

ACTS OF SYNOD
OF THE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HELD FROM JUNE 17 TO 26, 1908,
AT MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MORNING SESSION, JUNE 17.

Article 1.

On Wednesday morning, at 10:00 o'clock, Synod was convened in the First Christian Reformed Church, Terrace Street, Muskegon, Michigan, by Prof. L. Berkhof, Vice-President of the Synod of 1906, who also the evening before conducted the prayer service of Synod in the Terrace Street Church, speaking on I Peter 3:2-4.

Prof. Berkhof called upon the assembly to sing Psalm 120:1, read Psalms 121 and 122, pronounced the votum, and continued as follows:

ADDRESS TO SYNOD

Esteemed Brethren in Christ; ministers, elders, delegated to our broadest assembly; professors of our Theological School, pre-advisors of Synod:

"Grace, mercy, and peace be given you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the operation of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Beloved Brethren: This moment reminds us anew that the life of man forms a continuous circular course. There are definite causes, which

are continually working in the life of individuals and groups; there are certain phenomena which always result therefrom. The stream of our denominational life continues to flow, always making it necessary that we as churches convene as Synod. At the same time, this moment shows us that with the conformity of life changes also take place. Only a couple of the brethren who were members of the Synod of two years ago are present at this one.

It is for me a pleasant task, my brethren, to welcome you. It does our heart good that we again may meet so many brethren from East and West, to see them in good health, to see them ready for the work for which the Lord calls them. Yet we do not want to conceal from you that with the happiness that we now enjoy there is also a note of sadness in our heart. Among us a rent has been torn, which continues to grieve us. The Synod of 1906 elected Rev. H. Van Hoogen as its president, and we had the privilege to work at his side. We naturally lived in the expectation, that he would open the Synod of 1908, because, although our brother was advanced in years, he nevertheless displayed youthful strength. But this might not take place; the Lord had planned otherwise. And although our hearts are filled with sorrow, we do not begrudge him the rest, but thank the Lord for the good that he for many years caused us to enjoy in him.

Still a couple of others passed away within the last two years. Rev. J. E. De Groot, who already was not well when the last Synod met, has since died in the Lord; and also leader J. Molhoek, from Noordeloos, was called up from the battle. They rest from their labors and their works do follow them. Let us work while it is day, before the night comes in which no one can work.

Looking back it surely cannot be denied that we have much reason to thank the name of the Lord. Last year we might commemorate that for fifty years the Lord has carried us as a denomination. History has shown that the Church which we love had the capacity to live. That it has the strength to live was seen by the continuous development which it displayed, although at first slow, later quickly and powerfully. And now it does not befit us to boast, but rather that we cry out with the Psalmist: "Lord, we remember thy lovingkindness in the midst of thy temple."

Continuing to develop, we as a Church also came to greater selfconsciousness. Slowly on we are beginning to experience more and better that we have a task of our own to perform in this great country; we are asking more for the unadulterated principles which should guide us in our work; we are seeking more for the right application of the principles in connection with the situations which we find in this land. Therewith, it seems to me, we have touched upon the question, which now appear in various forms before Synod, and which will keep our churches busy in this land for many years to come. The knowledge of our principles and the correct application of them in relation to the spirit of this land, is the great central point to which our attention must be directed. Hence this Synod and future Synods are for us of such great importance. We also run into danger from two sides. On the one hand there is danger that in the future we, in many respects, will simply follow in the path other churches are walking in. That naturally is very easy; with all kinds of practical reasons one can easily make himself gullible that this is the best; and the other churches would naturally compliment us, if we did this. On the other hand there is the danger that we simply imitate the Netherlands; that we, having embraced the same principles that our brothers have on the other side of the ocean, now seek to apply them in the same manner. We cannot

approve the one or the other. We must continually study our principles more thoroughly, and we must increasingly learn to understand the situations in our country better, so that by the application the former takes into consideration the latter. May the King of the Church also give this Synod the wisdom to maintain the principles which we cherish, and in practice to point out those avenues which will the most advance the honor of His Name and the coming of His Kingdom. Come, let us thereto seek the blessing of the Lord.

I have said it.

Article 2.

After the Prayer of Prof. Berkhof the credentials were presented. The following brethren appeared to have been delegated:

Classis Grand Rapids East

Revs. J. J. Hiemenga, Y. P. De Jong, F. J. Drost
Elders L. Drukker, J. Oosterhuis, J. Hendrikema

Classis Grand Rapids West

Revs. H. Beets, J. Keizer, F. Doezema
Elders E. Hekman, W. Hoek, A. Bosch

Classis Hackensack

Revs. J. A. Westervelt, J. L. Van Tielen
Elder J. Boer

Classis Holland

Revs. M. Van Vessem, J. Manni, R. L. Haan
Elders H. Bosch, G. W. Mokma, A. Peters

Classis Hudson

Revs. P. Ekster, L. Bouma, H. Tule
Elders G. Vander Kooi, F. Zeeuw, M. Beinema

Classis Illinois

Revs. G. De Leeuw, K. Kuiper, W. Borgman
Elders P. G. De Boer, G. W. Nyenhuis, S. Hoekstra

Classis Iowa

Revs. E. Bos, T. Vander Ark, I. Van Dellen
Elders G. Vander Hart, N. D. Vander Kieft, W. Van Steenberg

Classis Muskegon

Revs. J. Wyngaarden, S. S. Vander Heide, J. Walkotten
Elders G. Trap, E. Dekker, J. Schreur

Classis Orange City

Revs. J. Gulker, J. Vander Mey, L. Van Dellen
Elders A. Cupido, S. Van Otterloo, H. De Vries

Classis Ost Friesland

Revs. G. L. Hoefker, J. Plesscher, H. G. Bode
Elders H. Vande Riet, G. Sinke, A. Tjepke

Article 3.

The credentials are received. It was also decided to seat the theological professors as pre-advisors, and Rev. A. Keizer as reporter.

Article 4.

The following officers of Synod were elected:
President - Rev. J. Manni
Vice-President - Rev. I. Van Dellen
First Clerk - Rev. H. Beets
Second Clerk - Rev. M. Van Vessem

Article 5.

The officers take their place on the platform. The president speaks a few fitting words of thanks and welcome, and led in prayer, whereafter Synod adjourned until 2:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Article 6.

The vice-president, Rev. I. Van Dellen, held opening devotions. The president then read the Public Declaration. Synod rose and answered in the affirmative.

Article 7.

Decision with respect to sessions: mornings

from 8:00 to 11:30; afternoons from 2:00 to 6:00, with a 15 minute recess at 9:45 and 3:30.

Article 8.

After Synod decided according to custom to appoint committees of pre-advice, the chairman appointed the following brethren to serve for the appointment of committees of pre-advice: Revs. K. Kuiper, E. Bos, P. Ekster, J. J. Hiemenga, J. A. Westervelt, J. Wyngaarden, H. C. Bode; and the elders G. W. Mokma, E. Hekman, S. Van Otterloo. These brethren depart to begin their work.

Article 9.

The chairman appoints as Obituary Committee Revs. R. L. Haan, F. J. Drost, and S. Bouma; Committee for reception of delegates from corresponding churches Revs. J. Walkotten, W. Borgman, C. De Leeuw; Committee on Appointments Revs. H. Beets, C. De Leeuw, J. L. Van Tielen, T. Vander Ark, and elder A. Peters.

Article 10.

Synod listened to addresses by Dr. J. W. Brooks of the Chicago Tract Society, and Rev. A. M. Malcom of the Associate Presbyterian. At the request of the president the first clerk responded to these brethren. The request of Dr. Brooks for congregational collections for the Tract Society was placed in the hands of the Committee for Varia, which will report concerning this and other requests. (Cf. Art. 58, X.)

Article 11.

The following reports were read and received as information, to be handed over to the various committees ad hoc: Report of the Synodical Committee, (Supplement I); Report of the Curatorium and the Theological School, (Supplement II); Emeritus Board, (Supplement VI, Cf. Art. 67, 4); Church Help Committee, (Supplement VII, Cf. Art. 49).

Article 12.

The Stated Clerk read the following letters from:

1. The Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands.
2. The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.
3. The Reformed Church of South Africa.
4. The General Classis of the Old Reformed Church in Germany.

Gratefully received as information.

Article 13.

The Report of the Committee for the appointment of Committees of Pre-Advice is read and accepted:

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Committee proposes the following Committees for Pre-Advice:

I. For the Theological School and Colleges: Revs. Kuiper, Manni, Keizer, Ekater, Vander Ark; Elders Mokma, Cupido, Drukker, and Trap. Pre-Advisors: Profs. Berkhof and Rooks. To report Thursday afternoon.

II. For Domestic and Jewish Missions: Revs. Van Tielen, Hiemenga, , H. C. Bode, I. Van Dellen; Elders Vander Kooi, De Boer, Van Otterloo, and Segreuer. Advisors: Prof. Ten Hoor.

III. For Heathen Missions: Revs. Bos, De Leeuw, Beets, Vander Mey; Elders H. Bosch, Oosterhuis, Boer, and Beinema.

IV. Publication, Church Songs, and Confessions: Revs. Haan, Borgman, Gulker, Westervelt; Elders Zeeuw, Van Steenbergen, Tjepkes, and Dekker; Advisor: Prof. Hemkes.

V. Church Order and Church Polity: Revs. Plesscher, Wyngaarden, Drost, Tuls; Elders Peters, Hoek, Vander Hart, and Hendriksma. Advisors: Prof. Heyns.

VI. Varia: Revs. Doezeema, De Jong, Bouma, L. Van Dellen; Elders Sinko, De Vries, Vander Kieft, and A. Bosch.

VII. Protests and Appeals and the Emeritus Board: Revs. Van Vesseem, Hoefker, Vander Heide, Walkotten; Elders Nyenhuis, Vander Riet, Hoekstra, Hekman.

Article 14.

Decided to adjourn until Thursday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock in order to give the committees an opportunity to engage in their work.

Closing Devotions.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 18.

Article 15.

Opening Devotions. The minutes of Wednesday's session were read and approved. An invitation to visit the Hackley Manual Training School this evening for those delegates that could attend was accepted.

Article 16.

Rev. J. Noordewier, the Synodical Treasurer, presents his report, which was received and placed in the hands of the Committee Rev. I. Van Dellen and Elder G. W. Mokma for examination, and to report later if the books were found in order.

It was also decided to adopt a quota of 13¢ per family. Synod only re-imburses the traveling expenses of the delegates to and from Muskegon.

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL TREASURER

1906 - 1908

Received from Five Classes	\$1,068.58	
Disbursed to Five Classes:		
Orange City, Hudson, Iowa,		
Ost Friesland, Hackensack	336.91	
Shortage for the previous Syn. year	23.88	
Disbursements for printing of Agenda,		
Acts, traveling expenses, etc.	407.55	
Total Disbursement	\$ 768.34	
Balance, June 1, 1908		\$300.24

J. Noordewier,
Synodical Treasurer

Article 17.

Rev. Ekster reports for the Committee of Pre-Advice on matters pertaining to the Theological School and College. The report as finally received and adopted is as follows:

Report of the Committee with respect to the Theological School and College.

1) Syned instruct the Curatorium concerning the re-incorporation of the Theological School; the State of Michigan gives a corporation a 30 year right of existence.

Your Committee advises Synod to incorporate under the Act, Part 21, Chapter 218, Section 8140, of the Compiled Laws of 1897. Adopted.

Moreover Synod gave the Curatorium the liberty to incorporate under two Acts, the one for the theological seminary and the other for the college. This liberty was granted so that the Trustees as well as the Curators could act for the rights in a twofold capacity, for both the college and the seminary.

2) Synod urges the Classes to appoint Classical Treasurers.

Your Committee proposes the following rules:

- 1) The ecclesiastical year shall run from June 1 to May 31 of the following year.
- 2) In each Classis a treasurer shall be appointed for one year, as well as an alternate. These may be re-elected. The duties of the Classical Treasurer shall consist of the following:
 - a) He shall receive collections and special offerings for all denominational funds.
 - b) After having received these funds he shall as soon as possible send a receipt and state in which number of De Wachter the accounting shall be placed.
 - c) He shall give an account on a weekly basis in De Wachter and The Banner.
 - d) At the first meeting of Classis after May 31, he shall render an annual report, incorporating what each congregation has contributed to the various funds. After Classis has approved the report, it shall be published in De Wachter and The Banner.
- 3) The Treasurers of the General Funds and their alternates shall be appointed by

the standing committees. The duties of these treasurers consists of the followings:

- a) They shall receive the collections and offerings from the Classical Treasurers. They shall no longer account for the collections and offerings separately and weekly as formerly, but once per month and Classical.
- b) After having received the funds, he shall as soon as possible send a receipt for the amount received by means of a postcard, and state in what number of De Wachter the accounting shall be published.
- c) At the annual meeting he shall file his annual report in which shall be incorporated what has been contributed by each Classis, as well as a specific account of the disbursements. This report having been approved by the various committees are to be published in De Wachter and The Banner. These reports must also be incorporated in the reports by the various secretaries to be placed in the Acts of Synod.

Grounds: a) Unity of administration.

b) Simplification of administration.

c. Saving of expenses.

d) Careful control.

Adopted.

3) Synod decide to make a revision with respect to Art. 5 of the Rules for the Curatorium. Your Committee advises that the revision be made as found in the Agendas

*The Curatorium shall hold its annual meeting in June at the time of the examinations. The examinations are given by the Faculty in cooperation with the Curatorium. The Curatorium decides whether a student is to be admitted to advanced study or has the right to a diploma. In September with the opening of the school or at any other time a special meeting may be called if the Executive Committee judges that it is necessary.

Adopted.

4) Prof. G. K. Hemkes: Concerning the professor your Committee advises the followings:

- a) At his request to grant honorable emeritation to Prof. Hemkes, with the provision that he remain a member of the Faculty with advisory vote.
- b. That he function as librarian of the School.
- c. That he receive a pension of \$500.00 per year.

Adapted.

5) The Curatorium is provisionally empowered to appoint an instructor for the college department with respect to the sciences if a qualified person is available. Adopted. Cf. Arts. 36 and 37, 6.

6) The Synod re-appoint Mr. S. S. Postma as Treasurer. Adopted.

Article 18.

With the retirement of Prof. Hemkes, it made it necessary to elect a professor for historical theology, and Synod decided to make a gross of the best qualified persons for this position. Decided to vote between the highest five; Rev. G. D. De Jong, 41 votes; Prof. B. K. Kuiper, 28; Prof. A. E. Broene, 16; Dr. R. Janssen, 12; Rev. H. Beets, 10. The last named withdrew, so that Synod went into Executive Committee to consider the first four. After discussion it was decided: "Since Art. 79, Acts 1906, (p. 48), was not carried out by the Curatorium, for this time to have the Church Order 12, p. 37, to function.

Rev. E. Bos led in prayer. After this voting took place, with the result that Rev. G. D. De Jong was elected with 36 votes against Prof. Broene with 21 votes. He was given until next Wednesday to make his decision. (Cf. Art. 45.)

Article 19.

Synod adjourned with thanksgiving by Prof. Hemkes, who addressed the assembly with a few well-chosen words for the confidence and trust placed in him during the many years as professor in our Church.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 19.

Article 20.

Opening Devotions.

Article 21.

The minutes of the previous day were read and approved. Rev. W. Bede, alternate for Rev. Doezena, was seated upon agreement with the public declaration.

Article 22.

Rev. W. Heyns was elected as professor of practical theology by a vote of 53 from 55 ballots cast. Likewise Professor J. G. Vanden Bosch was elected to tenure with 53 out of 54 votes.

Article 23.

