

ACTS OF SYNOD
OF THE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
held June 21 to 30, 1916
at Grand Rapids, Michigan

Notes:

- (1) The pagination of this translation follows that of the original Dutch.
- (2) This translation is not an official translation and should be compared with the original for accuracy.
- (3) This translation was prepared under the auspices of the Synodical Interim Committee of the Christian Reformed Church, 1977.
- (4) English portions of the original Acts have not been reproduced in this translation. For these the original should be consulted.

ACTS OF SYNOD
OF THE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HELD JUNE 21 TO 30, 1916,
AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MORNING SESSION, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21.

Article 1.

On Wednesday morning, June 21, at 10:00 o'clock, in the First Christian Reformed Church at Grand Rapids, Michigan, Rev. J. Manni, the president of the last Synod, calls the synodical assembly to order, who, the night before, led Synod in its Hour of Prayer, in the Eastern Avenue Church, speaking on Col. 1:9-12a: "A Comprehensive Apostolic Prayer".

Article 2.

Rev. J. Manni opens the session with the singing of Psalm 123:1; he reads Matthew 22:35-23:11, and addresses the assembly as follows:

Honorable and beloved brothers in Christ, delegates to Synod, esteemed professors, brothers as delegates and committees appointed by the last Synod to serve this Synod with reports and advice:

Grace, peace, and mercy be granted unto you from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It is a pleasant task for me, my brothers in Christ, to welcome you on the morning of this day, in the church building of one of the oldest congregation of our churches.

One can just see and hear that there is joy among the brothers, where so many come together from East and West, all working for the one great cause, as office-bearers fighting for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Thereto the brothers shall in particular be gathered together. Assembled here in Synod, it must be shown that we love the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and even more that we are ready to devote our talents and strength thereto.

By many, being delegated to Synod is considered as a nice vacation, a pleasant time. The delegates know better. You are called to strenuous work, my brothers. called to work with the exertion of all your faculties. Therefore it is necessary to be clothed with all power.

We meet together as churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore our position is thereby marked, our calling designated. We assemble as brothers. There are no fathers, no masters among us. Only one is our Master, one our Father, our Father who is in heaven.

He is the heavenly Majesty, the eternal Father, the Almighty, full of glory, origin and cause of all good. He is the Father of all his children. He is the living God, who reigns from his exalted heavenly throne over heaven, earth, sea, and deep.

This God is our God. He is the source and root of our existence. We are his children. He keeps, protects, preserves. We are the objects of his eternal love. May we love and worship Him.

We have one Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father for his sake. We have one Master, who is Christ. He is ours. We are his. He is at the same time our King and High Priest, who continually prays for us.

Through his royal Word he rules over us. We must

earnestly take care that He alone be King. The King very carefully takes note of his subjects in all that they do. Especially when they are busy in the particular matters of his Kingdom.

Important matters lie before you, my brothers. The Agenda shows this. "The knowledge of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" is necessary here. Much that must be considered concern the same matters as at previous Synods, but therefore no less difficult, yes sometimes more involved. The school, missions, the union question, undoubtedly comprise the main dish. These three matters more than any other matters concern the life of our churches. From the school rich strength must flow forth working into the life of our churches. Through missions it must reveal its rich strength externally for the spread of the Kingdom of its King. And what shall we say with respect to the question of the Unions? We know how closely this is related to the life of our people, because the unions exert such a powerful influence upon our temporal existence, which in turn is so closely bound up with the life of our churches. God spare us, and especially you brothers, from thoughtlessness, and the assembly remain within the boundaries pointed out by its King. May he grant you the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Our American state of affairs must be taken into consideration in everything. We simply cannot separate ourselves in our ecclesiastical life from the same. It will exert influence upon our ecclesiastical life. And despite the fact that we must specifically reckon with it, yet at the same time we may not permit it to dominate us.

Christ is our King. His Word remains law. "The Lord is our Judge; the Lord is our Lawgiver; the Lord is our King." May this be emblazoned with golden letters before the eyes of our people, and also before your eyes, brothers, in your sessions.

The task then, brothers, that awaits you, is a very important one. We may not delay you longer. Having assembled for this important work, you must perform the same; perform it by prayerful dependence upon God, in the dependence upon the inworking of the Holy Spirit. Then alone the end can be to his glory.

Come, let us therefore unite in prayer to the God of all grace. He will use us sinners in his

Kingdom on earth. According to his eternal good pleasure he will hear the prayer of his people, no matter how defective, when they seek him in humility. And on the basis of that prayer he qualifies his people for the most strenuous work. Come then, let us seek him and lay our prayer before him in dependence upon his faithfulness.

PRAYER.

Article 3.

The credentials are presented. The following brothers appear to be delegated and are present:

Classis Grand Rapids East:

Revs. W. P. Van Wyk, J. Groen, J. Poet;
Elders N. Silvius, Th. Palma, C. Vander Ploeg.

Classis Grand Rapids West:

Revs. H. Beets, D. R. Drukker, J. Van Lonkhuyzen;
Elders J. De Boer, A. Rodenhuis, G. J. Rocks.

Classis Hackensacks:

Revs. D. De Beer, K. Poppen;
Elders R. Drukker, G. Barrowclough.

Classis Holland:

Revs. E. J. Tuuk, K. Kuiper, L. J. Lamberts;
Elders J. J. Heeringa, M. J. Ten Hoor, A. Peters.

