board shall act according to its best judgment.

Article 12.

The Board meets annually in the month of June.

Article 13.

The duties of the Board are:

1. To determine the manner in which the missionaries are to perform their duties.
2. To examine the reports of the missionaries.
3. To appoint each employee to his Station.
4. To act upon all questions or requests of the missionaries.
5. To examine the books of the secretary and the treasurer.
6. To examine the report for Synod.
7. To examine the work the Committee has done for the Board.
8. To prepare requests and proposals for Synod.

Article 14.

Since distance make it difficult for the Board to meet to consider all forthcoming matters, those of a less pressing nature, which occur between the meetings of the Board, shall be performed by a Committee consisting of the delegates from the Classes of Michigan and Illinois, who shall meet at least every half year.

Article 15.

The Committee is responsible to the Board for all its actions.....

It shall also keep the other delegates of the Board informed concerning its activities.

Article 16.

The duties of the Committee are:

1. To examine the reports of the missionaries.
2. To prepare the Report for Synod.
3. To prepare the requests or proposals for Synod.
4. To administer all matters of a less pressing nature, which cannot very well be delayed.
5. To call the entire Board together, or at least gain the opinion of the other members, if more difficult matters present themselves.

Article 17.

Every year, if necessary, the Board appoint one of its members to visit and inspect the Mission Field.

Article 18.

The members of the Board shall exercise themselves as much as possible in the study of the Mission, and endeavor to awaken a missionary spirit in their respective Classes, and in general to write about it in "De Wachter" or other suitable publications.

C. Articles Pertaining to the Employees.

Article 19.

The employees are ordained Ministers of the Word or assistants. The latter can be women as well as men.

Article 20.

No one can be accepted as an employee except

- a. he be a member of our Church, and is ready to subscribe to the Confessions, promising not to teach contrary thereto;
- b. and a testimonial of good health and that in his family there are no diseases which would be a hindrance to the work.

Article 21.

Missionaries are to devote themselves exclusively to the work of missions, and are to refrain from all other kinds of work, unless the Board deems an exception to the rule is necessary.

Article 22.

All employees, except those accepted provisionally, are committed for a period of 7 years.

Article 23.

The Board appoints one missionary to:

1. To report monthly to the Board concerning the overall picture of the Mission.
2. To make^{it} his business to see that all the decisions of the Board with respect to mission work are carried out.
3. To consult with others missionaries concerning the interests of the Mission.
4. To observe carefully the doctrine and life of all employees.
5. To supervise the distribution of literature.
6. Whenever there is the possibility of opening a new field, to make a personal investigation, and to learn whether it is a good choice.

Article 24.

The duties of the missionaries are:

1. To preach as much as opportunity and strength permit.
2. To supervise their Assistants, and instruct them in doctrine and in the work.
3. To catechize. especially the largest classes.
4. To study the language, the morality, the customs, and the religion of the people under whom they labor.
5. To visit families as much as possible.
6. To render a report to the person appointed according to Art. 23, who has supervision over the field.

Article 25.

The assistant are those who function in the capacity of translators, etc., or who are engaged directly in mission work. The latter to perform the less difficult and the easier work.

Article 26.

The duties of the Assistants are:

1. Visiting families.
2. Catechizing.
3. To deliver messages.
4. To teach Sunday School
5. To distribute Bibles and Tracts.
6. To study those subjects related to their work.
7. To file a report even as the missionaries do according Art. 23 (6).

Article 27.

Neither the missionaries nor the assistants may open a new field, dispose of an old one, engage new Assistants, dismiss old Assistants, buy properties, sell or trade, build or demolish buildings, without consent of the Board.

Article 28.

Discipline with respect to doctrine and life of the Missionaries and the Assistants must be exercised by the Consistory of the congregation to which they belong.

Article 29.

Whenever an Assistant does not conduct himself according to the terms of his appointment, the missionary mentioned in Art. 23 shall consult with him in private, and should this prove fruitless to notify the Board.

Article 30.

The Board has the right provisionally to dismiss Assistants who fail in their duties. With respect to ordained missionaries, the Classis which sent them shall deal with them according to the Church Order.

Article 31.

Missionaries shall endeavor as soon as possible to organize a congregation, which must consist of at least five persons, and must resort under the nearest Classis, without granting this Classis any greater jurisdiction concerning mission work above the other Classes.

Article 32.

If a Minister of the Word is needed, the Board shall request a Classis to call and send the person selected by the Board, leaving the further regulation of his work and his salary to the Board. If possible, the same Classis which has already sent a missionary, shall not be requested to send another one.

Article 33.

The salary of the Minister of the Word in ordinary circumstances is \$1,000.00, and that of the Assistants \$600.00, both with free housing, and they commit themselves for a period of 7 years.

Articles 34.

The missionaries and assistants receive an annual vacation of two weeks, which is to be taken every four years.

Article 35.

These articles can be increased, decreased, or revised by each General Synod.

Adopted by the Synod of 1898.

The Officers of Synod,

J. Manni, President
G. D. De Jong, Vice-President
W. Heyns, First Clerk
P. Ekster, Second Clerk