The professors W. Rinck, A. E. Broene (Of Art. 52), B. K. Kuiper (Of Art. 36), and E. L. Van Dellen (Of Art. 36), were re-appointed for a period of 6 years. In the name of Synod the First Clerk cast the ballot for this election.

Article 24.

The Committee for the Theological School proposes the following in accordance with a proposal from Classis Illinoia as found in the Agenda:

Synod take into consideration what is being done and what should be done to make our college complete.

a) That Synod call to the attention of all Classes a word that the congregations under their resort be alerted which have done nothing or little to alert them to their duty in this matter;

b) The the Curatorium be mandated to attempt to organize a complete college in two years.

Furthermore, the following motion was adopted:

With respect to the proposed change of location or the enlargement of the Theological School, it was decided to mandate the Curatorium to look around for fitting grounds and obtainable funds, and report to the next Synod. With respect to provide for the need of room the Curatorium is empowered to rent

or buy a suitable locality, if possible in the vicinity of the school.

It is also decided: The Curatorium add to the publication of this matter the request to send the eventual proposals in before September 1. Should there be one offer amongst all these that have been examined that appears to be particularly advantageous and qualified for our purpose, then the Curatorium has the right to accept it, in the event that otherwise this opportunity would be lost.

Article 25.

Closing Devotions.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Article 26.

Opening Devotions

Article 27.

The discussion is continued with respect to the report of the Committee of Pre-advice with respect to the Theological School, as follows:

Your Committee has considered the last part of the report of the Curatorium, see Acts 1906, p. 35, V, and advises Synod:

1) To approve the first part of the report of the Curatorium, which reads: That Synod answer in the affirmative the questions of Prof. Ten Hoor. These questions are:

- a) "May I in my teaching proceed from the principle that God is the object of Theology?"
- b) "May I also therein proceed from the principle that the Church has the highest authority over Theological science and over our Theological School?"

2) That, in consequence of the mandate of the previous Synod to give grounds for the denominational standpoint taken so far, to declare the followings:

"This mandate of Synod proceeds from the idea that our Church thus far has taken a definite stand in this matter, namely, that God is the object of Theology, and that the Church has the highest authority over Theological science and the Theological School. Now.

evidently the Synod of 1906 did not mean with its mandate that all possible grounds should be adduced for this standpoint. We prefer to believe that it merely wanted to have the Curatorium to adduce a few grounds, which led the Church to this standpoint without summing up various proofs, which later are added for the justification of this position. And thus your Committee believes the Church has taken this standpoint:

I. Concerning the first point upon the following grounds:

- 1) Because God is presented to us in the Holy Scriptures as the object of our knowledge. Among others see I John 5:20; John 17:3;
- 2) Because our Belgic Confession in Article II says that we know God by two means, which are then mentioned. Herein and that which follows proceeds from the idea that God is the object of our knowledge;
- 3) Because Reformed Theologians in the course of time declared, the one less and the other more clearly that in Theology God is the object. Calvin says: Inst., Book I, Ch. 2, 31, "Concerning now the knowledge of God I understand it not only that we understand that a God exists, but whereby we know what we must know concerning Him," etc.

Mastricht says in Vol. I, p. 35, par. 45, (Ed. 1749):
"Christian Theology proceeded uniquely from God, concerning God and dealing with matters divine, reaching toward God and leading and bringing man."

Piotet calls it (Christian Theology, Vol. I, p. 1):
"The word Theology means the science which leads man to God and the divine." These statements could be multiplied.

II. Concerning the second point, upon the following grounds:

- 1) Because according to the Holy Word the Church of God has been entrusted with the Word of God, Rom. 3:2; it is the pillar and ground of the truth, I Tim. 3:15; and it must take care for the continual trustworthy proclamation of the truth;
- 2) Because God has given the promise to His Church, that He would lead it by His Spirit in all truth, and therein gave the guarantee that it would keep the Word of God in purity;

- 3) Because Theology is generally taught with an eye to practical matters, that is, with an eye to the preaching of the Word, and the Church naturally has a great interest in the forming of its future ministers.

After some discussion a substitute motion was made: "Synod approve the decision of the Curatorium and accept it with this understanding, that Synod appoint a Committee to consider the relationship between the Theological School and the Church, and to report at the next Synod." This is rejected. Now another substitute motion is made of the following contents: "Concerning the second point insofar as it concerns the relationship of the Church to the Theological School, Synod proceeding from the factual situation that the Church has established the Theological School and maintains it, declares that it considers this existing relationship in this principal manner, that the Theological School as an institution for preparation for the ministry of the Word proceeds from the Church, and that it therefore is the property of the Church, and under its authority."

After lengthy discussion, also with respect to this substitute a motion was made to send this substitute to the Consistories for deliberation, and then Classes, and that thereafter the next Synod make a decision in this matter. In conformity with the decision of the Curatorium, Synod did not further enter into these matters.

Article 28.

Classis adjourned until Monday 2:00 p.m. Closing Devotions.

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 22.

Article 29.

Opening Devotions.

Article 30.

Roll call. No changes except that Elder Ruster takes the place of Elder A. Bosch. He agrees with the Public Declaration. Rev. H. Fryling was seated with advisory vote concerning matters pertaining to the Heathen Missions.

Article 31.

An invitation from the Goodrich Transportation Co. for a boat ride on Tuesday was accepted with thanks. It was decided to hold a evening session beginning at 7:00.

Article 32.

After the Report of the Board of Heathen Mission was read and received as information, the Report of the Committee of Pre-advice for Heathen Missions was considered. Reporter Rev. O. De Leeuw. The report as it was finally adopted is as follows:

Report of the Committee of Pre-advice
for Heathen Missions.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Committee has the following to report:

I. The Committee is of the opinion that the conclusions in the report concerning the question, "whether a call for a missionary may be extended by a Classis or Synod," (Art. 108, 23, Acts 1906), are acceptable so that they are in harmony with the declaration of the congregation of Fourth Paterson, which is as follows: "Since the major assemblies of our Churches in Classes or Synod form a legal representation of those churches, it follows that not only may each Consistory separately call and ordain a Minister of the Word, but that besides each Classis and Synod in combined assembly may do so where a Minister of the Word is needed for joint work." Adopted

II. Your Committee believes that one should go even further than the report, being convinced that where a Mission is carried on by joint action, that the Classis or Classes or Synod concerned, as the circumstance may be, must jointly call and send out.

Herewith the overtures of the Classes Grand Rapids West, Illinois, and Orange City are answered. At the same time

herewith the preposal contained in the minority report is rejected. Adopted.

Against the acceptance of Point II the following pretest was registered:

PROTEST

The undersigned protest against the decision of Synod as stated in number 2 of the Report of the Committee of Pre-advice for Heathen Missions:

In the first place, because no grounds are given, which should have been done with the acceptance of such a deep radical principle, the more so since the Consistories and the Classes could not anticipate that such a proposal would be brought to Synod, and that thus this question could not be weighed and discussed in a fitting manner;

In the second place, a) because this decision will lead to the introduction of general offices which is not found in Scripture after the time of the Apostles and Evangelists; b) because in the calling to these offices the office-bearers free themselves from the congregation by which by right primarily rests the matter of calling as appears from Acts 1:23; 6:2-6; 13:1-3; II Cor. 8:19, as also from the Belgic Confession Art. 31, the Church Order, Articles 4 and 5, and from the forms for the ordination of office-bearers; c) because the church order which does not recognize such general offices, makes no provision for the ecclesiastical position for those chosen office-bearers, because as office-bearers they cannot be a members of any Consistory; d) because this decision will lead us inexorably in the arms of Collegialism, which threatens us from all sides.

I. Van Dellen

E. Hekman

H. De Vries

III. In the event that Synod adopts the principle that for joint action in mission work among the heathen the calling should proceed from the Classis or Classes or Synod, who undertake this work jointly, your Committee advises that Synod appoint a committee of three to report to the next Synod and to propose the necessary revisions in the present functioning rules together with the form for the ordination of Missionary Ministers of the Word among the heathen, so that matters will conform with

the adopted principle. Adopted. For members of the Committee see Art. 80.

IV. With respect to the overture of Classis Iowa your Committee recommends the proposal of this Classis, that the Board of Heathen Missions pay three-quarters of the traveling expenses of the delegate of Classis; a) because Classis Iowa is already burdened with so many traveling expenses; and b) because the presence of this delegate among the brethren is financially to the advantage for the Mission by addressing Mission Feasts, etc. Adopted.

V. The Board of Heathen Missions gave us the following proposals for consideration, which your Committee recommends for adoption.

1. Formal approbation for the appointment of Rev. G. D. De Jong as Treasurer. Adopted.

2. Expression of a word of thanks of the Church of the former treasurer, the Hon. J. W. Garvelink. Adopted.

3. The definite release of brother A. Vander Wagen. (Of. the Report of the Heathen Missions, Supplement IV, sub. II.). Adopted.

4. That the principalship of the Zuni Mission be made independent from the Navajo Mission, so that the present Minister of the Word or his successor shall be principal in his own domain. To grant permission in connection herewith to make the necessary revisions in a few terms in the Rules as found in Art. 25. In place of "The Board appoint one of the missionaries as principal missionary," to substitute "The Board appoints for each field one of the missionaries as principal" etc. Adopted, with the understanding that the elimination of this entire principalship be referred to the Committee under number III mentioned above. Cf. Art. 80.

5. Permission be granted to place a teacher at Zuni for \$300.00 per years with board and room. The purpose is that such a sister: a) that she teach the children of the missionary; b) perform field work; c) begin a Christian School at Zuni. Rooms can easily be provided in the Mission House. Adopted.

6. Permission granted to erect a mission hospital at Rehoboth. At first a building for \$2,500.00, to which additions can be made. Adopted.

7. Permission granted to appoint a Christian doctor.

for the institution and itinerate work for a specific period of years for a salary of \$1,200.00 per year, even as the ministers of the Word, with their customary emoluments, according to Art. 32 of the Rules. Adopted.

8. Permission to build a home for the doctor and his family for about \$1,200.00. Adopted.

9. Permission granted for a special collection for the purpose mentioned in 6 and 8. Granted.

10. Permission granted when there is need to appoint a nurse for the Rehoboth Hospital. Adopted.

11. Concerning the following point your Committee withheld its advice, and sends it without further comment to Synod.

Synod is informed that our missionaries in relationship with other Protestant Missionaries in those areas met in a conference, and have agreed not only to a desired unity in the language, spelling, and terminology of Navajo publications be taken, but also to divide the mission field among the different denominations, which are working there at the present. The Navajo Exploration Committee of this Southwest Indian Conference, has after mature deliberation recommended that the field around Tohatchi n. l. 25 miles north therefrom, 60 miles south, 15 miles west, and 160 miles east, with approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Indians be the responsibility of our Church. The Board asks Synod whether it can agree therewith. The inspector who was present at one of these conferences in 1907 brought in a favorable report concerning the work of the conference. Received as information.

12. Your Committee further advises that permission be given to call a second missionary among the Navajos. The purpose is to place him at Covered Springs, in the Indian language Thokisjee, 25 miles northeast of Rehoboth and 40 miles southeast of Tohatchi, or at Waa-in-tanh, not far from Seven Lakes, 20 miles north of Mount Taylor. 60 miles from the spur, and about 60 miles from Tohatchi, and 35 miles from Covered Springs or of Pueblo Alto. The Board has not yet completed its conferences with the mission force which of the two has preference, if we want only one field. It is necessary that a third missionary be appointed, but the Board does not experience the freedom to propose this to Synod. Adopted.

13. Permission be granted to call a second missionary for Zuni, if the way thereto is opened before the next Synod.
Adopted.

14. Your Committee also advises to raise the remuneration of the secretary and the treasurer from \$50.00 to \$100.00, since their work and responsibility increases. Adopted.

15. Finally, we inform Synod that the following brethren were elected or re-elected to represent their respective Classes as members of the Board, for whom the approbation of Synod is requested.

Grand Rapids East	Rev. J. B. Hoekstra
Grand Rapids West	Rev. H. Beets
Hackensack	Rev. J. Dolfin
Holland	Rev. W. De Groot
Hudson	Rev. G. Westenberg
Illinois	Rev. E. Breen
Iowa	Rev. T. Vander Ark
Muskegon	Rev. R. Bolt
Orange City	Rev. W. P. Van Wyk
Ost Friesland	Rev. H. Ahuis
	Adopted.

Article 33.

Closing Devotions.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 23

Article 34.

Opening Devotions.

Article 35.

Decided that the officers of synod inform the literary professors of their re-appointments.

The officers of synod have already sent letters of call to the theological professor (Artt. 18, 22).

Article 36.

At his request Prof. E. L. Van Dellen (Cf. Art. 23) ^{is granted} a two year leave of absence to continue his studies. (Cf. Art. 37, 6). Synod also gave permission to grant the re-appointment of Prof. B. K. Kuiper as literary professor (Art. 23), with the provision that he at any time has the right to accept a call.

Article 37.

Continuation of the Report of Pre-advice concerning the matters of the Theological School. Reporter, P. Ekster.

- 1) Concerning Art. 79, Acts 1906. Your Committee is of the opinion that this article should be referred back to the Curatorium. To which it adds that this is valid for the literary professors as well as the theological professors. Adopted
- 2) Synod declare the desirability that in various places in our country academies be established where instruction can be given in the Reformed spirit. Classis Illinois. Your Committee is of the opinion that this is desirable. Adopted.
- 3) The third point on page seven of the Agenda from Classis Hackensack; Synod review its decision concerning the number of Curators from each Classis, p. 30, Art. 62, Acts 1906, and have one Curator from each Classis. Grounds for review:
 - 1) Change in the method of examinations.
 - 2) Increase of Classes.Your Committee judges not to enter into this point concerning a change, which Synod has already adopted in the Rules of the Curatorium. Adopted.
- 4) Synod declare that students who live in the East or West of the Mississippi will not have to pay tuition to our school in Grand Rapids, as a fair consideration for the high traveling expenses, which these students have to pay annually. Classis Orange City. Your Committee is of the opinion that students who live in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico, and west of these

States should be freed from paying tuition, and to leave the rest as it now is. Adopted.

5) In connection with the overture of Classis Hudson, Acts 1906, Art. 62, 6; "Classis advises that the College to be established proceed from the Church, and remain united with the Church," your Committee has the following to report:

Your Committee understands the question of the relationship between the College and the Church in the future not as a question that has to be answered from principal point of view, and that for the following reasons:

- 1) because, supposing that one accepted as principle that the Church must care for literary as well as theological preparation for its future Ministers, such cannot give the go ahead sign, since in the future also the College will not only be a preparatory school, but also a general institution for advanced education;
- 2) because, although in a principal sense it is safer for a College to originate from a particular initiative, it cannot be denied that the Church, if it thinks for one reason or another this would be desirable, has the right to support and manage a College;
- 3) because a College proceeding from the Church can only mean that the Church support, care for, and therefore has the highest authority; not that the Church in its official capacity gives instruction. This last has so far not happened as yet. For all these reasons it appears to your Committee that practical considerations in this matter must decide. And then your Committee advises that the College and the Church remain united in this sense, that the Church support, take care of, and have the highest authority over the College:
 - 1) because the Church then has greater assurance that also with respect to the College consideration will be given the ~~the~~ special requirements which must be established in this country for those who are being prepared for the ministry;
 - 2) because in our estimation the College has a better financial guarantee, if it remains united with the Church, than when it becomes independent;
 - 3) because for practical reasons it would not be feasible to support and manage a College by any other means.

6) Since Prof. E. L. Van Dellen has requested a leave of absence for a period of two years, your

Committee proposes the following persons to Synod in his place:

- 1) Mr. Johannes Broene, A. M., and Bachelor of Theology from Clark University, Worcester, Mass.
- 2) Cand. D. Muyskens, A. M., from Lynden, Wash.
- 3) Mr. R. B. Kuyper, A. M., Roseland, Ill.