Classis Hudson:

Revs. J. J. Hiemenga, J. B. Hoekstra, H. Bakker;
Elders J. S. Balt, D. Leeuwen, C. Hoogheemstra.

Classis Illinois:

Revs. F. Doezeema, G. J. Haan, H. J. Kuiper;
Elders S. Dekker, Jas. De Boer, P. G. De Boer.

Classis Muskegon:

Revs. W. P. Haeres, J. L. Haeres, N. Burggraaf;
Elders J. Kleinhesseling, M. Trap, J. Milkamp.

Classis Orange City:

Revs. W. De Groot, D. Hollebaek, J. Timmermann;
Elders A. Cupido, G. H. Ledeboer.

Classis Oetfrieslands:

Revs. H. Ahuis, H. G. Bode, D. H. Kromminga;
Elders W. Jansen, B. Primus.

Classis Pacific:

Revs. E. Breen, W. Meyer, C. Vriesman;
Elders H. J. Kok, P. Vanden Berg, J. Van Dyken.

Classis Pella:

Revs. G. D. De Jong, A. H. Brat, P. Bloem;
Elders K. Van Wyk, W. Stuursma, W. Vos.

Classis Sioux Center:

Revs. J. M. Byleveld, M. De Boer, J. M. Vande Kieft;
Elders M. Konistra, F. Faber, J. Brock.

Classis Zeeland:

Revs. A. Keizer, M. Van Vessem, J. H. Geerlins;
Elders H. Smit, H. Goodyk, J. H. Buter.

Article 4.

The assembly elects the following officers:

President - Rev. A. Keizer
Vice-President - Rev. W. P. Van Wyk
First Clerk - Rev. J. B. Hoekstra
Second Clerk - Rev. E. J. Tuuk

Article 5.

The officers take their place, whereupon the newly chosen president addresses the assembly, and since the morning session has come to a close, after it is decided to meet again at 2:00 p.m., he closes with prayer.

AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 21.

Article 6.

Opening Devotions.

The president reads the Public Declaration, which is answered in the affirmative by the assembly after it had risen.

Article 7.

The time for the sessions are established as follows:
Morning from 8:00 to 11:30 and afternoons from 2:00 to 5:30,
with 15 minutes breaks both morning and afternoon.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 28, Synod will take an automobile tour to the Asylum and the Holland Home

Article 8.

The president announces the appointment of the various committees:

Committee for the appointment of Committees for Pre-advices: Revs. J. Timmermann, H. Bakker, F. Doezeema, J. L. Heeres, H. Kuiper, J. M. Vande Kieft, K. Poppen; Elders Th. Pasma, A. S. Ledeboer, W. Jansen, P. Vanden Berg, J. Van Wyk, H. Goodyk. (Cf. Art. 14.)

Committee for Appointments: Revs. G. D. De Jong, D. R. Drukker, G. J. Haan, W. P. Heeres, H. Ahuis; Elders J. Heeringa, M. Kooistra, H. Smit. (Cf. Art. 51.)

Committee for Reception of Delegates from Corresponding Churches: Dr. H. Beets and Rev. D. De Beer.

Obituary Committee: Rev. J. Post and Rev. E. Breen.
(Cf. Art. 52.)

Article 9.

A motion from Dr. Van Lonkhuyzen concerning the present war is tabled for further consideration.

Article 10.

The following reports are read:

1. Synodical Committee (Supplement I).
2. Curatorium (Supplement II and Arts. 20 and 33).
3. General Fund for Domestic Missions (Supplement III and Art. 23).
4. Heathen Missions (Supplement IV and Art. 25).
5. General Committee for Jewish Missions (Supplement V and Art. 25).
6. Paterson Hebrew Mission (Supplement VI and Art. 29).

7. Emeritus Board (Supplement VII and Art. 29).
8. Church Help (Supplement VIII).
9. Publication Committee (Supplement IX and Art. 29).
10. South America (Supplement X and Art. 23).
11. Committee for Reduction of Curators (Art. 33).
12. Committee for the Transfer of the Academy at Grand Rapids to a Society (Art. 33).
13. Committee to Draft a Form for the Erasure of Disobedient Baptized Members, not prepared to report. Committee continued (Art. 51).
14. Committee for the Prevention of the Dispersion of our People (Supplement XI and Art. 23).
15. Reports of the Deputies and Examiners (Art. 45).
16. Reports of the Delegates to Corresponding Churches (Art. 50).
17. Two letters from the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands (Supplement XII, cf. acts 1914, pp. 15, 16, 83).
18. A letter from the Reformed Church of South Africa (Supplement XIII).
19. A letter from the Old Reformed Churches of Germany (Supplement XIV).
20. A letter from the delegate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Synod).

In as far as possible these reports will be placed in the hands of the Committees of Pre-advice.

Article 11.

It is decided that in the future that all the reports which do not appear in the Agenda must be presented to Synod in printed form, and at the same time attention is directed to Acts 1912, Art. 22, p. 17: "Decided that from now on all copies of reports (of Committees of Pre-advice) must appear in printed form or otherwise before the assembly."

Article 12.

In connection with the filing of the report of the Curatorium (Art. 10), Synod decides: "Although with respect to the erection of the administration building on the new campus, the Curatorium acted contrary to the decision of the Synod of 1914, Synod nevertheless ratifies the action of the Curatorium

in this matter, since the circumstances since the previous Synod had changed:

- a. with respect to the increase of the number of students;
- b. with respect to the large sums of money that have been pledged since the previous Synod.

Article 13.

Synod approves the following program for the laying of the cornerstone of the Administration Building of Calvin College, to be held on Thursday, June 22, at 2:00 p.m., in the presence of the members of the honorable Synod:

1. Prayer by the president of Synod, Rev. A. Keizer.
2. Laying of the cornerstone by the chairman of the Building Committee, Rev. J. Manni.
3. The singing of Psalm 134:3.
4. Address in Dutch by Prof. F. M. Ten Hoor, Rector of the School.
5. The singing of Psalm 118:11.
6. Address in English by Dr. H. Beets, president of the Curatorium.
7. Closing Prayer by Prof. A. J. Rooks, president of Calvin College.
8. Doxology.

Honored guests on the platform, Revs. L. J. Hulst, J. Noordewier, G. Broene, K. Kuiper, and Mrs. J. Schepers.

Prof. Hemkes and Rev. C. Bode, also invited as honored guests, cannot be present because of circumstances.

May the Lord be our help in the construction of this "Ebenezer".

Article 14.

The Committee to appoint the Committees of Pre-advice report as follows:

I. THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

Revs. J. Timmermann, H. Beets, K. Kuiper, F. Doezema, and D. H. Krommings.

Elders N. Silvius, Geo. Barrowclough, J. S. Balt, J. Mil-kamp, J. J. Heerings, and J. H. Buter.

Advisors: Prof. Berkhof and Prof. Rooks.

Times: Friday morning.

II. MISSION MATTERS

A. Agenda A, C, D, E.
Dr. J. Van Lohkhuizen, Revs. D. Hollebeek, K. Poppen,
H. Ahuis, C. Vriesman, and M. De Boer.
Elders G. J. Rocks, W. Vos, F. Faber, K. Van Wyk,
and J. Van Dyken.

B. Heathen Mission - Agenda B
Revs. J. Groen, M. Van Vessel, J. L. Heeres, D. De
Beer, J. M. Vande Kieft, and P. Bloem.
Elders M. J. Ten Hoor, A. G. Ladeboer, Jappe De Boer,
M. Kooistra, B. Primus, and J. Brock.
Advisors: Prof. S. Volbeda, Dr. Y. P. De Jong.
Time: Monday afternoon.

III. PUBLICATION MATTERS

Revs. G. D. De Jong, D. R. Drukker, N. Burggraaf, W. De
Groot, H. C. Bode, and H. J. Geerlings.
Elders Jas. De Boer, R. Drukker, S. Dekker, D. Leeuwen,
and C. Hoogheemstra.
Time: Tuesday morning.

IV. CHURCH ORDER

Revs. E. J. Tuuk, H. Bakker, G. J. Haan, W. P. Heeres,
and L. J. Lamberts.
Advisors: Prof. Heyns and Prof. Janesen.
Time: Tuesday afternoon.

V. VARIA

Revs. W. P. Van Wyk, J. J. Hismenga, and A. H. Brat.
Elders Th. Pasma, A. Petere, P.G. De Boer, and A. Cupido.
Advisor: Prof. B. K. Kuiper.
Time: Wednesday morning.

VI. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Revs. E. Breen, H. J. Kuiper, and J. M. Eyleveld.
Elders Kleinhesselink, Stuurema, Rodenhuis, Kok, Vander
Ploeg, Jansen, and Vanden Berg.
Advisor: Prof. F. M. Ten Hoor.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Poppen

Article 15.

Synod adjourns until Thursday afternoon after the laying of the cornerstone, in order to give the Committees of Pre-
advice an opportunity to deliberate.

Closing Devotions.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 22.

Article 16.

Opening Devotions.

Article 17.

Synod is addressed by the following representatives of corresponding churches, et al: Mr. E. S. Greenbaum, Chicago Hebrew Mission, responded to by Rev. De Beer; Rev. O. M. Laing, United Presbyterian Church, responded to by Dr. Beets; Mr. L. B. Trowbridge, Chicago Tract Society, responded to by Rev. Hiemenga; Mr. Wm. P. Lovett, Michigan Dry Campaign and Anti-Saloon League, responded to by Rev. Poppen; Rev. W. J. Van Kersen, Reformed Church in America, responded to by Rev. Tuuk; Rev. H. S. Atchison, American Presbyterian Church, responded to by Rev. H. J. Kuiper; Prof. Jas. Dooley, Academy of Colored People at Brewton, Alabama, responded to by Rev. Drukker.

Article 18.

Closing Devotions.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 23.

Article 19.

Opening Devotions.

Report of the Synodical Treasurer, Rev. J. Noordewier.

Balance, 1914	\$ 84.50	
Receipts to June 1916	<u>2,952.41</u>	
Total		\$5,036.91
Disbursements to 6-16-16		<u>2,109.33</u>
Balance		\$ 927.58

Rev. G. D. De Jong reports that the books of the Treasurer were examined and found to be in order.

It was decided to set the quota for the Synodical Fund at 20¢ per family for one term. (See also Art. 22.)

Article 20.