Mr. Broene was elected by a vote of 50 from 57 ballots cast. (Cf. Art. 17, 5 and Arts. 35 and 62.)

7) Your Committee informs Synod that the following brethren were elected by their respective Classes as members for 4 years for the Curatorium, and recommends their approval:

Classis Grand Rapids East

Rev. J. J. Hiemenga; Alternate Rev. Y. P. De Jong

Classis Grand Rapids West

Rev. J. Keizer; Alternate Rev. H. Beets

Rev. F. Doezeema, 2 years; Alternate Rev. L. Veltkamp

Classis Hackensack

Rev. J. A. Westervelt, 4 years; Alternate Rev. J. Dolfin, 2 years

Classis Holland

Rev. J. Manni

Classis Hudson

Rev. G. Westenberg

Classis Illinois

Rev. K. Kuiper; Alternate Rev. B. H. Einink

Classis Muskegon

Rev. J. I. Fles; Alternate Rev. H. Keegstra

Classis Iowa

Rev. T. Vander Ark; Alternate Rev. I. Van Dellen

Classis Orange City

Rev. W. P. Van Wyk; Alternate Rev. H. J. Heynen

Classis Ost Friesland

Rev. J. H. Schultz, 4 years; Alternate Rev. H. Ahuis

Rev. G. L. Hoehker, 2 years

Approved.

The quota for the Theological School was again set at 60% per family.

Article 38.

The report of the Committee for the General Fund of Domestic Missions was read. (Supplement III.)

Thereafter the Report of the Committee of Pre-advice for Domestic Mission was considered. Rev. J. J. Hiemenga, reporter.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Committee of Pre-advice has the honor to present the following concerning Domestic Missions:

1. a) Concerning the overture of Classis Grand Rapids West which urges Synod to return to the former method with respect to Domestic Missions (which was followed before June, 1907) your Committee advises not to enter into the matter since each Classis knows the peculiar needs in their own circles which they can judge and take care of. Adopted.

b) With respect to the principal objections against the new method registered by Classis Grand Rapids West and the Consistory of Fourth Paterson, your Committee advises that the further regulation of this work by Classis, in relationship with the calling of a missionary must be in harmony with the principle which Synod in this matter has adopted (Art. 32, 2). Adopted. (See further Art. 53.)

2. Concerning the overtures from Classis Muskegon and Classis Illinois to cancel their working together with Classis Holland, your Committee advises not to enter into the matter, since the Synod of 1906 made no decision with respect to general working together. In the special case of missionary G. G. Haan your Committee judges that these Classes are to adhere to the decision of the Synod of 1906, Acts, Art. 67, C, a and b. Adopted.

3. With reference to the overture of Classis Muskegon to awaken the various Mission Committees to supply their missionaries with literature to be distributed on the mission fields, your Committee advises:

- a. That Synod agree to this overture.
- b. That it center attention especially upon De Wachter, The Banner, and Der Bote as qualified literature for this purpose.

- c. Advise the Mission Committee to confer with the publishers of the papers to obtain this material at the lowest possible cost. Adopted.

4. It is proposed and accepted to approve the requests of the various Classes for aid, (See Supplement III).

5. With respect to the religious needs of the Hollanders in South America a lengthy letter was read from Dr. Van Lonkhuizen. (See Supplement XI). In connection with an overture from Classis Grand Rapids East with respect to this matter it is decided:

- a) Synod decide that for a period of two years to grant \$400.00 to be taken from the Treasury of the General Fund for Home Missions for the salary of Reformed minister in South America.
- b) To recommend that a collection be taken for the erection of buildings there, (with the understanding that the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands do the same).
- c) To appoint a committee to cooperate with a committee from the Netherlands to promote this cause. (For committee members see Art. 80, 16).
- d) The General Synod of the Netherlands' Gereformeerde Kerken is to be requested likewise to appoint a committee and take up a collection
(See Art. 53 for a continuation of this report)

Article 39.

Closing Devotions.

TUESDAY EVENING SESSION.

Article 40.

Opening Devotions. Brother Heeringa, alternate for elder H. Bosch, agrees to the Public Declaration.

Article 41.

After the report of De Wachter Committee was read and received as information (Supplement VIII), consideration was given to the Report of the Committee of Pre-advice concerning publication

matters, etc. Rev. W. Borgman, reporter. It is as follows:

1. "Synod decide to publish De Wachter in book format."
Classis Iowa

Your Committee advises Synod not to enter into this matter for the following reasons:

- a) The increased costs. Only a small amount of money could be transferred from De Wachter Fund to the Fund for the Theological School.
- b) Decreased income. According to the report of De Wachter Committee the receipts were less than the former term.
- c) The attractive format. De Wachter remain a Church periodical in distinction from other publications distributed among our people. Adopted.

2. "Synod decide that De Wachter no longer accept advertisement from land agents and patent medicines, as not belonging in a Church paper." Classis Illinois, and "Synod instruct De Wachter Committee no longer accept unreliable medicine advertisements in our Church paper." Classis Orange City, also from the same Classis; "Synod do not permit land advertisement to be published in De Wachter unless there is sufficient guarantee that they are reliable."

The advice of your Committee is that Synod alert De Wachter Committee to be very careful in accepting various advertisements, because it is an offence to many subscribers. Adopted.

3. Classis requests Synod to publish an official Yearbook." Classis Grand Rapids West, and "A Yearbook be published officially, and that the profits after expenses be for the benefit of the Theological School." Classis Holland.

Your Committee finds that the Synods of 1900 and 1902 expressed themselves clearly on this matter, and advises to abide thereby. Grounds:

- a) If the Synod could not be the publisher of Yearbooks then, because it was not its calling, so also now.
- b) The book would not gain in greater accuracy. Incomplete and imperfect statistics will continue to exist.
- c. After paying the Editor that would have to be appointed there would be no advantages to grant to the Theological School. Adopted.

4. Synod re-appoint the Editor-in-Chief, the Departmental Editors, and the Business Manager of De Wachter. Adopted. Since Rev. De Jong was appointed professor, De Wachter Committee is to appoint an alternate editor. The annual honorarium for the Editor-in-Chief was increased by \$100.00. And that of the co-workers was increased \$25.00.

5. A. The Committee of Pre-advice concerning the Report of the Committee concerning the matter of the principal relationship of the Church and the Sunday School and religious societies (Acts 1906, Art. 108, 150, in the judgment of Synod was not successful in finding the principal relationship in the report, wherefore Synod upon the advice of the Committee of Pre-advice, did not accept this matter for its responsibility:

- a) because the Committee did not find what Synod wanted;
- b) because the compilers themselves were not successful to give this principal relationship.

B. Concerning the "Plan for a New Sunday School Roster", it was decided; Synod anew appoint a Committee to show the principal relationship between the Church and the Sunday School according to our Confessions, and meanwhile table the Sunday School Roster. (Cf. Art. 80 for members of this Comm.)

6. Decided to take from the Synodical Fund the amount of better than \$100.00 for the publishing of a Minority Report concerning the Mission Order, and having appeared in a Supplement of De Wachter, September 11, 1907.

7. A request from Olassis Grand Rapids West that an extract of all reports to and by Synod which are published in De Wachter at the same time be sent to The Banner and Reformierte Bode, preferably in the language in which these periodicals are published, upon the request of the Committee was adopted.

Article 42.

Closing Devotions,

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 24.

Article 43.

Opening Devotions.

Article 44.

Rev. J. Bolt, alternate for Rev. R. L. Haan, declared his agreement with the Public Declaration. The minutes of the Friday, Monday, and Tuesday morning sessions are read and approved.

Article 45.

Rev. G. D. De Jong announced his acceptance of the appointment as professor (Art. 18). The arrangements for his salary and installation are left to the Guratorium.

Article 46.

Rev. R. J. G. McKnight addressed Synod as delegate of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Rev. Louis as field secretary of Hebrew Missions, and Mr. J. M. Hitchcox on behalf of the National Christian Association.

The First Clerk responded.

Article 47.

The Report of the Committee for Jewish Missions is read and received as information. (Supplement V.)

Rev. J. J. Hiemenga reported for the Committee of Pre-advices:

With respect to Jewish Missions your Committee has the following to advise. Instruction from Classis Orange City: "Synod lead Jewish Missions in the Reformed ecclesiastical stream."

Your Committee considers this to be advisable, but judges that the time is not ripe therefore:

- a) Because such a mission demands too much money;
- b) Because for such a mission we do not have the workers;
- c) Because the present method of work

could open the way, while the influence of our Church increases in this mission.

Hence your Committee advises:

- a) For the time being to continue as we now do;
- b) To urge our delegates to exert as much influence as possible to lead this mission in a Reformed bedstream.
- c) That these delegates serve the next Synod with advice with respect to this matter. Adopted. (For committee members see Art. 80.)

Article 48.

Rev. Wyngaarden read the Report of the Committee with respect to Church Order and Church Governments:

Classis Grand Rapids East requests approbation in the manner in which it expects to deal with Consistory of Cutlerville, if it continues to refuse to submit to declarations of broader assemblies. In refutation to this, however, Classis Hudson requests that a review be made of the Synodical decision concerning this matter, and that in this sense, that the Consistory be given the liberty to act, where it cannot be proven that it acted on unbiblical grounds. (Acts 1904, Art. 139, 1, and 1906, Art. 43, 2.)

The Committee first of all advises to declare that the Classis insofar as it has placed itself upon the standpoint directed by Synod, and has attempted to execute this decision, it has acted correctly ^{from} church judicial point of view.

However, to give the requested approbation, your Committee considers it desirable, that Synod, before acting, consider whether the previous Synods were well enough informed concerning the concrete case, concerning which this is all about. The decision of the previous Synods rests on the information that the woman in question was completely innocent in the matter. But after having received more information your Committee is of the opinion that with the beginning of ecclesiastical action an exhaustive investigation was not made, neither by the Consistory of Alpine Avenue nor by the Classis, and that both investigated more the side of the woman than of the man, and that thereby the conduct of the woman in the whole divorce history was seen in too much of a favorable light. The Consistory of Cutlerville having recognized this, has great objection to continue her as a member; not only because it considers this to be in conflict with God's

Word, but also because once before in a similar case, upon the advice of the Classis, it acted differently, and that the congregation insists that this case be handled in the same way.

The grounds for the judgment of the Consistory that the blame for the unbiblical divorce lies especially with the woman, are these: a) her refusal to live a wedded life; b) she left her husband three times; c) the filing of a cross-bill, even though it was at the advice of the Consistory; d) her refusal to do everything possible for a reconciliation with her husband; e) the testimony of her parents, who labored for a reconciliation between the two before all this ecclesiastical action took place. They testify that it was not the man but the woman, who was the cause that they could not live with one another, that he was willing to reconcile, but she was not.

Without signifying which of the two, the man or the woman, is the most guilty, your Committee, however, is of the opinion that the Consistory has provided sufficient evidence that the woman is also very guilty with respect to this unbiblical divorce, and that it is therefore very necessary for Synod to reconsider its decision.

The advice of your Committee is that the decision based upon insufficient information be recalled, and that the woman after such an active separation had no right to marry another. Grounds: Matthew 5:32; 19:9; I Corinthians 7:11.

Adopted.

For the continuation of this report see Article 54.

Article 49.

It is decided to grant the treasurer of Church Help a gratification of \$25.00 from the fund for work performed in the past. And that from now on he receive an honorarium of \$25.00 annually.

Article 50.

Closing Devotions

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Article 51.

Opening Devotions.....

Rev. J. Timmermann, alternate for Rev. H. Beets, was seated after agreeing to the Public Declaration.

Article 52.

A letter was received from Prof. A. E. Broene (Art. 23), that he accepted the appointment extended to him; he did, however request to be granted a two-year leave of absence for post graduate study; decided to grant this.

Article 53.

Continuation of the Report of the Committee of Pre-advice for Domestic Missions. Rev. J. J. Hiemenga, reporter. (Cf. Art. 38 above).

Your Committee proceeding from the accepted principle with respect to Missions, (Art. 32, 2), has the honor to present the following to Synods:

1. Your Committee judges that the regulation of Domestic Missions should rest with the Classes:

a. Because this Mission differs entirely from Heathen Mission, concerning:

1. The areas that are being worked.
2. The persons with whom we have to deal.
3. The work that is carried on by Domestic Missions in weak churches.

b. Because each Classis is better acquainted with the peculiar needs of the local mission fields.

Adopted.

2. The contractual obligation with respect to the ministers, congregations, Classes, and the General Fund involved, continue until the transitional period has been consummated.

a. The position of the office.

b. The financial relation, of whatever nature that may be.

Adopted.

GENERAL RULES

During the transitional period the following decisions shall be valid:

1. Concerning finances:

a. Every Classis shall have its own treasury for this work;

- b. That further a General Treasury shall be instituted, from which aid shall be given to Classes in need.
- c. That the name of this general fund shall be: The General Fund for Domestic Missions.
- d. That each congregation shall take at least three collections per year for this work, the first collection for the Classical Fund, and the other two for the General Fund.
- e. That Synod shall control all requests for aid, and that a Committee shall be appointed at each Synod which shall administer the Fund and execute the decisions of Synod. Adopted.

2. Concerning the Committee for the General Fund:

- a. That it may decrease the promised aid in the course of the year, if the disbursements of the Classis involved should measurably decrease through the departure of one or more missionaries.
- b. That the Executive Committee, if needs be, shall hold special meetings. A motion of the Executive Committee shall be considered adopted, if, of the remaining six members, at least three vote in favor by ballot.
- c. That the treasurer, in case of a shortage, shall distribute the funds percentage wise, and to pay in full when the fund allows.
- d. That the Committee shall meet annually in June, called in time by the secretary, to consider the requests that have been received, and give its advice to Synod concerning the requests, and to file its report with Synod. Adopted.

3. Concerning the Classes:

- a. That they are obligated to provide the necessary information to the Committee for the General Fund.
- b. That they must send in their requests for aid each year at the meeting of the Committee for the General Fund.
- c. That each Classis shall be represented by a member to the Committee for the General Fund, and shall appoint alternates respectively, who shall fill the vacancies occurring through departures from Classis or for other reasons. Classis shall inform the Committee concerning the changes made.
- d. Each Classis shall give a quarterly report of the work in its midst in De Wachter.

- e. Synod request the treasurer of the Committee of the General Fund to obtain a bond of \$1,500.00, and the grant treasurer a salary of \$60.00 and the secretary \$40.00 annually.

Further your Committee advises Synod:

A. To appoint a Committee of 5 to devise a plan for this mission in conformity with the adopted decision.

B. To mandate this Committee in divising this plan to protect the official position of the missionaries in every respect on equality with all ministers of the Word.

C. That this Committee report at the next Synod. (For members of the Committee see Art. 80, 17.) Adopted.

Synod formally approved the appointment of the following:

DELEGATES TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE GENERAL FUND.

Classis Hackensack	Rev. J. Dolfin
" Hudson	Rev. D. Vander Ploeg
" Muskegon	Rev. J. W. Brink
" Grand Rapids East	Rev. F. J. Drost
" Grand Rapids West	Rev. M. J. Boema
" Holland	Rev. M. Van Vessum
" Illinois	Rev. H. M. Vander Ploeg
" Iowa	Rev. J. B. Vanden Hoek
" Orange City	Rev. H. J. Heynen
" Ost Friesland	Rev. H. Ahuis

Article 54.

The Committee of Pre-advice for Church Order and Church Polity. Rev. J. Wyngaarden, reporter. (Cf. Art. 48).