Dr. H. Beets reports as follows for the Committee of Pre-advice with respect to matters of the Theological School and Calvin Colleges:

1. Your committee advises that Synod approve the proposal of the Curatorium, that henceforth a distinction be made between the Seminary, the College, and the Preparatory School, with an eye to the appointment and salaries of professors and instructors.

Grounds: For the College, and especially for the Seminary, greater qualifications are necessary for professors than for instructors of the Preparatory School, and therefore the salaries should be determined on a pro rata basis.

Adopted.

2. Your committee advises that the proposal of the Curatorium under B, 2, be altered as follows: Concerning the Theological Professors the Curatorium proposes to Synod that the salary be set at \$1,700.00.

Grounds: Increased cost of living.

Adopted.

3. In view of the abovementioned salary increase and that of the other professors under 2, and that which will take place because of former Synodical action, your committee advises to adopt the proposal of the Curatorium that the quota per family be increased from \$1.00 to \$1.25.

Grounds: The present quota is insufficient;

the requested amount per family is comparatively small for such an important institution as the School of our Churches.
Adopted.

4. Under b, 4 of the report of the Curatorium we find the following: Concerning the regulation and the setting up of the pensioning of professors, it be declared that all definitely appointed professors (not the other), have the right to receive pension from the Churches, because they, even as ministers, have devoted all their talents and strength completely and exclusively in the service of the Churches. The committee did not believe it should make a proposal concerning the suggestion of the Curatorium of setting the pension at a minimum of \$500.00 and a maximum of \$1,000.00, because it is too binding.

Adopted.

5. Your committee advises to approve the following proposal of the Curatorium, under 5, viz., to increase the pension of Mrs. G. E. Boer to \$400.00 and that of Mrs. H. Beuker to \$300.00.

Adopted.

6. Concerning Examination under 6, advice is offered to Synod that Art. 5 of the Rules for the Curatorium shall read: "The Curatorium shall meet annually in the month of June. Concerning examinations the following regulations shall obtain:

"a. All examinations in the Preparatory School and the College, except for the graduates in the last named department, shall be taken by the faculty, which shall also determine the outcome.

"b. An Examining Committee of five persons, which preside and have the right to ask questions, shall represent the Curatorium with the examination of the graduates of the College, in the following subjects: General and Dutch History, Psychology and Logic, History of Philosophy, Reformed Doctrine, Dutch and English Language and Literature. The faculty shall give the examination. The outcome of the examination rests with the full Curatorium, after the report of the Examining Committee, and after having heard the judgment of the faculty."

Adopted.

(For the continuation of this report see Art. 33.)

Article 21.

Closing Devotions.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 23.

Article 22.

Opening Devotions.

Rev. J. Noordewier announces the quota for each Classis to pay for the Traveling Expenses:

Grand Rapids East	\$452.00	Orange City	\$201. 20
Grand Rapids West	492.00	Ostfriesland	101.40
Hackensack	45.20	Pacific	106.20
Holland	324.20	Pella	182.00
Hudson	262.40	Sioux Center	183.00
Illinois	464.00	Zeeland	266.80
Muskegon	395.00		
(Cf. Art. 19.)			

Article 23.

Rev. D. Hollebeek report for the Committee of Pre-advice for Domestic Missions; which was received as informations:

1. Your committee took note of the General Fund in the report of the Deputies of this Fund.

The Deputies recommend to Synod the following Classes that need support from the General Fund for Domestic Missions in the following amounts:

Classis	Grand Rapids East	\$ 500.00
"	Hudson & Hackensack	2,500.00
"	Muskegon	1,200.00
"	Orange City	1,600.00
"	Pella	2,500.00
"	Pacific	4,000.00
"	Ostfriesland	1,200.00

With respect to setting this budget Synod decides to adopt the following advice from the committee ad hoc;

Synod rouse the congregations through the Classes to give greater support for the General Fund for Domestic Missions.

Ground: The last two years there was a disbursement of \$19,000.00, of which only \$13,000.00 was received through offerings, and the remainder from the Koffer legacy (\$6,000.00). This legacy made it possible to disburse \$19,000.00.

For the next two years Synod is promising \$28,000.00. The average amount collected will be \$13,000.00. Without increased collection there will be a shortage of \$15,000.00 at the end of two years.

Adopted.

It was further decided that the Deputies of the General Fund henceforth include in their report to Synod what the aid given was used for, while those Classes which receive support are requested to indicate how much per family was given in their own resort.

II. In connection with the report of the Committee for the Prevention of the Dispersion of our People (Supplement XI) Synod decides that not only the presently functioning brothers be re-appointed, but because of the wide scope of territory, two more members be added, namely, one in the Northwest and another in the Southwest of our country. (Cf. Art. 51 for this committee.)

Since from a personal letter it appears that the Committee feels itself hampered through the regulations in the Acts of 1914, Art. 24, I, 2, c, 1, 2, 3, Synod decides to circumscribe this work as follows:

"That the Committee to prevent dispersion by means of correspondence with the settlements of our Reformed people become informed of the spiritual and material circumstances of these settlements; and then the information considered necessary be published in the Church papers, and further give particular information concerning the spiritual and material situation in these settlements, and thus give guidance in migrating to prevent material disappointment and spiritual destruction as much as possible."

Adopted.

That part of the report that deals with the immigration work in the East is placed in the hands of Classes Hudson and Hackensack, so that, if it is desirable,

to unite with the Dutch Emigrants Society. (Cf. V. below).
Adopted.

Also decided that this committee, in order to reach the purpose mentioned above, to advertise itself always as The Bureau of Information for Migration.

Adopted.

III. South America. With reference to the work in South America, your committee reviewed the report of the deputies. (Supplement X.)

Your committee advises that again for the next two years to take one collection for this cause, and to rouse the delinquent congregations to fulfil their calling. (Committee, Art. 51.)

Adopted.

IV. Mormonism. Nothing received.

V. With respect to the instruction of Classess Hudson and Hackensack with respect to the work of immigration at Hoboken, N. J., your committee advises as follows:

1. The Eastern Classes continue to promote the immigration work, and Synod decide to support this work financially from the General Fund for Domestic Missions for about \$600.00.

2. That the regulation of this work be entrusted to the Eastern churches. (Cf. Point II above.)

Adopted.

(For Jewish Missions see Art. 28.)

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 26.

Article 24.

Opening Devotions.

Roll call reveals that the alternate, Elder J. Vander Schuur, from Classis Grand Rapids East takes the place of Elder C. Van der Ploeg; Classis Grand Rapids West, the alternate, Elder W. Mulder takes the place of Elder A. Rodenhuis; from Classis Sioux Center Elder F. Faber was called home.

Article 25.

Rev. Van Veenem reports for the Committee of Pre-advice for Heathen Missions. It is received as information.

I. Your committee first of all calls attention to the proposals of the Board:

1. Concerning the necessity of new buildings, namely, a new house for the post of Two Grey Hills, since the old one was destroyed by a storm; and mission buildings for Blanco Canyon, since there are no buildings there; two dormitories, a barn, and the installation of a gas plant at Rehoboth.

Synod instruct the Board to execute this work in the best way, and at the most convenient time.

Adopted.

2. Concerning the proposal for the Board to purchase a section of land at Rehoboth (see Supplement IV) it is decided to authorize the Board to buy this land or to obtain it in another manner, since it is necessary for our institution since it contains the well of Smith's ranch, and since it is also indispensable for other purposes.

3. Concerning the Training School (Cf. Acts 1914, Art. 52, P. 38), Synod decides to hold this matter in status quo for the present, to consider it further, D.V., in 1918.

II. Concerning the instruction of the consistory of the Sherman St. Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.: "Synod declare that it is not advisable to call a missionary within five years from the Indian Field," decided not to consider the matter.

III. Concerning the expansion of our Mission the following is found on the Agendas:

1. Classis Grand Rapids East: "Synod consider the possibility and desirability of choosing a new mission field."

2. Classis Grand Rapids West: requests the same as Classis Grand Rapids East, with the stipulation "foreign".

3. Classis Holland requests that a Committee of investigation be appointed with respect to the desirability and possi-

bility of beginning mission work among the heathen in foreign lands.

4. Classis Muskegon asks whether it is not desirable to take preparatory measures to begin heathen mission in a foreign country.

5. Classis Ostfriesland asks to make a beginning of heathen mission in a foreign country.

6. Classis Hackensack asks: a. that Synod take over a new heathen mission field; b. if it so decides, to choose South America.

7. Classis Hudson desires; Synod look for a new mission field, preferably South America.

However much your committee is convinced that the Church must come to the matter of the expansion of its heathen missions, but that it knows little about new fields, and still less what the approximate cost will be to start a new field, it is of the opinion that this, however, should not take place with too much haste, that we must be informed from every angle before a good decision can be made, and therefore advises that the proposal of Classis Zeeland, which is as follows: "For the further expansion of our Heathen Missions Synod appoint a Committee, which shall consider the matter from all sides, and to present a full report to the Synod of 1918," be adopted, as being in every aspect effective and satisfactory for everyone.

Should Synod so decide, then thereby an answer is given to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America, which through its Acting Foreign Secretary, Dr. Cantine, urgently requested our Church to cooperate in Arabian Missions.

Also herewith an answer is given to missionary A. J. Bliet, of the Netherlands Missionary Society, who directs attention to the Island of Bali in the Netherlands Indies with its 2½ million Hindus. (For committee ad hoc see Art. 51.)

Adopted.

IV. Further we had to consider questions from Classes Illinois, Pella, and Zeeland concerning membership of missionaries.

The question is asked whether the missionaries can be members of Rehoboth, although according to the Mission Order they belong to the sending Church; and, in what manner this can be done.

In the consideration of this matter we are soon confronted with the difficult question as to whether there is an organized church at Rehoboth, since we know of no organized church except the one at Fort Defiance. The Classess proceed from that supposition, but concerning this your committee has no certainty.

1. Your committee is of the opinion that we are to abide by Art. 12 of the Mission Order, and therefore the membership of the missionary and that of his converts, must remain with the sending church or churches, until there is an organization of a native church.

2. That Synod request Classie Pella to investigate whether an organized church exists at Rehoboth, New Mexico, and if so, what the history of its organization is, and report to the Synod of 1918.

Synod does not accept the advice mentioned under Point IV, but decides to appoint a committee, which shall make an investigation whether it is permissible according to Reformed Church Polity that a missionary minister of the Word belonging officially to a calling church, can belong to an organized church as far as membership is concerned on the mission field, and whether in this capacity he can also be elected to the office of elder or deacon. During the next two years we shall continue as before. (Of. Art. 51 for the comm.)