The following was adopted:

I. A request for a revision of Art. 34, 4, Acts 1906, concerning the afternoon service on the Lord's Day with respect to the English speaking congregations. Synod decided that the regulation of the services belonged to the Consistory.

Upon the advice of the Committee Synod of 1906 declared that Synod had taken the correct stand.

II. Classis Grand Rapids West asks if Art. 38 of the Church Order is valid for the organization of a (new) congregation within the domain of an existing local church; if not, then Synod declare what rights the local church has in the event there is a request for the organization of a new congregation within the border of the local church.

Naturally Art. 38 is valid for the organization of a congregation within the borders of an existing local church as well as the organization of any other congregation. Concerning the question of the rights of the local church in the event of the organization of a congregation within its borders, the answer appears to be sufficient that the organization of such a congregation must first have the approval of the Consistory upon request, and thereafter also of the Classis. As a matter of course the Consistory has the right to refuse approval. But then those concerned have the right to appeal to Classis, and if needs be to Synod. Then the decision rests with the Classis or Synod. Should the request be denied, everything remain in status quo. See also Acts 1898, Art. 89. Adopted.

III. Classis Orange City desires that Synod appoint deputies ad examina according to Art. 4 of the Church Order, so that the churches can control the admittance to the ministry of the Word in its midst according to Art. 36 of the Church Order.

In agreement with the overture of Classis Orange City, we believe it is necessary that Art. 4, 10, of the Church Order be deleted, and that in its place the following be substituted:

1. Since this examination according to Art. 4 of the Church Order must take place through the agency of deputies of Synod, Synod appoint the Deputies ad examina, from each Classis one. Each Classis shall recommend to Synod a deputy and an alternate.

2. At every peremptoir examination at least two deputies of neighboring Classes shall be present.

3. At the end of the examination, whereby opportunity will be given for questioning, the deputies jointly shall give their advice.

4. Should the decision of Classis differ from that which the deputies advised, and by as much further examination as deemed necessary, or through consultation with Classis, no agreement can be reached, so that the deputies cannot agree with the decision

then they shall inform Classis that they will place the matter before Synod for a decision.

5. As long as Synod has made no decision the ordination and the inauguration of the candidate will have to wait. Moreover no church from another Classis shall be permitted to call him, nor may another Classis examine him.

6. Should a decision be made for a re-examination at a following meeting of Classis, then at least three others must be present.

7. The deputies ad examina shall file their reports to Synod.

8. The traveling expenses of the deputies shall be re-imbursed from the Synodical Fund. Adopted.

IV. The following Deputies ad Examina were approved:

Classis	Grand Rapids East	Rev. Y. P. De Jong
"	Grand Rapids West	Rev. J. Timmermann
"	Hackensack	Rev. J. Dolfin
"	Holland	Rev. A. Keizer
"	Hudson	Rev. D. Vander Ploeg
"	Illinois	Rev. H. M. Vander Ploeg
"	Iowa	Rev. T. Vander Ark
"	Muskegon	Rev. P. D. Van Vliet
"	Orange City	Rev. J. Byleveld
"	Ost Friesland	Rev. J. H. Schultz

V. Classis Iowa requests clarification of Art. 5, of the Church Order, namely, if a calling church must repay the congregation from which it called the minister, concerning restitution which the last named congregation had to pay. Decided: only traveling expenses have to be repaid.

VI. Synod declare that where believers, members of our church, live, and worship regularly, but are not yet organized, the sacraments may be administered. Cl. Ost Friesland.

Advice: If possible the organization of a congregation should take place before the sacraments are administered. However, if the time is not yet ripe for organization, then the membership papers of such members should reside with a neighboring congregation, and under the supervision of the Consistory can

have the sacraments administered, yet not without preaching, and not without consistorial representation with the administration in order to have supervision. Adopted.

VII. Classis Ost Friesland request the continuation of the Committee with respect to the revision of the Church Order, with the mandate as it is defined in the printed report. (Acta 1906, 108.)

1. The Committee be continued, and to it be added Proff. Ten Hoor and Berkhof. (See Art. 80, 15, for the members.)
2. Its mandate be defined as follows:
 - a. The principles of the Church Order of Dordt must be adhered to without any tampering;
 - b. The Church Order must be as brief and compact as possible, and must be confined to the general and abiding principles and rules of Church government. And yet it must be so comprehensive a form of authority, such as an independent denomination without State control needs for a good and complete church government.
 - c. With respect to what is revised, deleted, and added the Committee is to act along the lines of the printed report in De Wachter of March 18.
 - d. The Committee publish its concept in De Wachter, The Banner, and Der Bote, before the next Synod, so that it can examine the report and act accordingly. Adopted.

VIII. With respect to the question of Classis Illinois: "Synod point out on what grounds foundlings adopted by believers may be baptized," your Committee of Pre-advice presented a lengthy report. Finally, it was decided to appoint a Committee to report to the next Synod concerning this matter. Members of the Committee see Art. 80, §9.

IX. Occasioned by an overture from Classis Illinois with respect to public confession concerning the transgression of the seventh commandment, before marriage, the advice is adopted: Not to accept this form of confession, but to leave the form up to the Consistory, since the confession at the least takes place before the full Consistory, and the names are announced to the congregation.

X. Classis Grand Rapids West urgently requests Synod to clarify the grounds for the pronouncement

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of Synod of 1890, At. 66, which is as follows: "May the man, from whom his wife received a divorce, because he committed adultery, in the event that while his first wife is still living, he marries again, may he become a member of the congregation. Synod answered the question negatively. There was no concrete case.

It is naturally impossible for this Synod to say upon what grounds a Synod of almost 20 years ago decided as it did. What it can do is to declare what it would consider to be sufficient grounds for such a decision. And then it appears to us that such a man cannot be a member, because his adultery did free his offended wife, but not him. Before God he remained united with this woman, and his second marriage is consequently a life of adultery. If this were not so, then the way would be open for each one to free himself from his wife by means of adultery, and to marry another who is the object of his adulterous desires, and yet in peace remain with the Church, that after all this was done with ungodly set purpose, through a public confession to be reconciled with the Church. The point of the divine ordinance: "Whosoever shall put away his wife except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery," would be broken, and robbed of its power. And according to the manner of the Pharisees a way would be found to evade the command of God, and a decision, that such a person could be a member of the Church, would bear the character of ruling whereby God's command would be made useless.

Adopted.

XI. Classis Illinois directs the attention of Synod to the fact that in some congregations Catechism seems to be falling by the way, and requests Synod to warn all consistories to be faithful in this matter.

Decided that with an eye to the danger to place catechism in the background or to dispense with it entirely, Synod alerts all the Classes and Consistories earnestly and urgently to guard against this as much as possible.

Article 55.

At his request Mr. G. A. Pegram, Michigan "State" Agent for the National Christian Association, addresses Synod. The Second Clerk of Synod responded.

To Rev. J. Noordewier the privilege is granted to speak on behalf of the congregation of Denver and make a plea for interest free shares to come to her help.

Article 56.

Decided to have an evening session beginning at 7:30.
Closing Devotions.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION.

Article 57.

Opening Devotions.

Article 58.

Rev. Y. P. De Jong read the report of the Committee of Pre-advice for Varia, as follows:

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Committee has the honor to report the followings:

I. The first matter to which your attention is called is the overture from Classis Grand Rapids West, which requests Synod that the minority report concerning the Conclusions of Utrecht, which was tabled by the Synod of 1906, be adopted. See Acts 1906, Art. 93, 11.

With respect to this matter your Committee presents two-fold advice. A majority and a minority report.

THE MAJORITY REPORT: Synod is advised to adopt the Minority Report. Grounds:

- a. The last Synod rejected the Majority Report concerning the differences, and apparently tabled the Minority Report in order that it could be discussed at a later date. Many of the delegates have so understood it.
- b. That there is also a difference of opinion among us concerning these points.
- c. These conclusions find general agreement, and are fitting to promote peace and harmony.
- d. It is so necessary that we have this peace and harmony with an eye to the many other dangers that beset us in this country.

THE MINORITY REPORT.

Your Committee advises Synod not to enter into the Minority Report concerning the four Conclusion of Utrecht. Grounds:

1. Because the circumstances which led the Synod of Utrecht to these conclusions do not exist among us.
2. Because a Synod, without urgent cause, should not make a further explanation of the doctrinal points of its confession.
3. Because this cause is lacking, and the acceptance of these conclusions evidently will not be for the promotion of the spiritual wellbeing of our churches.

The Majority Report is adopted. See Supplement XII for these Conclusions, according to the official text of the Acts of the General Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands.

II. The following was received from Classis Holland: Synod urge all the congregations of our Church, but especially the English speaking congregations to use every possible means to promote Christian education.

Your Committee advises that Synod voices its agreement herewith. Grounds:

- a. Because it appears that not only in some of our English speaking congregations, but also in other congregations Christian elementary education is not sufficiently embraced.
- b. That the interests of Christian elementary education appears to be more and more necessary. Adopted.

III. Another request from Classis Holland:

Request to divide Classis Holland into Classis Holland with the congregations west of the town line between the townships of Holland and Zeeland, and the townships lying to the north and to the south of these townships: South Olive, West Olive, Noordeloos, Harderwyk, Holland (5 congregations), Niekerk, Graafschap, East Sugatuck; and in Classis Zeeland with the congregations east of the above mentioned town line: Rusk, Borculo, Beaverdam, Hudsonville, Zeeland (2 congregations), Overisel, Oakland, Drenthe, Zutphen, Jamestown.

Your Committee advises to grant the request. Grounds:

- a. The large number of delegates.
 - b. The difficulty of travel, especially in the winter.
- Adopted.

IV. Classis Grand Rapids East requests Synod that it declare the desirability that with respect to repayment to the E.B.P. fund there be as much uniformity as possible.

Your Committee advises Synod not to enter this matter, because this lies in the province of the various Classes and not of Synod.

V. Classis Grand Rapids West submits the following:

Classis requests Synod for advice concerning the following case: Classis advised the Consistory of Crosby St. to send the certificate of membership of a woman member, who had left her husband, to the congregation of Wright, Iowa, where she went to live. The Consistory of Wright, Iowa, upon the advice of Classis Ost Friesland, returned the certificate.

Your Committee advises Synod to declare: Classis Ost Friesland acted justly in this matter, since in this case the domicile of this woman must be considered at the home of her husband.

Adopted.

VI. Your Committee found on the Agenda a request from the Consistory of Vogel Center, Mich., stating: "Synod sanction the decision of Classis Muskegon with respect to the Grange Order."

Although former Synods have clearly defined the characteristics of the G. G., and in itself it is thus not absolutely necessary to make a declaration concerning this order, your Committee, nevertheless, declare its adhesion to the decision of Classis Muskegon.

Adopted.

VII. Classis Illinois requests Synod to meet, D.V., in 1910 in Roseland Chicago. In connection herewith your Committee read a request found on the credential of Classis Muskegon, which is as follows: "The Classis requests Synod to meet at least once more in Muskegon."

Decided to meet in Muskegon in 1910.

VIII. Classis Illinois: "That henceforth Synod decide to delegate to Synod according to

the number of families; the number of delegates be determined by Synod."

Your Committee advises not to enter into this matter.

a. Because it is contrary to Reformed Church Order.

b. Because it could lead to power concentration by ruling over the weaker Classes. Adopted.

IX. Classis Grand Rapids East proposes to Synod to decrease the number of delegates from each Classis from 6 to 4. A similar request comes from Classis Hackensack: "Synod decrease the number of delegates from each Classis."

Your Committee advises Synod not to enter into these proposals because the church is continually expanding, and the workload constantly increases and becomes more important.

Adopted.

X. Your Committee received a letter from the American Tract Society, as also from the American Bible Society. Both letters request that they be supported by one collection. Your Committee advises Synod recommend these causes to the churches, since they perform a very useful work. Adopted.

XI. The Committee appointed by Synod to study the labor movement and Unions, etc. (Cf. Acts 1906, p. 66), handed us its detailed report. Your Committee advises that Synod approve this report, and place it in the archives, and at the same time adopt the advice of the Committee, namely, that Synod decide the same as did the last Synod. Only that the Committee be expanded to five, and include two professors from our school and college. Adopted. (For members of the Committee see Art. 80).

Article 59.

Closing Devotions.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 25.

Article 60.

Opening Devotions.

Article 61.

The minutes of Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning and afternoon are read and approved.

Article 62.

Prof. W. Heyns informed Synod by letter that he accepted the appointment as permanent professor (Art. 22). Also that Prof. J. Broene informed Synod his acceptance of the appointment as professor.

Article 63.

In Executive Session Synod considered the protest of brother S. Vander Vries against the action of Classis Grand Rapids. Synod took into consideration all the minutes and all other correspondence pertaining to this matter, and the report of the Committee of Pre-advice. The protestant and his wife were heard as they pleaded their case. Before the case was decided it was time to adjourn. (See further Art. 66.) Closing Devotions.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 25.

Article 64.

Opening Devotions. The invitation of the Muskegon Transit Co. for a streetcar ride through the city at 7:00 p.m. was accepted.

Article 65.

Synod listened to addresses of Rev. M. Kolyn, delegate from the General Synod of the Reformed Church of America, and Dr. G. H. McDaniel, a negro, the head of the Enterprise Institute of Chicago, Illinois. The First Clerk responded. A request for a recommendation of a collection for his work was rejected since there was insufficient information concerning this work. From Rev. J. P. Winter, appointed by the Reformed Church Synod

as delegate a letter of greetings was received.

Article 66.

Continuation of the protest of E. Vander Vries (Art. 63). After mature consideration the advice of the Committee was adopted: "Your Committee is therefore of the opinion that the deposition of Rev. E. Vander Vries by Classis Grand Rapids East took place in justice and in truth, and advises Synod that it approve the deposition." He shall be notified in writing.

Article 67.

Rev. S. S. Vander Heide reports for the Committee of Pre-advice for Protests. Received and adopted as follows:

1) Your Committee received a letter from a former baptized member of our Church. The situation is that this baptized member belonged to one of our congregations in Grand Rapids. He left to live in the country in the vicinity of one of the congregations of our Church. His baptismal certificate was sent there against his will. He then resigned his membership. Now he desires to be restored as a baptized member, and that in a congregation in Grand Rapids.

Your Committee advises that he send his request to the local congregation. Adopted.

2) Your Committee received a letter from a certain Rev. Teves, requesting that Synod make attempts that he receive a call in the Christian Reformed Church in America.

Your Committee advises that Synod does not enter into this matter, because it does not belong here. Adopted.

3) With respect to an appeal filed by Rev. J. Dolfin, Rev. J. A. Westervelt, and Elder P. Stam et al., concerning a particular action of Classis Hackensack, your Committee notes the following:

1. That seven congregations of the Classis decided on May 20, 1908, to separate from our Church;
2. That at a special meeting of Classis held on June 2, 1908, the following decision was made:

"Since it appears that the voice of the majority of the churches of this Classis, are dissatisfied with

the existing relationship between Classis and the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, and that this ecclesiastical relationship be terminated.

"Therefore it is decided: Being obedient to the voice of those congregations of Classis that the existing relationship with the above named Synod be terminated, and to take or remain with the name, under which we are incorporated, namely: True Reformed Dutch Church, and to continue ecclesiastical labors under that name. Also decided the various Consistories and congregations are urged also to use this name in their ecclesiastical labors."

3. Immediately after this decision, the above named brethren decided to appeal to Synod.
4. It appears that three congregations, namely: Englewood, N. J., Paterson III, and Passaic (Prospect St.), by means of this appeal indicated their agreement with and their desire to remain what they now are: congregations of the Christian Reformed Church.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the action of the seven congregations was in conflict with Scripture, the Reformed Confession, and the Church Order. If these congregations had objections against one thing or another in our Church, then they should appealed to a broader assembly.

Your Committee consequently advises that Synod approve the appeal of the three brethren (Revs. Dolfin, Westervelt, and Elder Stam); furthermore, that Synod point out to these seven congregations their erroneous action, and urgently admonish them to review the decision they have made.

If these congregations fail to meet these demands, then your Committee advises that Synod acknowledge that those congregations that remained faithful be designated as Classis Hackensack of the Christian Reformed Church. Your Committee also advises that the request of those who remained faithful be granted, that Synod appoint a Committee of three who will serve them with advice and in deed until the next Synod.

The Committee is to consist of the following members:
Rev. H. Beets, Rev. W. D. Vander Werp, Rev. J. W. Brink.

Adopted.

EMERITUS BOARD.

- 4) According to the report of the Emeritus Board

(see Supplement VI) this Board has granted the following allowances:

Rev. Vanden Bok	\$400.00	Mrs. E. R. Haan	\$150.00
Rev. G. Broene	300.00	Mrs. Stadt	150.00
Rev. R. Drukker	200.00	Mrs. Vorst	150.00
Mrs. Tenapel	200.00	Mrs. Van Houten	150.00
Mrs. Broekstra	200.00	Mrs. J. E. De Groot	100.00
Mrs. Langereis	200.00	Mrs. Stuit	100.00
Mrs. Remein	200.00		

Your Committee advises that these allowances be approved. Adopted.

The Board also proposes that the quota of 22¢ per family be set at 20¢. Adopted.

Article 68.

Closing Devotions.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 26.

Article 69.

Opening Devotions. Rev. Veltkamp, alternate for Rev. J. Keizer, agrees to the Public Declaration.

The minutes of the sessions of Wednesday afternoon and evening are read and approved.

Article 70.

Report of the Committee concerning Church Songs and the Confessions. Rev. W. Borgman, reporter.

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Committee found on the Agenda:

1) "Synod seek to change the indecisive attitude which our Church accepted in 1890 with the respect to free songs in public worship, and make an end of it, and come to a decisive stand as found in the Church Order, Art. 69, for all our congregations." Classis Orange City. The overtures of Classes Grand Rapids East and Illinois agree: "Classis requests Synod that Church songs in all our congregations and Classes be brought in agreement with Art. 69 of the Church Order, and review that which was decided concerning this

matter at the Synod of 1890," and "Synod decide that all church songs for all our congregations be in agreement with Art. 69 of the Church Order, and review what was decided in Art 24, Acts 1890."

Your Committee, observing that the report of the Committee concerning "Uniformity in Church Songs" deals with the same material, is of the opinion that this report should also be brought into the discussion, because of the advice given there:

- a. To attempt to bring to an end the difference in church songs in our churches;
- b. The attempt shall be to attain the goal as requested by the three Classes to the satisfaction of all.

Point I wants Synod to declare officially that Art. 69 of the Church Order binds the congregation, which has accepted this Church Order, to sing Psalms in its public worship and congregational work, while the songs mentioned are permitted only by way of concession.

The advice of your Committee, to accept this point without changes:

- a. Because it eliminates all doubt, concerning the standpoint of the Church against the use of hymns.
 - b. So that every congregation may know what it must maintain or seek to attain.
- Adopted.

Point II wants the churches to be informed that the Synod of 1890 permitted the use of the 52 hymns concerning the Heidelberg Catechism to Classis Hackensack, but also forbade all hymns in English, Dutch, and German speaking congregations, and that the German speaking congregations were granted a concession in 1884, as much as was necessary and feasible, that German speaking ministers would be provided in the future, and that with respect to church songs to take into consideration the German spirit and tradition.

That this point also be approved:

1. Because honesty demands the same.
2. Thereby to remove all stumbling blocks, which might prove to be a hindrance.

Point III requests that a committee be appointed to confer with Classis Hackensack and Classis Ost Friesland, if it would not be possible, that they vacate the concession granted, and that they too accept Art. 69 of the Church Order

in order that there may be unity in our public worship.

Your Committee thinks that matters will take a turn for the better, since before long we will have the new rhyming of the Psalms in the English language. Adopted.

Also the following amendments: This Committee will also deliberate concerning the official acknowledgement of the few hymns found in back of the Dutch Psalms, which are not mentioned in Art. 69 of the Church Order, and report on this at the next Synod, as well as all translations thereof for use in the English and German Psalmbooks. For members of this committee see Art. 80, 21, and point IV below.

Point IV desires that a "committee be appointed that will look about for means to obtain unity and agreement with the advice of the Synod of 1826, Art. 88, in the life of the Sunday School and Societies.

Your Committee believes that this is necessary because many and various, as was found by the investigation of the Committee, hymns are sung in our societies, etc. Placed in the hands of the Committee under Point III. Adopted.

Point V. Finally your Committee took note from the report concerning the revision of Art. 36 of the Belgic Confession, and is of the opinion that Synod should not enter into this matter:

- a. Because the Committee for Revision, according to the content evidently did not know what was meant by the term Revision of Art. 36 of the Confession;
- b. Because from a number of hypotheses it finally proceeded from one supposition;
- c. Because after all the light that it shed the matter remains enshrouded in mist.

For that reason your Committee advises:

- a. That Synod return the Report to the Committee for Revision;
- b. That Synod state explicitly what it desires from the Committee.

Synod therefore continue the Committee: Revs. S. S. Vander Heide, Veltkamp, and Wyngaarden, and give them the following mandates:

"In a note a further clarification be given concerning this controversial clause of Art. 36." Adopted.

Article 71.

The following report concerning the translation of the Confessions in German was received and approved:

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Committee to supply a German translation of the Confessions, Liturgy, and the Church Order, (Acts 1906, Art. 108, 22), has very little to report. From church periodicals we learned that the Old Reformed Churches in Bentheim and Ostfriesland, Germany, have taken exactly the same work in hand.

It was not long before we received a letter concerning the possibility of their and our delegates working together on this project. This correspondence, however, led to no definite results, hence your committee began its work in accordance with its mandate.

We had already done much translating, and had hoped, with the blessing of God to have our work completed by the time Synod met, when we received a letter from Germany that they had completed their work, and now wished to send the desired number of copies, and in this way make it less expensive both there and here.

Your Committee having considered:

That the work in Germany was entrusted to competent hands;

That the publication in Germany can be purchased as cheap as a publication printed in our country;

Decided: For the time being to purchase 250 copies in handy format and linen binding from Germany.

This edition naturally does not include the Church Order. We consider it more practical to postpone the translation of this for reasons which the delegate of Classis Ostfriesland will explain.

Hoping that Synod will agree to this,

The Committee ad hoc,

J. Timmermann
G. L. Hoefker
J. H. Schultz

Article 72.

Prof. Berkhof reported concerning the translation of the Confessions, etc., in English. (Acts 1906, Art. 108). The Committee has as yet not completed its work. The Committee has been re-appointed and added to according to Art. 80, 12.

Article 73.

Congressman McLaughlin, as representative of the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce, addressed Synod and offered a piece of ground for our College. The offer was placed in the hands of the Curatorium. (Cf. Art. 24). The First Clerk responded to the Hon. McLaughlin.

Article 74.

Elder Mokma read the report for the 50th anniversary celebration (Supplement X). It is accepted with thanks. The Committee is continued for the further sale of the Anniversary Book. At present the balance of \$337.60 will be placed in the General Fund for Domestic Missions.

Article 75.

The report of the Obituary Committee was approved. (Supplement IX.)

Article 76.

Closing Devotions.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Article 77.

Opening Devotions.

Article 78.

The reports of our delegates to the National Christian Association (Acts 1906, Art. 108, 5) and the Joint Psalmody Committee (Acts 1906, Art. 108, 8, and Supplement XII of those Acts), were read and received as information. In place of Rev. Groen Rev. C. De Leeuw was appointed. The delegates to the Joint Committee was continued. See Art. 80 for appointments.

Article 79.

Reports of our delegates to Corresponding Churches in our country (Cf. Supplement I), were received as information. Also the printed report of the Committee appointed according to Acts 1906, Art. 32, 2, p. 16, concerning abolishing Committees, etc., was received as information. The Committee was continued. (Art. 80, 22.)

Article 80.

The Report of the Committee on Appointments is read.
Approved and adopted as follows:

1. The Synodical Committees: Rev. J. Groen, Rev. J. Manni, Rev. K. Kuiper, and the Stated Clerk, Rev. H. Beets, ex officio.
2. Synodical Treasurers: Rev. J. Noordewier.
3. Church Help Committees: Rev. I. Van Dellen, Rev. J. Manni, Rev. J. Vander Mey.
4. Emeritus Boards: Rev. J. B. Hoekstra, Mr. S. S. Postma, Hon. G. W. Mokma.
5. Delegate to the National Christian Associations: Rev. C. De Leeuw.
6. Delegate to the Joint Committee for the Revision of the Psalms: Rev. H. Beets, alternate Rev. H. Vander Werp.
7. Committee for the Approval of the Revision of the Psalms: Prof. L. Berkhof, Rev. H. Vander Werp, Rev. J. L. Van Tielon, Rev. W. Stuart, Rev. J. A. Westervelt.
8. Committee for Jewish Missions: Rev. E. Breen, Rev. J. I. Fles, Rev. C. De Leeuw, Mr. S. Dekker, Mr. S. S. Postma.
9. Delegates to Corresponding Churches. Decided that appointments be made by the Synodical Committee, and that they take into consideration distances and traveling expenses.
10. Committee for Supervision of De Wachters: Rev. J. Manni, Rev. J. W. Brink, Mr. A. Peters, Prof. K. Schoolland. Decided to revise the Rules for De Wachter so that instead of reading "three members" it reads "four members".
11. Treasurer for Heathen Missions: Rev. W. Bode.
12. Committee for translation of the Confessions in English: (Art. 72): Rev. J. Bolt, Rev. J.

Dolfin, Rev. M. J. Bosma, Prof. L. Berkhof, Prof. J. G. Vande Bosch

13. Delegate to the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands: Rev. P. Jonker, alternate Rev. W. P. Van Wyk. Traveling expenses within the Netherlands, \$25.00.

14. Committee for the Revision of the Rules for Heathen Missions, besides the Form for the ordination of Missionary Ministers of the Word, and the elimination of the principalship (Art. 32, III, V, 4): Rev. J. Manni, Prof. W. Heyns, J. B. Hoekstra.

15. Committee for the Revision of the Church Order (Acts 1906, Art. 108, 4): Rev. H. Beets, Prof. W. Heyns, Rev. F. Fortuin, Rev. W. Bode, Rev. J. A. Westervelt. Members added: Prof. F. M. Ten Hoor, Prof. L. Berkhof.

16. Committee to Correspond with the Committee of the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands concerning South America: Rev. J. Groen, Rev. J. Wyngaarden, Rev. Y. P. De Jong. (Of. Art. 38, 5.)

17. Committee for the Plan of Re-organization of Domestic Missions (Art. 53): Prof. W. Heyns, Prof. F. M. Ten Hoor, Rev. J. J. Hiemenga, Rev. S. Breen, Rev. M. Van Vessel.

18. Committee for the Labor Movement and Unions (Art. 58, XI): Rev. J. W. Brink, Prof. K. Schoolland, Rev. J. Groen, Prof. G. D. De Jong, Elder E. Hekman.

19. Committee to formulate grounds for the baptism of foundlings (Art. 54, VIII): Rev. W. Borgman, Prof. W. Heyns, Rev. B. H. Einink.

20. Committee concerning the Questions: The Relationship of the Church to the Sunday School: Rev. R. L. Haan, Rev. I. Van Dellen, Prof. G. D. De Jong. (Of. Art. 41, 5.)

21. Committee to Confer with the Classes Hackensack and Ost Friesland to come to an agreement to dispense with the concession granted and come into harmony with Art. 69 of the Church Order to maintain it; at the same time this Committee shall discuss and report concerning the hymns in back of the Dutch Psalter; and finally to look for means for Unity and Agreement with the advice of the Synod of 1898, Art. 88, with respect to the life in the Sunday School and Societies. (Art. 70, III, IV): Rev. J. J. Hiemenga, Rev. W. Bode, Rev. H. Beets, Rev. G. L. Hoefker, Rev. J. A. Westervelt, Rev. H. Tuls.

22. Committee concerning Art 32, 2, p. 16, Acts 1906:
Rev. G. Breen, Rev. I. Van Dellen. (Art. 79 above).
23. Committee for the Revision of Art. 36, Acts 1906,
Art. 108, 18; Rev. S. S. Vander Heide, Rev. L. Velkamp,
Rev. J. Wyngaarden. (Cf. Art. 70, 5.)
24. Anniversary Booklet Committee: Revs. Noordewier, Breen,
Beets; Elders Mokma and Verlee.

Article 81.

The Stated Clerk by means of letter thanks the Goodrich Transportation Co., the Muskegon Transit Co., in the name of Synod for the entertainment given by means of boat and street-car trips. The congregations of Muskegon are thanked for their hospitality, and also the local Reception Committee for their many labors for their service for the welfare of Synod.

Article 82.

The Minutes of the sessions of Thursday and Friday are read and approved.

Article 83.

The President in fitting words expresses his appreciation to the other officers of Synod for the help granted him. He also expressed the thanks of the Church to the emeritated Prof. G. K. Hemkes for the many services rendered by him in the past. Furthermore, he thanked the pre-advisors of Synod for their cooperation.

He pointed to the necessity of executing the decisions that were taken, and to do so in the fear of the Lord, and commended us to God and to the word of his lovingkindness. He concluded by requesting the assembly to sing Psalm 134:3, after which the Vice-President thanked him for his powerful and talented leadership. Synod adjourned after the President led in prayer to the Lord, and pronounced the benediction.

J. Manni, President
I. Van Dellen, Vice-President
Henry Beets, First Clerk
M. Van Vosse, Second Clerk

True Copy:
Henry Beets, S. C.

SUPPLEMENTS.

SUPPLEMENT I.

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEE TO THE SYNOD OF 1906.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Synodical Committee had little reason to take action as your representative, surely an indication that matters among us created no great disturbance and ran their normal course.

According to the mandate of the last Synod it appointed delegates to the broadest assemblies of the corresponding churches in our country as follows:

1. To the General Synod of the Reformed Church: Rev. J. Groen, Alternate Rev. R. L. Haan.
2. United Presbyterian General Assembly: Rev. H. Beets, Alternate Rev. D. R. Drukker.
3. General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church: Rev. K. Poppen, Alternate Rev. E. Breen.
4. Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church: Rev. J. L. Van Tielon, Alternate Rev. J. Dolfin.
5. Associate Presbyterian Church: Rev. D. H. Kromminga.

Rev. J. Dolfin went in the place of the primus who was hindered from going.

All the brethren completed their task and will undoubtedly render their reports.

Letters were also sent to sister churches outside our country to attend our Synod. Answers were received from all three, namely, the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands, the Old Reformed Church in Germany, and the Reformed Church in South Africa, which we turn over to you.

Hereby we again place our mandate in your hands

with thanks for the honor bestowed upon us to serve the churches as such. According to the rule established by Synod the term of the Stated Clerk terminates at this Synod.

Respectfully, your fellow servants,

J. Groen, President
K. Kuiper
G. D. De Jong
Henry Beets, Clerk and Stated Clerk

SUPPLEMENT II.

REPORT OF THE CURATORIUM OF THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL TO THE SYNOD OF 1908.

Esteemed Brethren:

The Curatorium of the Theological School herewith presents the following report to Synod.