Closing Devotions.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 27.

Article 26.

Opening Devotions.

Article 27.

Rev. D. R. Drukker report for the Committee of Pre-advice for Publication Matters. Received as information.

1. Concerning the protest signed by Prof. W. Hevns and Rev. J. Manni against a decision made by the Publication

Committee (Cf. Supplement IX), your committee advises not to act on the matter, because:

a. From the discussion it did not appear to the committee that by permitting The Banner to continue to be printed in Grand Rapids the Church would not be harmed financially by \$250.00;

b. Because Point II cannot be a point for protest, since the Committee reserved the right to reject some or all bids;

c. Because Point III rests upon subjective grounds.

Adopted.

2. According to the decision of the last Synod, the Publication Committee was incorporated according to the laws of the State of Michigan.

Received as information.

3. Synod also approves the decision of the last Synod executed by the Publication in the payment to The Banner Publishing Co., and at the same time gratefully takes note that The Banner Publishing Co. in the liquidation of the debt, was satisfied with \$300.00 instead of \$900.00.

4. Points 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the report are received as information. (Point 3 makes mention that a contract with the Grand Rapids Printing Co. was closed for the printing of The Banner.

Point 4 takes note of the fact that Mr. Jacob Van Eas, since the purchase of The Banner has been working a Field Agent for both De Wachter and The Banner.

Point 5 states that the Publication Committee with much difficulty has been successful in obtaining departmental editors for both of the church periodicals.

And Point 6 states that the advertising question keeps the Committee busy, and at times is of a difficult and involved nature.)

5. Point 7 concerns the financial report, concerning which your Committee of Pre-advice advises as follows: "Your committee directs the attention of Synod to the report of the Business Manager of the Publishing Committee, and points out that henceforth a more lucid report must be submitted, and that at the same time it must be signed by the Auditing Committee appointed thereto."

Instead of this proposal the following is adopted:

"The Publication Committee is instructed to institute a more up-to-date and less cumbersome manner of bookkeeping. Synod desires that to it shall repeatedly be reported what the credit as well as the debit is of the subscribers and the advertisers, and furthermore that each year an expert accountant be employed to examine the books thoroughly."

6. The Publication Committee proposes the following to Synod:

a. Since the last Synod failed to designate which of the members appointed were to serve four years and which two years, it proposes that the entire Committee be retired, and that Synod in appointing the members of the Committee designate who are to serve four years and who two years. (Cf. Art. 51 for members)

Adopted.

b. To delete from from the church papers the annual and semi-annual financial reports of the Classes, since it is superfluous and saves space.

Rejected.

c. Reappointment of the present personnel of De Wachter and The Banner. Since brother W. Stuart did not wish to be reappointed, your Committee recommends the appointment of Rev. G. D. De Jong for the Department of "For and From the Press", and Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen as alternate Editor-in-Chief of De Wachter.

Adopted.

d. The honorarium for associate editors of The Banner be set at \$60.00 per year. Synod sets it at \$50.00.

7. Finally, the Publication Committee requests the approval of Synod to farm out the work of printing and administration for a specific amount of money for a specific number of years, but maintaining all the rights that the Church now has with respect to the periodicals.

The pre-advice is adopted, which is as follows: Your committee advises not to consider this matter, because the adoption of this proposal would be contrary to the spirit of the decisions of former Synods. (Acts 1912, p 15, IV, c.)

8. The Publication Committee asks: Whether the bill sent in

Rev. J. Noordewier for printing-work in The Banner must be paid by Synod.

Decided that such should be done.

9. The Publication Committee asks: To enlarge The Banner by four pages, if possible without increased expense.

Permission to do so granted.

10. Proposals on the Agenda concerning Publication Matters.

a. Concerning the department of the Sunday School Lesson in The Banner that be dispensed with because of the weekly appearance of The Instructor for the Sunday School.

Classis Zeeland

Decided not only to continue the Sunday School lesson in The Banner but re-introduce it in De Wachter for diversity and because of the desire of the subscribers. (For Committee members see Art. 51.)

b. Synod decide to give an account of the collections in The Banner as well as in De Wachter.

Grounds:

1) The Banner is now a church paper as well as De Wachter.

2) Our English-speaking congregations as well as the Dutch congregations, who only read The Banner have a right to this.

Classis Illinois

The proposal of the Committee for Pre-advice is adopted, which is: not to consider this matter; a) because it takes too much room, and b) because there is too much expense involved.

c. A. To enforce the decision of a former Synod not to report in De Wachter gifts that have been given to ministers, and decide that this also be applicable to The Banner.

Classis Pacific

B. That all correspondence in De Wachter and The Banner shall be signed with the address included by the senders.

Classis Pacific

The advice of the Committee of Pre-advice concerning Point A of Classis Pacific is adopted: Your committee advises so to decide. In connection herewith your committee calls attention to the constant reporting of increase in salary,

the provision of an automobile by the congregation, the building of beautiful parsonages, etc. Your committee believes that the editors should especially be warned against the writing and the placement of articles in this spirit so that the material matters are not placed in the foreground.

Point B of Classis Pacific is approved.

d. Synod publish its own tracts instead of collecting for Tract Societies.

Classis Grand Rapids West

Synod provide for the distribution of its own tracts.