In the two years that have passed since the last Synod, the indications of God's faithfulness and care did not escape us. We may testify that with zeal and devotion both professors and students in general applied themselves. In the fall of 1906 Prof. Ten Hoor was seriously ill. There was great fear that the Lord would call him from his post, and take him from his family, the school, and the church. The prayers offered for his restoration were graciously heard. Prof. Ten Hoor was restored, but upon the urgent advice of his doctor was necessitated to request a vacation at least until September 1907, to regain his strength in the West under the blessing of God. We could not refuse this request, especially since the faculty was prepared to take over the work of Prof. Ten Hoor during his absence. In September 1907, the professor could again resume his work.

A couple of times the faculty had to apply discipline, with desired results so that no one had to be expelled from the school.

In the year 1907 we had to mourn the loss of three promising students: Nicholas Dykema, second year of theology; Henry W. Korfker, ready to enter the seminary; Thomas De Wind, third year of the preparatory department.

A. The Faculty.

Rev. L. Berkhof, B.D., called by the Synod of 1906 as professor of Exegetical Theology was installed in an appropriate manner by the president of the last Synod, Rev. H. Van Hoogen, and Rev. J. Noordewier, president of the Curatorium. The inaugural address of the professor was entitled: "The Exposition of the Holy Scriptures." The professors of the college department appointed by Synod accepted their appointments: Proff. K. Schoolland, A. E. Broene, A.B., W. Rinck, A.M., E. L. Van Dellen, A.M. Principal A. J. Rooks, A.M., returned from Germany before September 1906, and Prof. B. K. Kuiper, A. B., Theol. Docts. from the Free University of Amsterdam before September 1907, after an absence of four years in Germany and the Netherlands.

The faculty consists of the followings: G. K. Hemkes, D.D., F. M. Ten Hoor, W. Heyns, and L. Berkhof, professors of theology; and A. J. Rooks, K. Schoolland, J. G. Vanden Bosch, B. K. Kuiper, A. E. Broene, W. Rinck, and E. L. Van Dellen, professors in the college department.

Prof. Hemkes, who has faithfully served the School since 1883, and on the 6th of May of this year might attain the age of 70 years, has requested the Curatorium that he be emeritated.

B. The Curriculum.

The Literary Department of the Theological School has been expanded to a six year course. In the first four years instruction is given the same as in high schools and the preparatory department of colleges. The last two years form the John Calvin Junior College. The faculty of the University of Michigan has not only placed our preparatory department on the accredited list, but also those who graduate from the Junior College can enter the Junior year at the University without entrance examinations. This last decision, however, is provisional, and hinges on the appointment of a professor who has an A.B. degree, and the expansion of our laboratory.

C. The Examinations.

In September 1909, 39 applicants were accepted; for the 1st class 35; 3 specials, and 1 for the Junior College, whereof 16 are taking the Seminary Preparatory course; 12 for the college course, and 11 for the Teachers' course. In June 1907, 19 graduated from the preparatory department; 9 students were admitted to the study of theology, and 3 candidates were made eligible for a call.

In September 1907, 54 applicants were accepted; 36 for the first class, 17 specials, and 1 for theology. There were 16 for the seminary preparatory course, for the college preparatory course 25, for the teachers' course 12, and 1 (A.B.) from the University of Chicago for theology. In June 1908, 12 graduated from the preparatory school; 12 from the seminary preparatory to enter theology; 4 graduated from Junior College; and 10 candidates were made eligible for a call. In order to obtain better results the Curatorium decided that written examinations would be given by the faculty and thereafter oral examinations after having examined the written examinations.

D. Finances.

The books of the treasurer were found to be in good order. The status of the various funds is as follows:

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL FUND

Balance May 31, 1906	\$ 5,942.36
Receipts, June 1, 1906 to May 31, 1907	<u>12,747.02</u>
Total	\$18,689.38
Disbursements	<u>12,768.71</u>
Balance May 31, 1907	\$ 5,920.57
Receipts, June 1, 1907 to May 31, 1908	<u>14,927.77</u>
Total	\$20,848.34
Disbursements	<u>14,666.26</u>
Balance May 31, 1908	\$ 6,182.08

LIBRARY FUND

Value of the Fund, May 31, 1906	\$ 5,873.89
Receipts 1906-1907	<u>384.98</u>
Total	\$ 6,258.14
Disbursements	<u>384.98</u>
Balance	\$ 5,873.16
Receipts 1907-1908	<u>314.25</u>
Total	\$ 6,187.41
Disbursements	<u>429.82</u>
Balance, May 31, 1908	\$ 5,757.59

This fund has outstanding money of \$5,800.00; this leaves a shortage of \$42.41, which is to be met from the Theological School Fund.

FUND FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE LITERARY DEPARTMENT

Receipts up to May 31, 1906	\$ 9,910.57
Receipts up to May 31, 1907	13,754.32
Receipts up to May 1908	<u>6,704.76</u>
Total	\$30,369.65
Disbursements for travel expenses, etc.	<u>253.53</u>
Balance	\$30,369.65
Outstanding Funds	<u>28,075.00</u>
Balance, May 31, 1908	\$ 2,041.12

DORMITORY

Receipts, 1906-1907	\$910.45
Receipts, 1907-1908	<u>856.37</u>
Total	\$ 1,766.82
Disbursements, 1906-1907	\$841.72
Disbursements, 1907-1908	<u>891.94</u>
Total	<u>1,733.66</u>
Balance for the School Fund	\$ 33.16

DOLLAR FUND

Balance, May 31, 1906	\$ 263.00
Received and disbursed to the General Student Fund 1906-1907 -	\$40.00
Received and disbursed to the General Student Fund 1907-1908	\$40.00
Balance, May 31, 1908	\$ 263.00

GENERAL STUDENT FUND

Received and disbursed to Classical Student Funds 1906-1907	\$ 213.84
Received and disbursed to Classical Student Funds 1907-1908	\$ 229.68

E. Synod is requested to give consideration to the following matters:

1. Synod give instructions to the Curatorium with respect to the re-incorporation of the Theological School.
2. Synod urge the Classes to appoint Classical Treasurers. The Curatorium is prepared to give Synod a concept rule concerning this.

3. Synod decide to make a revision of Article 5 of the Rules for the Curatorium. Consideration to be given to revise it as follows: "The Curatorium shall assemble in June for its annual meeting at the time of the examinations. The examinations will be taken by the faculty with the cooperation of the Curatorium. The Curatorium is to decide whether a student is to be promoted to advanced study or has completed the requirements for a diploma. With the commencement of the school year in September or at any other time the Executive Committee may call a special meeting, if it deems that it is necessary.

4. In consideration of the vacancies on the faculty, the Curatorium has the following recommendations:

a. To grant Prof. G. K. Hemkes honorable emeritation, with this provisions:

that he remain a member of the faculty with an advisory vote;

that he function as the librarian;

that he receive a pension to be determined by Synod.

b. Synod call a professor for Historical Theology to replace Prof. Hemkes. The Curatorium nominates Proff. B. K. Kuiper and A. E. Broene.

c. Professor W. Heyns be reappointed with life tenure in Practical Theology and Bible Study in the College Department.

d. Prof. J. G. Vanden Bosch be re-appointed with life tenure.

e. Synod re-appoint the remaining professors in the Literary Department for 6 years.

f. The Curatorium be empowered to appoint an instructor provisionally for the Literary Department especially for the sciences if such can be obtained.

g. Synod re-appoint Mr. S. S. Postma as treasurer.

5. In consideration of the increase of the student body and the need for a laboratory, our present building does not have enough room. Synod is requested to show ways and means how we are to act in this situation.

6. Furthermore, the Curatorium has to report concerning the following mandates:

a. Acts 1906, Art. 62, III, 6: The Curatorium is requested to deliberate the question which by the nature of the case must be discussed, and to report at the next Synod. This concerns the question whether the College shall proceed from the Church and be maintained by it, and how the formulation of the principles shall be made, by which instruction shall be given.

b. Art. 62, V, 1 and 2, Acts 1906, mandates the Curatorium to advise the Synod of 1908 concerning the protest of Rev. L. J. Hulst and the petition of the Theological professors.

c. Acts 1906, Art. 79: It is considered desirable that a further decision be made concerning the requirements which the the Theological Professors shall have to meet, in order that there may be objective givens both for the Church and the Professors.

Concerning the mandates under a and c the Curatorium is not ready to report. The reason for this is: One of the members of the sub-committee was taken away by death. Having filled this vacancy, another member of this committee left the Classis, so that his membership in the Curatorium terminated. The two remaining members believed they should wait until the number of the Committee was filled; a matter which could not take place since the Curatorium did not meet.

Concerning point b the sub-committee submitted a report to the Curatorium wherein the grounds were given for the denominational point of views: a) that God is the object of Theology and that the concept of theology is not derived from the sciences in general, and that theology is not subordinate but is the queen of the sciences; b) that the Church has the greatest authority over the theological science and over our Theological School. Prof. Ten Hoor asked whether he could proceed from these two principles. This report was rejected by a tie vote. Thereupon the Curatorium decided to report the following to Synod, while the minority maintained the right to file its report to Synod.

"Synod answer the questions of Prof. Ten Hoor in the affirmative. Although Synod mandated the Curatorium to give grounds for the accepted denominational point of view, concerning which the theological professors requested a denominational response, the Curatorium, after lengthy discussion, decided to advise as follows:

Synod is not to declare itself.

1. Because no objections were made against these principles;
2. Because the Synod of 1906 in a similar instance did not declare itself;

3. Because such a declaration instead of promoting peace may create trouble.

Humbly submitted,

In the name of the Curatorium,

G. D. De Jong, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT III.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS

TO THE SYNOD OF 1908.

Esteemed Brethren:

According to Synodical mandate the re-organization of Domestic Missions took place June 7, 1907.

Besides the Lubbers Fund of \$1,350.00 the treasurer received a balance of \$959.19.

The Finances are as follows:

Receipts, including the Lubbers Fund	
and the balance	\$5,864.42
Disbursements	<u>4,286.85</u>
Balance	\$1,577.58

The books of the treasurer were examined and approved.

The following allowances were made for this year:

Classis Iowa	\$1,775.00
" Muskegon	625.00
" Illinois	700.00
" Hackensack and Hudson	1,000.00
" Ost Friesland	900.00
" Orange City	3,500.00
" Grand Rapids West.	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$9,000.00

Your Committee advises Synod to recommend to the congregations to take two collections per year for this fund.

May the Lord create more love for this fund so that the gifts multiply.

May He give Synod enlightenment and grace to take this cause to heart for the glory of his name according to his Word.

M. Van Veen, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT IV.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEATHEN MISSIONS

TO THE SYNOD OF 1908.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Board of Heathen Missions has the honor and the satisfaction according to the Rules to report to you concerning the state of matters concerning the mission field, the missionaries, the mission work, the activities of the Board, and proposals of the Board.

I. The Mission Field. This remained the same the last two years: Zuni, Tohatchi, and Rehoboth, near Gallup, New Mexico.

At the first mentioned places the number of workers remained stationary. At Rehoboth the personnel has been expanded somewhat. To the last Synod we reported that there were 18 Indian children of the Navaho tribe being cared for and nurtured, at present there are 26. Their names and the names of the Societies and Sunday Schools, which support them are as follows:

William Duncan, 7 years, Sunday School, Central Ave., Hooand, Michigan.

Richard Duncan, 8 years, Y.P.S., Midland Park, N. J.

Frederick Coan, 9 years, Sunday School, Harrison, S. D.

Marcus Whitman, 9 years, S. S., Coldbrook, Grand Rapids.

David B. Evans, 9 years, S. S., LaGrave Ave., Grand Rapids.

Mattie Green, 8 years, Y.P.S., East Saugatuck, Mich.

Lillian Carey, 10 years, Ladies' Societies of 4 Muske-

gon Churches.

Ester Yazzie, 8 years, Luctor, Kansas.

Henry Whipple, 9 years, W. De Wit, Luctor, Kansas.

Marinus Williams, 10 years, S.S., Drenthe, Mich.

Thomas Chalmers, 10 years, S.S., Drenthe, Mich.

Christina Belz, 10 years, S.S., Fremont, Mich.

Edward Breen, 11 years, Y.L.S., 1st Church, Chicago, Ill.

Clarissa Pierson, 12 years, Y.L.S., 1st Church, Chicago, Ill.

Charles Livingston, 14 years, Mis. Soc., Commerce St., G. R.

Nona Gordy, 10 years, S.S., Dennis Ave., Grand Rapids.

Gertrude Alger, 13 years, S.S., 1st Church, Paterson, N. J.

John Eliot, 12 years, S.S. Broadway, Grand Rapids.

Titus Coan, 11, years, Mis. Soc., Zutphen, Mich.

Albert Gardner, 16 years, Mis. Soc., Alpine Ave., G. R.

Judson Becenti, Young People, 1st Church, Pella, Iowa.

Etta Becenti, 11 years, Y.M. & Y. L. Soc., 1st Church,

Englewood, Chicago, Ill.

Tuli Hayahi, 5 years, Girls' Soc., 2nd Roseland, Chicago.
Anna Johnston, 7 years, Lafayette, Ind.
Mary Johnson, 6 years, South Holland, Ill.
Egerton Young, S.S., Ninth St., Holland, Mich.

The following Sunday Schools and Societies offered a \$100.00 per year for the support of an Indian child: S.S., Overisel, Mich.; S.S., 1st Roseland, Chicago, Ill.; Mission Society, Walnut St., Kalamazoo, Mich.; S.S., Lynden, Wash.

The Board would have gladly appointed a child to the above mission friends, and their offers were highly appreciated. But the loss of the superintendent house by fire, and the delay in the expansion of the mission house prevented us from enrolling any more children. Before long, however, we hope satisfy all those who have offered support.

From the above mentioned it would appear that much building is taking place at Rehoboth. First an adobe house was built for the superintendent and his wife, but which burned down when it was almost completed, which resulted in building a frame house for about \$1,200.00. To our joy the financial loss caused by the fire was more than compensated through extra collections for which we are very thankful.

Two wings were added to the school building. For this also generous extra gifts were received. Furthermore, a back room was added to the mission house, a very necessary expansion.

At present the brethren are busy laying a water line to the buildings at Rehoboth, and for the livestock there. That these improvement cost a sizable amount of money can readily be understood.

Alas! we must also report that three of the Navaho children at Rehoboth died: Robert Moffat Livingston, James Evans, and William Alger. Let us hope that the labor of love bestowed on them was not in vain in the Lord. Especially with respect to James Evans our hope is encouraged. It is sad that this intelligent youth died.

Also at Tohatchi and Zuni improvements were made on the mission properties, although of a less expensive nature.

II. The Missionaries. At Tohatchi our principal, Rev.

L. P. Brink, continues to labor. Rev. H. Fryling has been stationed at Zuni since November 1906.

The Board found itself necessitated to grant brother A. Vander Wagen a furlough beginning February 1, 1907, without salary, because it became evident that the brother did not abide by the condition established by the Synod of 1904, that he dispose of his business and not to engage therein in the future, which he did not live up to since his re-appointment. The Board could not act otherwise than to dismiss him in the above manner, since the definite dismissal of an employee according to the Rules is within the province of Synod. The Board trusts that Synod will approve the action taken and grant the brother a formal dismissal, since according to our observation he has completely withdrawn from all mission activity of our Church, and is living on his "Z. I. Ranch" 10 miles from Zuni, and is working as an Indian Trader.

Those working at the present time at Rehoboth are Mr. Mark Bouma, superintendent; Mrs. Bouma who fills in as a substitute, which is much appreciated; Miss Anna Derks as matron; Miss Katherine Rosbach as laundress; Miss Suele Dieleman as housekeeper, assisted by Mrs. Bainbridge; Miss Cocia Hartog is teacher. We are attempting to obtain someone as seamstress. Mr. Bainbridge assists Mr. Bouma in his work.

III. Mission Work. Through the goodness of God the work is being carried on regularly. The health of the personnel was on the whole favorable, giving us much to be thankful for because health is a gift of God. Rev. Brink has made great progress in the difficult Navaho language as his report and printed documents show. Various portions of Holy Writ have been translated into the Navaho language and are ready for the press, and recently a small book was published by him consisting of 12 Christian Songs, and are being used in a few of the Navaho schools. He has spoken regularly on Sunday evenings to the children and employees at the government school, and every Sunday morning he taught a class of the most advanced students.

Miss Christina Knol from Grand Rapids assisted in the work of the Sunday School in a manner that was appreciated. Miss Gertrude Mollema from Chicago, who recently obtained a position in the government school, has already performed good services in religious work there. How desirable it would if more Christian young people could be found to work for the government at Zuni and Tohatchi, because they could lend much support to our missionaries.

Mr. Brink has performed important services as president of the "Southwest Indian Conference" and as a co-worker of the "language unification committee", which brought about many necessary and useful improvements in the spelling of the Navaho language, and created unity among all the workers of the Protestant Churches among the Navahos. Rev. Fryling also contributed thereto. A short time ago Rev. Brink made an inspection tour over the entire area where we have mission posts. He also revised Rev. Fryling's "Borastius" in the Navaho language, and became the author of a text book for learning the Navaho language. To our satisfaction we note that other Navaho missionaries consider our brother to be the primus inter pares among them as far as knowledge of the language is concerned and undoubtedly that is why he was chosen as president of the Conference.

Concerning brother Fryling at Zuni, we can inform you that he is making good progress in the Language of the Zuni Indians, so that he is already in a position to express himself quite well in private conversation with these people, and in religious services on Sunday evenings, and in the Sunday School. To our regret attendance has been very limited. The priests forbid their people to enter our little church. They also hinder catechetical instruction in Zuni as well as in the nearby Black Rock. Recently at a "council" meeting threatened to take their children away from the last named school if the government agent permitted Rev. Fryling or a Roman Catholic priest to give the Zuni children religious instruction.

This is a sad situation, but we hope that the Lord in his own time will open the doors of their hearts. Meantime our missionary does not have to mark time, but can use his time in applying himself to the language.

A hospital or even a home for the sick at Zuni would pave the way to the Indians dominated by the heathen priests. So also at Tohatchi we should have this right hand of the mission among the heathen, being faithful to the repeated command of the Lord to his disciples: "Heal the sick." And especially at Rehoboth we erect a suitable hospital with a good Christian doctor or medical missionary. At Tohatchi and Zuni we possibly could get by with a nursing home with a good nurse, since the government has doctors placed there. Possibly, if the government would help with the buildings, concerning which we are going to correspond with them, a Christian nurse would probably be sufficient.

Concerning Rehoboth we can inform you that the work was carried on regularly. The teacher in the past year taught 1,254 hours, teaching the children the customary courses of elementary education as taught in the government schools, and in addition thereto instruction in the truth of Christ which is the chief purpose: to bring them to the Savior. Sunday School and catechism classes are held regularly. The girls also receive instruction in sewing and cooking, and the boys are taught various kinds of manual training as time and occasion permitted. In time there will have to be greater development concerning industrial plans already approved by the Synod of 1902. Sunday mornings regular services are held for the children conducted by brother Bouma, and in the evening with the older children. Considerable work is also performed by visiting the hogans of the Indians spread far and wide in the wilderness, to bring the gospel and to help them as much as possible with medicines to alleviate their physical suffering. To our joy we are informed that the brother and the sisters are gaining the confidence of the Indians, so that they can be more easily reached with the Word of the Lord, in-so-far as these mission helpers are capable of conversing about these matters.

Last year more than 800 Navahos visited the facilities at Rehoboth, attracted there especially because of their children or the need of medicines. This gives a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel, as can readily be imagined. Hospitality is also shown. Last year not less than 400 free meals were served to the guests, who invite themselves, and do not have much of an idea when to leave. These matters make great demands upon the housekeeper, and it is easily understandable that all the helpers have their hands more than full to take care of young and old for body and soul.

We hope that the Church will appreciate all the work of our missionaries in their abundant self-sacrifice and self-denial, and that many prayers will be offered and many offerings given for this cause. And, oh, if we only had sons and daughters, who would devote themselves to this work, because truly, this work must be expanded, and therefore more must give themselves in surrender to the Lord with their whole heart. Let us add that Miss Hartog from time to time holds religious services in the home of an Acoma Indian at the Zuni Siding station. There is a small group that can be reached in the Spanish language. Some literature has already been distributed among these people.

It surely does not have to be said that the brethren Fryling and Brink call on as many Indians as possible. They also received many visits from the Indians, who are older, and some of whom appear to display much interest in the truth.

To our regret we cannot report to Synod of any open conversions. The seed of the Word taken time to sprout. Especially where hearts are so hard and filled with such suspicion against the whites and his message, as those of the Indians. Yet, according to the Word of God, we shall one day reap if we do not faint. Already some of the children at Rehoboth show some encouraging signs of interest in the truth. Overagainst this, however, stands the sad fact that of the converts at Fort Defiance very few show any zeal and devotion to the cause of the Lord. One of the main reasons is that they live so spread apart, and there is a lack of working amongst them, which is necessary, so that there is retrogression in their fear of the Lord. It is so necessary to have all these converts congregated together for joint upbuilding in godliness, instead of their wandering among the whites who do not know or serve God, or among their own heathen people.

IV. The Work of the Board. This had its regular course. The Executive Committee met several times to take care of ordinary matters or to take care of some sudden need. According to the Rules the Board met once annually. The work was carried on in harmony, and decisions were made to the best of our ability. Rev. Breen was delegated to visit the mission field, and to bring order, especially with respect to the departure of brother Vander Wagen. In a lengthy report he presented the needs of the mission.

In November 1906, brother J. W. Garvelink, for many years the zealous treasurer of Heathen Missions tendered his resignation, because of weakness and continued illness. Honorable resignation was granted for the time being, for your further approbation.

In every respect it would be fitting for Synod officially to acknowledge its appreciation to the brother who has served so faithfully for the advancement of Heathen Missions. Also to Rev. H. Walkotten, for many years president, who has left for another field. Rev. Hoekstra served as treasurer until the Board meeting last year, when Rev. G. D. De Jong was elected, since Rev. Hoekstra desired to resign. We trust that Synod will approve this appointment.

The Financial Report is as follows:

REPORT FOR 1906-1907

Balance	\$ 2,216.44
Receipts, June 1906 to May 1907	<u>12,134.47</u>
Total	\$14,350.91
Disbursements, June 1906 to May 1907	<u>13,232.86</u>
Balance, May 31, 1907	\$ 1,118.05

The greatest amount of the disbursements was for the two wings of the school building, approved by the last Synod.

REPORT FOR 1907-1908

Balance	\$ 1,118.05
Receipts, June 1, 1907 to May 31, 1908	<u>15,057.71</u>
Total	\$16,175.76
Disbursements, June 1, '07 to May 31, '08	<u>13,069.65</u>
Balance, May 31, 1908	\$ 3,106.11

An encouraging amount of this balance was given for the proposed medical mission.

V. Proposals of the Board to Synod. See Art. 32, V.

Humbly submitted in the Name of the Board,

Henry Beets, secretary.

SUPPLEMENT V.

REPORT OF THE JEWISH MISSION COMMITTEE.

Esteemed Brethren in our Lord Jesus Christ:

Your Committee enjoys the great privilege to appear before the broadest assembly of our churches, the Synod, for the eighth time, to bring its report. It can do such with grateful heart, because the God of Abraham has greatly expanded and blessed the work of his ancient people.

The Chicago Hebrew Mission has become a strong growing plant in the 21 years of its existence, and especially in the last 10 years growing also with our support. The work is carried on at 22 Solon Place, where children and young people are instructed in the truths of salvation. Also the younger women

and the older mothers are taught the Word of salvation in meetings such as Ladies' Society and Sewing Circle, which are led by competent women who do so in love. In the Reading Room at 497 South Halsted St. the gospel is proclaimed, and the one thing necessary is spoken with and to them. In this Reading Room there is reading material in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. There are also Jewish magazines here, tracts, and larger and smaller works to point them to the Messiah. The New Testament in Hebrew is also found here because their mother tongue attracts them first and most. Hundreds of Jews are shown and made acquainted with the fact that Jesus Christ is the Messiah by the proclamation of the gospel. In the Northwestern part of the city at 576 West Division St. a new branch has been planted. There are about 30,000 Jews in this vicinity. It was rather difficult to procure a building. We first rented, but it did not take long before it had to be bought. Because the Jews got wind of it that this building was to be used as a Mission among them, and then they wanted to buy it. But the man kept his word, and we got the building. The gospel is now being proclaimed here; not only does Rev. Lewek, a converted Jew, preach here, but also Revs. Breen and De Leeuw, our own ministers, are already known by the Jews through their preaching. To hundreds of Jews week by week, day by day, and night by night Christ is preached, so that the entire house of Israel may know, that God has made Him to be Lord and Christ, namely this Jesus, whom they crucified. The seed has been strewn, it will bring forth fruit through the working of the Holy Spirit. Because Jehovah has said: My word shall not return unto me void. The children sing about Jesus, and speak and learn about Him. They learn Bible texts from the New Testament as well as from the Old, and when Jesus is told to them they listen attentively. Prayer and thanksgiving is given in the name that is above every name. There are those who have accepted Christ, and have engaged in the difficult warfare. It is a hard battle for the believing Israelite. He generally has to leave everything, even his closest relatives and his job. They are the firstfruits of those who are gathered in, and the harvest will follow according to the promises of the Lord. For the Lord will have mercy upon Zion, and He shall yet choose Jerusalem.

Concerning the finances it has been comparatively good; we could meet our promises and obligations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance, June 1, 1906		\$ 994.18
Receipts to May 31, 1907		<u>3,215.46</u>
	Total	\$4,209.64
Disbursements:		
Chicago Hebr. Miss.	\$3,550.00	
Am. Tract Soc.	25.00	
N. Y. Hebr. Miss.	25.00	
Brooklyn Hebr. Miss.	25.00	
Cleveland IM. Heb. Mis.	25.00	
Travel and Office Exp.	<u>17.59</u>	<u>3,667.59</u>
Balance		\$ 542.05
Receipts, June 1, '07 to May 31, 1908		<u>3,613.19</u>
	Total	\$4,155.24
Disbursements		
Chicago Hebr. Miss.	\$3,700.00	
Travel and Office Exp.	<u>32.35</u>	<u>3,732.35</u>
Balance		\$ 422.89

Thus your Committee has again acted according to the best of its ability, and given the gifts for the salvation of the old covenant people. And these gifts are distributed with earnestness, and consultation, and thrift. Not only are the books, the receipts and the disbursements carefully examined and found in order by your Committee from conviction and written therein by the secretary, Prof. Heyns, in the presence of the entire Committee, which makes the inspection, but the moneys for the Mission are carefully inscribed in the books, inspected, and published openly in the Jewish Era, a quarterly booklet published by the Hebrew Mission. Thus we work together with Reformed, Presbyterians, Methodists. As churches in this work we and the Reformed are represented on the Board. Although there are Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists in this work who are faithful and devoted, they are not there as representatives of their church, but work independently.

We have gained a lot of influence with respect to things since we began to support this work. And this influence is growing. Three of our members are on the Mission Board of Trustees, Rev. Breen, Mr. S. Dekker, and the undersigned, while Mr. Dekker is also on the Executive Committee. The ministers of the Reformed Church are Revs. Kuyper and Joldersma, who also are on the Board. Believing a holy, catholic, Christian Church, we labor together for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and the fulfilment of the promises that the fulness of the Gentiles shall come in, and all Israel shall be saved, that the Redeemer shall come forth from Zion and shall turn aside the ungodliness of Jacob.

Your Committee can and may do none other than to recommend this branch of labor to the love, and zeal, and prayers of the ministers, the consistories, yea, the entire church. We also whole heartedly hope that the Church through Synod will not withdraw itself from the Chicago Jewish Mission. A mission of our own is not feasible. The Hebrew Mission at Chicago last year cost seventeen thousand dollars. If we and the Reformed were to undertake this work, we would have to give double of what we are now giving, and for the Reformed it would increase three-fold. The brethren must realize that we must begin even as we do among the heathen by showing love to young and old. When a Jew embraces and confesses Christ, he is thrown on the street, bereft, and rejected by all, and it is just they who must be helped. How soon the Christians coming out of heathendom learned this, as they sent collections to the saints in Judaea and Jerusalem, for which Paul so earnestly strove. Out withdrawal from the Chicago Jewish Mission would be for them a calamity, and with what would we replace it?

By this means we bring our hearty thanks to all the churches, societies, and individuals, who have supported us with their gifts, and we hope that they will not become delinquent, and that those who are still delinquent will be filled with zeal. And herewith we place the Mission among the Jews in the hands of Synod, prayerfully recommending it as a well-pleasing work of God, upon which his blessing surely rests. The word spoken by Abraham, and later repeated by Balaam: Whom thou dost bless, I will bless, and cursed be they who curse you, is still true today. The history of all countries and peoples, of churches and congregations prove this up to this day.

In the Name of the Committee
for Jewish Missions,

J. I. Fles, Treasurer.

SUPPLEMENT VI.

REPORT OF THE EMERITUS BOARD FOR THE

CHRISTIAN REFORMED SYNOD OF 1908

Esteemed Brethren:

The Emeritus Board has the satisfaction to be able to present a favorable report with respect to the Emeritus Fund.

Through the grace of God the Church as a whole has faithfully collected for this fund, whereby the treasurer was in a position to pay quarterly 100%, and at the same time help out a widow temporarily in need with \$125.00.

We place before Synod the following allowances:

Rev. Vanden Bok	\$400.00
Rev. G. Broene	300.00
Rev. R. Drukker	200.00
Mrs. Temple	200.00
Mrs. Broekstra	200.00
Mrs. Langereis	200.00
Mrs. Remeyn	200.00
Mrs. E. R. Haan	150.00
Mrs. Stadt	150.00
Mrs. Vorst	150.00
Mrs. Van Houten	150.00
Mrs. J. E. De Groot	100.00
Mrs. Stuit	100.00

The books of the treasurer were examined and approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1906-1907

Receipts	\$2,998.64
Disbursements	<u>2,831.89</u>
Balance	\$ 166.75

1907-1908

Receipts	\$2,923.35
Disbursements	<u>2,836.72</u>
Balance	\$ 86.63

Lubbers Fund	\$1,378.86
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Synod decide to set the quota at 20¢ per family.

It is reminded that the terms of Rev. J. B. Hoekstra, Mr. S. S. Postma, and Hon. G. W. Mokma end.

With gratitude to God and praying that Synod may visibly be led by the Spirit of God.

In the Name of the Board,

M. Van Vossom, Secretary.

SUPPLEMENT VII.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR CHURCH HELP.

Esteemed Brethren:

Your Committee has the honor and the pleasure to present the following to you:

Church Help might continue its work for two years, and more than ever before receive the support and love of the Church. According to the mandate of the previous Synod, all outstanding notes were changed, and the payment of 5% interest on the notes was terminated. All the churches concerned have willingly and gladly submitted to this decision. With but few exceptions the demand for re-payment was faithfully heeded.

Because the need of the congregations that receive aid demanded it, a request was made for an extra collection, and about one half of the churches responded. Delinquent Consistories who never or seldom did anything for Church Help were sent a letter in the name of the Committee, something that required a lot of work, but had very good results. Hence we were able to satisfy almost all of the requests.