Classis Grand Rapids East

Your committee advises not to take this matter under consideration, but to appoint a committee to negotiate with the Chicago Tract Society to publish tracts that will satisfy our constituency. (For committee see Art. 51.)

Adopted.

e. Synod provide for an English edition of the Church Order.

Classis Grand Rapids East

The Classis asks Synod to provide for an English edition of the Church Manual.

Classis Hackensack

Decided not to take this matter under consideration, but to leave it to private initiative, as has been done before.

f. Synod declare the desirability to give its moral support to the possible publication of a small edition of the Psalter in the English language as approved by Synod.

- Grounds: 1) For our Reformed people there is a need to remain a psalm-singing people; the children should be taught the psalms in English, even as the Dutch psalms are learned.
- 2) Such a small Psalter is handier than the large book that is used in the worship services, and it will promote the learning and the singing of the English psalms by our youth.

Classis Holland

The committee advises that such be done upon the basis of the grounds given in the instruction.

Adopted.

g. Our own Sunday School lessons. (Agenda, p. 74). Your committee having considered the report of the committee appointed to prepare our own Sunday School lessons, agrees with the advice of this committee, which is as follows: "We courteously urge Synod as soon as possible to make a declaration what the position of the Sunday School should be in our churches. Only then can it be considered whether our own Sunday School lessons would be preferred above the International Sunday School Lessons, and thereafter, should it appear that the purpose of those lessons do not measure up to the standard which we desire for our Sunday School, to appoint qualified brothers to provide for such a series of lessons."

Decided to appoint such a committee, which shall report to the next Synod. (Art. 51.)

h. Concerning the Quarterly Missionary Sabbathschool Lesson. (Agenda, p. 73.) Your committee advises Synod to publish these lessons again in De Wachter and The Banner, provided that the Sunday School lessons are to be published in our church papers again, and that at the same time a committee be appointed to write these lessons.

Approved. To the editors of the Sunday School department this task is assigned. (However, see Art. 51.)

Article 28.

Closing Devotions.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 25.

Article 29.

After the opening devotions Rev. J. Hollebeek reports for the Committee of Pre-advice for Jewish Missions.

1. It is decided not to consider the request to sign a memorial presented by Mr. Blackstone,

requesting the government of the United States to work out a plan that Palestine be placed at the disposal of the Jews.

2. In connection with the Report of the Jewish Mission Committee, Supplement V, and the Committee for the Paterson Jewish Mission, Supplement VI, it is decided that the work at Paterson, in the name of Synod, be executed by Classes Hackensack and Hudson for the regulation of the work.

The General Jewish Mission Committee is instructed to grant the above-named Classes not more than \$8,000.00 for this work for the next two years.

Further the Deputies of Classes Hackensack and Hudson are instructed to devise a draft of Rules for the work there, and to report to the next Synod.

3. In connection with a request for the Chicago Hebrew Mission for continuation of support, which up to this time has been given by our Church, Synod decides that for the next two years it also grant support in the amount of \$1,000.00 per year as did the Synod of 1914, Acts, Art. 24, II, 3.

Article 30.

Rev. H. Bakker report for the Committee of Pre-advice pertaining to Church Order Matters:

1. Overture from Classis Hudson:

"Synod declare that the period for the consideration of candidates for one or more calls be decreased from 6 to 3 weeks:

Grounds:

a. The students are far better known in our churches than formerly was the case, when they are declared candidates;

b. If, for a minister, who has a charge, three weeks is considered sufficient, then such a period of time is also sufficient for someone who does not have a field of labor."

Your committee advises Synod to abide by the present decision.

Grounds:

a. The grounds adduced for this instruction are in the

estimation of the Committee not convincing to make a change.

b. In practice it has not appeared that this rule has done any damage.

Adopted.

2. Overtures from Classis Orange City and Englewood:

"Synod declare what subjects are to be included in the peremptoir examinations, and wherein it is different from the preparatoir examination.

Grounds:

- a. It does not appear that this has been officially established;
- b. In practice the premp-toir appears to be a hurried repetition of the preparatoir.

Classis Orange City"

"The Synod resolve to abolish the Classical Examinations of Candidates for the Ministry who graduate from our Seminary.

Grounds:

- a. As at present conducted, these examinations are simply imitations of examinations already passed at the Seminary.
- b. The examinations at the Seminary are conducted with the cooperation and under the supervision of the Council (Curatorium) which represents the Synod and consequently all our churches. An additional safeguard for these churches is therefore superfluous. Safety lies rather in undivided centralized responsibility.
- c. Inasmuch as the classical examinations in no wise benefit our churches, they involve a waste of time for classical delegates and entail unnecessary hardship for the Candidates. The time spent in preparation could be more profitably employed.
- d. Candidates who make a poor showing at these examinations but are nevertheless admitted to the ministry are frequently handicapped in their work by the publicity and the stigma attached to them at the very beginning of their ministerial career.

Consistory, Second Englewood, Chicago"

Your committee is of the opinion that much is to be said for the overture of Englewood II for both the present examinations at the Seminary and the Classis, because the classical examination is

in effect a repetition of the examination taken at the Seminary.

Further your committee is of the opinion:

a. That the Church should not follow the way proposed by Englewood II, because the right of admittance to the ministry rests with the churches.

b. That there must be a difference between the examination taken at the Seminary and that taken at the Classis. The examination at the Seminary should be of an academic character, and the examination at the Classis be of an ecclesiastical character.