The disbursements were \$4,348.10, so that there is a balance of \$495.74.

The following churches received help:

Passaic II	\$500.00	Sheldon	\$500.00
Oskaloosa	500.00	G.R. Burton Heights	500.00
Sullivan	300.00	East Palmyra	200.00
Chicago, O.	400.00	Prairie City	500.00
Doon	300.00	Racine	500.00
Byron Center	300.00		

The following churches are indebted to Church Helps:

Noordeloos	\$ 30.00	Passaic II	\$450.00
Atwood	90.00	Pease	100.00
Ellsworth	285.00	George	125.00
Sullivan	332.50	Harvey	350.00
Hudsonville	475.00	Alamosa	400.00
Chicago, O.	380.00	Hull, Ia.	250.00
Grant	285.00	Racine	300.00
Lynden	300.00	Lebanon	180.00
Oak Harbor	375.00	Hospers	150.00
Kanawha	180.00	East Palmyra	190.00
Byron Center	500.00	Volga	285.00
Rudyard	144.00	Oskaloosa	475.00
Caldwell	300.00	Zillah	290.00
Rusk	95.00	Sheldon	500.00
Doon	300.00	G.R. Burton Heights	500.00
Leota	239.25	Sully	35.00
Carnes	285.00	Kenosha	175.00
Maxwell City	15.00	Rochester	380.00
Edgerton	250.00		
Prairie City	500.00		

With thanks for the confidence placed in us.

The Committee for Church Help,

I. Van Dellen, President
J. Manni, Secretary
J. Vander Mey, Treasurer

SUPPLEMENT VIII.

REPORT OF DE WACHTER COMMITTEE.

Beloved Brethren in our Lords

The Committee of Supervision of De Wachter has the honor of informing you concerning the followings:

I. The Committee met only three times. Not one member was hindered from being present, and generally the Editor-in-Chief, the Business Manager, and the Publisher were present. It was a pleasure working together. There were no disagreements that disturbed us.

II. The last Synod decided that henceforth De Wachter should appear in a larger format with an increased number of departments. The Committee has executed the decision as it was given. As co-editor for the Department of Theology and Ethics

Rev. R. L. Haan, Ph. D., has functioned, and Rev. J. Vander Mey for the Department of Views and Critica. There was always a good relationship between the personnel of De Wachter and the Committee. Through God's goodness they all were spared.

III. According to Synodical decision anyone having a remark or request to make, write directly to the Committee or the Editor-in-Chief, instead of De Wachter, for placement. A couple of letters were received, stating that it would be better to place the names of the co-editors under their articles, which the Committee decided not to do. The Committee thought it was better not to make a change, and so informed the correspondents.

IV. The books of the Business Manager were examined and found in order. It appeared that in June 1906 there was a balance of \$905.62. Receipts from June 1, 1906 to May 31, 1907 were \$7,841.69, making a total of \$8,747.31. The disbursements for this term, including the Theological School, were \$7,128.20, leaving a balance on June 1, 1907 of \$1,619.11. Receipts from June 1, 1907 to May 31, 1908 were \$7,565.10, and including the balance, a total of \$9,184.21. Disbursements were \$8,171.32, so that on June 1, 1908, there was a balance of \$1,102.89. The sum of \$2,900.00 was given to the Theological School. This is \$1,100.00 less than the last term. The reason for this is in connection the poorer times which are general throughout the land, and also the enlargement of De Wachter.

V. In 1906 De Wachter had 5,080 subscribers. The number has now climbed to 6,000, an increase of 920, which is not much in two years. This undoubtedly is to be explained by the fact that so many are unemployed, and thus do not subscribe to De Wachter or cancel their subscription.

VI. The Committee feels free to recommend the entire Wachter personnel for re-appointment. It also requests Synod to consider whether the honorarium of the Editor-in-Chief should be increased.

VII. An overture from Classis Iowa to change the form of De Wachter. The Committee strongly advises against any change especially because of the expenses connected therewith, which would be \$75.00 per week, and \$3,500.00 per year. Our advice is to let De Wachter remain as it now is.

Humbly submitted,

J. Manni, President
J. W. Brink, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT IX.
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTIONS
OF SYMPATHY.

Esteemed Assembly:

This time also we remember with sorrow and distress the brethren, who, since the last Synod, have passed away by death.

As we may believe, after having fought the good fight here, they, as victors, have been translated into a better Fatherland.

Rev. H. Van Hoogen was the first one who was taken from us. We had not expected it. But it appeared that the Lord's thoughts were different than ours, and therefore we may not lament. The Lord, through Rev. Van Hoogen, has accomplished much.

He was born in the year 1836, and died in 1907, at the age of approximately 70 years. From the year 1865 to the day of his death, thus during a period of about 42 years he was active in the Kingdom of God. In the Netherlands he served churches in Gees, Burum, Niezijl, Hoogetveen, and Wildervank. Here in North America at the age of 58 years he labored in Roseland, Chicago, Ill., and later served the churches of Holland, Mich., and Prospect Park, New Jersey.

Rev. J. E. De Groot followed soon afterwards. The Lord took him in the comparatively young age of 35 years. He became a minister in 1900, and served the churches of Pease, Minn. and New Holland, S. D., about six years of blessed service.

About the same time at the congregation of Noordeloos, Michigan, the layman leader, J. Molhoek, died. This brother came to America in 1895, and was active in Noordeloos from February, 1902 to December, 1906. And his work there for four years through the grace of God produced much fruit.

Let us be reminded, brethren! that the departure of these brethren speak to us: Work as long as it is day, for the night cometh when no one can work. Be faithful unto death, and he shall give you the crown of life. The Lord comfort the sorrowing with His grace.

F. J. Drost, Reporter

SUPPLEMENT X.

REPORT OF THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

TO THE SYNOD OF 1908.

Esteemed Fathers and Brethren:

Your Committee appointed for the management of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our denomination has completed its task to the best of its ability.

The general celebration which took place in Grand Rapids on Monday, April 8, 1907, was above the object of our concern. And according to our flattery it was a beautiful accomplished attempt festively and fittingly to commemorate the deeds of the Lord among us and through the fleeting 50 years. A permanent remembrance of this anniversary is the "Book of Memory" with its 250 pages, handsomely bound, and received favorably both at home and abroad. The first thousand were soon sold out. The second thousand with a few additional pages has not yet been sold. Possibly the best solution is that you grant permission to the publishers who have a contract with us, the brethren J. E. Hulet and B. Sevenema, to grant a special commission to its agents. With your permission we will send a few copies to the Netherlands for possible sale there.

The financial report is given by the treasurer, brother G. W. Mokma. (Cf. Acts, Art. 74.)

Synod will certainly decide to whom or by whom the exploitation of the rest of the copies, about 500, shall be given, in order that the remaining of about 500 copies may be sold, and not remain as a capital loss. Concerning the balance you also shall decide.

Thanking you for the confidence placed in us, your Committee for the 50th anniversary of our Church,

J. Noordewier, President
E. Breen
I. Verlee
G. W. Mokma, Treasurer
Henry Beets, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT XI.

THE HOLLANDERS IN ARGENTINA.

(See Acts, Art. 38)

The undersigned having recently come from the Netherlands for the purpose of regulating the ecclesiastical life of the Dutch colonies of Argentina, by this informs the Dutch churches of North America, which more than once have shown their heartfelt sympathy for the brethren to the South, that in the power of God all means be used in order to bring the churches here to a good appearance, which under the blessing of God will take place. The spiritual circumstances in the Dutch colony is very sad. The colony from the beginning missed a Van Raalte, who gave spiritual and authoritative guidance. As sheep without a shepherd they wandered about, given into the hands of speculators, who drove them as slaves many days into inner lands. Thereafter, having experienced innumerable much suffering and misery, a misery whereby a great number died through sickness, the remainder of this migration of 1889-90 came to Buenos Aires and other places. In Buenos Aires others from Holland joined them. Through the lack of the regular preaching of the Word and competent leadership, the flock has been neglected and fallen deeply. Many ^{have} been lost in various sects, (Baptists, Salvation Army, Faith Healers, etc.); strife and schism ^{separated} the remaining from one another. Each did what was good in his own eyes. The young people with full sail went into the world. With all praise mention must be made of the remnant, which, under the guidance of the elders remained steadfast in the principles, and did not cease by day or by night to call for help to the brethren in North America and in Holland, so that all would not be lost. If for seven years a minister from North America or Holland had come, there, in all probability, would be a flourishing congregation today. At that time 150 people gathered on Sunday to worship. Thereafter schism, falling away, and scattering took place. What must now be done is to make good what was neglected, make fast that which is loose, to gather from the scattered those which still can be rescued. Ecclesiastical life must be instituted upon a fitting basis, and it is also necessary to obtain a church building (the renting of a room, which is now being done, does not fulfil the need, and is very expensive). The brethren

cannot, however, raise the necessary funds, despite their great self-denials.

The undersigned has received a friendly reception in the circle of the important Netherlanders in this city. And although they do not belong to the church (the more well-to-do, who are somewhat religious, have joined a German church; there was a time because of the neglect, relapse, and dissoluteness of the Hollanders, that they were ashamed of the Holland name;) these have out of sympathy with the Dutch colony given them support and have promised more. But one cannot continually go begging to those who are outside. It is therefore that I feel free to recommend the Holland Church of Buenos Aires for help and support of sister churches, and the Reformed brethren of North America. The brethren here give even above their ability. There are those who give everything to the Church that they can miss. Will you, therefore, sister churches remember those, who have to struggle so much, in your prayers and love offerings. It will soon need a \$1,000.00. It hopes that this will be realized through your liberality.

The church undoubtedly has a good future in this land that has such a rich development for the future. As a center it is of the greatest importance for the Holland colony. Without them, humanly speaking, the Holland nation here will disappear spiritually and morally. If the church can once get on top, it will in the long run be able to take care of itself. Let the churches or the brethren be so good as to send their gifts for the Reformed Church of Buenos Aires to De Wachter. And above all not give their gift to individuals, who claim to be raising money for this church. As it appears that already in this manner fraud is being attempted. The Consistory has appointed no one to collect for it; and so far no money has been received.

Undoubtedly I will later inform you some more about the work here and in other colonies of Holland extraction in Argentina, a land which continues to call for people to settle in the fruitful, undeveloped fields.

Your Fellow-Brother in Christ Jesus,

Dr. J. Van Lonkhuizen.

SUPPLEMENT XII.

CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES.

Adopted by the General Synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken
in the Netherlands at Utrecht September 7, 1905.
(Of. Acts 1908, Art. 58, I.)

A. INFRA- OR SUPRALAPSARIANISM

In regard to the first point, infra- or supralapsarianism, Synod declares:

that our Confessional Standards admittedly follow the infra-lapsarian presentation in respect to the doctrine of election, but it is evident both from the wording of Chapter I, Article 7, of the Canons of Dordt, that this is in no wise intended to exclude or condemn the supralapsarian presentation;

that it is hence not permitted to present the supralapsarian view as the doctrine of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, but neither to molest anyone who personally holds the supralapsarian view, inasmuch as the Synod of Dordt has made no pronouncement upon this disputed point.

Furthermore, Synod adds the warning that such profound doctrines, which are far beyond the understanding of the common people, should be discussed as little as possible in the pulpit, and that one should adhere in the preaching of the Word and in catechetical instruction to the presentation offered in our Confessional Standards.

B. ETERNAL JUSTIFICATION

In regard to the second point, eternal justification, Synod declares:

that the term itself does not occur in our Confessional Standards but that it is not for this reason to be disapproved, any more than we should be justified in disapproving the term Covenant of Works and similar terms which have been adopted through theological usage;

that it is incorrect to say that our Confessional Standards know only of a justification by and through faith, since both God's Word (Romans 4:25) and our Confession (Article XX) speak explicitly of an objective justification sealed by the resurrection of Christ, which in point of time precedes subjective justification;

that, moreover, as far as the matter itself is concerned, all our churches sincerely believe and confess that Christ from eternity in the Counsel of Peace undertook to be the Surety of His people; taking their guilt upon Himself as also that afterward He by His suffering and death on Golgotha

actually paid the ransom for us, reconciling us to God while we were yet enemies; but that on the basis of God's Word and in harmony with our Confession it must be maintained with equal firmness that we personally become partakers of this benefit only by a sincere faith.

Wherefore Synod earnestly warns against any view that would do violence either to Christ's eternal suretyship for his elect. or to the requirement of a sincere faith to be justified before God in the tribunal of conscience.

C. IMMEDIATE REGENERATION

In regard to the third point, immediate regeneration, Synod declares; that this term may be used in a good sense, insofar as our churches have, over against the Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches, always professed that regeneration is not effected through the Word or the sacraments as such, but through the almighty and regenerating operation of the Holy Spirit;

that this regenerating operation of the Holy Spirit, however, should not be in such a way divorced from the preaching of the Word as if these two were separate from each other. For though the Confession teaches that we should have no doubt concerning the salvation of our children dying in their infancy despite the fact that they have not heard the preaching of the Gospel, and though our Confessional Standards nowhere express themselves about the manner in which such regeneration takes place in these and other children, it is, on the other hand, no less certain that the Gospel is a power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, and that in the case of adults the regenerating operation of the Holy Spirit accompanies the preaching of the Gospel.

Even though Synod does not dispute that God is able also apart from the preaching of the Word—as, for instance, in the pagan world—to regenerate those whom He will, yet Synod judges that on the basis of the Word of God we are not able to make any declaration in respect to the question whether this actually occurs, and that, therefore, we should adhere to the rule which the revealed Word offers us, and should leave the hidden things to the Lord our God.

D. PRESUMPTIVE REGENERATION

And finally, in regard to the fourth point, presumptive regeneration, Synod declares;

that according to the Confession of our churches the seed of the covenant, by virtue of the promise of God, must be held to be regenerated and sanctified in Christ, until upon growing up they should

manifest the contrary in their way of life or in doctrine;

that it is, however, less correct to say that baptism is administered to the children of believers on the ground of their presumed regeneration, since the ground of baptism is found in the command and the promise of God;

that, furthermore, the judgment of charity with which the Church regards the seed of the covenant as regenerated, does not at all imply that each child is actually born again, seeing that God's Word teaches that they are not all Israel that are of Israel, and of Isaac it is said, "In him shall thy seed be called" (Romans 9:6,7), so that it is imperative in the preaching constantly to urge earnest self-examination, since only he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

Moreover, Synod in agreement with our Confession maintains that "the sacraments are not empty or meaningless signs, so as to deceive us, but visible signs and seals of an inward and invisible thing, by means of which God works in us by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Article 33), and that more particularly baptism is called "the washing of regeneration" and "the washing away of sins" because God would "assure us by this divine pledge and sign that we are spiritually cleansed from our sins as really as we are outwardly washed with water"; wherefore our Church in the prayer after baptism "thanks and praises God that he has forgiven us and our children all our sins, through the blood of His beloved Son Jesus Christ, and received us through His Holy Spirit as members of His only begotten Son, and so adopted us to be His children, and sealed and confirmed the same unto us by holy baptism"; so that our Confessional Standards clearly teach that the sacrament of baptism signifies and seals the washing away of our sins by the blood and the Spirit of Jesus Christ, that is, the justification and the renewal by the Holy Spirit as benefits which God has bestowed upon our seed.

Synod is of the opinion that the representation that every elect child is on that account already in fact regenerated even before baptism can be proved neither on Scriptural nor on confessional grounds, seeing that God fulfills His promise sovereignly in His own time, whether before, during, or after baptism. It is hence imperative to be circumspect in one's utterances on this matter, so as not to desire to be wise beyond that which God has revealed.