Your committee believes that a regulation with respect to the difference concerning these matters is too comprehensive to be determined in the brief time at the disposal of the committee. It therefore advises:

That Synod appoint a committee to consider the matter of the examinations held at the Seminary and at the Classis, and present to the next Synod a well worked out report. In this plan the desire of Classis Orange City concerning peremptoir examinations be taken into consideration. (See Art. 51 under Appointments.)

Adopted.

3. Overture - Classis Pacific.

Classis urges Synod to impress upon the consistories of vacant churches once more of the decision of the Synod of 1914 (Art. 64,1) and instruct the classes to mandate its counselors not to approve any trio in which the name of a minister appears who has not yet served his congregation two years, unless there are special and overriding circumstances, which circumstances must be indicated by the calling churches.

Classis Pacific.

In this overture Classis Pacific desires a renewing and intensification of the decision of the last Synod with respect to a brief tenure in a congregation. As it appears from the Acts, this question for a ruling constantly re-occurs, as is desired by Classis Pacific; surely an indication that the question is an expression of a need felt in the life of the congregations. And it is generally known that in this respect there are things constantly taking place, which get talked about, and undermine the prestige of the office as well as the conception of the sacredness of extending calls, and the acceptance of calls. Hence your committee believes that there should be an intensification of the existing rule, and at the same time that a faithful adherence to such a rule

would be of great importance, that particular emphasis would be placed on the responsibility of the counselors. It therefore advises that Synod declare the following:

Synod judges that consistories of vacant congregations in drawing up a nomination shall not place on it the name of a minister who has served less than two years in the congregation he presently is serving, unless there are particular, overriding reasons, and that a counselor, where such a name appears, which he must approve in the name of the Classis, shall give an account to Classis the reasons for approving the same.

Adopted.

4. Overture - Classis Holland:

"Classis calls the attention of Synod to the fact that it happens that unordained persons speak an edifying word in our churches.

"It requests Synod to establish a rule that shall be valid for the entire Church.

Grounds:

1. Since the Church Order has made no provision for such persons.
2. Since there is a danger of arbitrary action by consistories and the persons mentioned."

Classis Holland calls the attention of Synod "to the fact that it happens that unordained persons speak an edifying word in our churches."

Considering that the appearance of such unordained persons in the pulpit was always viewed in the Reformed Churches as a matter justified only by necessity, and this matter has made rather large inroads among us, your committee is of the opinion that there is no justification to declare that it is specifically unlawful, but that there is reason for discouraging such appearances, and to limit the same by further regulation. Hence your committee proposes that Synod declare:

That with the exception of students in Theology, no one has the right to speak an edifying word, as it is called, in public worship, unless he has received permission from his classis, and that this right pertains only for the churches resorting under this Classis, and not beyond.

Adopted.

5. Overture - Classis Illinois.

"Synod express the desirability of introducing a uniform order of services in our American-speaking churches, in which the congregation takes a more active part; and exhort those churches to come to an agreement in this matter if possible."

Your committee judges that it is desirable for unity in our congregations with respect to the order of worship that there be instituted an order of liturgical exercises in which the congregation takes a more active part. However, considering that this overture confines itself to changes in the order of worship for only a part of the Church, your committee finds itself necessitated to advise Synod not to consider this overture.

Grounds:

a. If it is desirable for unity in the order of worship for English-speaking congregations, such would be equally desirable for the Dutch- and German-speaking congregations.

b. By pursuing the way as proposed by Classis Illinois only for the English-speaking congregations would disturb the unity of the Church in its worship services.

Your committee aware that the congregations are not yet ripe for a change and that this matter is worthy of the attention of Synod, it advises that Synod appoint a committee to study this matter, and report to the next Synod with a well-rounded report.
(Committee, Art. 51.)

Adopted.

6. Overture - Classis Illinois.

"Synod decide which Revision of the Bible ought to be used in our American-speaking churches."

Your committee advises not to consider this matter:

a. From the history of the Churches it appears that a decision with respect to this matter was never taken by the Netherlands Reformed Churches, and

b. That such a declaration would require that a thorough scholarly investigation be made first.

Adopted.

7. Overture - Classis Holland.

"Synod declare whether our Liturgy, which we do not sign, has the same binding force as the

confessions, which we do sign. The occasion for this overture is: The decision of the last Synod with respect to the appeal of Rev. J. Vander Werp. See Acts 1914, Art. 68, III, p. 77, wherein it is implied that a minister must use the form unchanged in order to remain a minister of the Word in our churches."

The advice of your committee is that Synod declare that formally the Liturgy does not have the same binding force as the Forms of Unity.

Grounds:

Because by the nature of the case the Liturgy does not have the same character.

Nevertheless concerning the administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper your committee refers to the Church Order, Articles 58 and 62.

8. Instruction - Classis Illinois:

"That Synod establish a form for the Public Profession of Faith.

Grounds:

- a. Public profession is an ecclesiastical ceremony of great importance.
- b. The significance of making public profession of faith will be better understood by the congregation.
- c. It serves to create uniformity in practice.
- d. It eliminates all arbitrariness in the worship service.

The advice of your committee is that Synod should not consider this matter:

Grounds:

- a. The customary questions cover this material in this matter, and give satisfactory unity;
- b. By means of an established Form the impression can be given that by means of making profession of faith one is incorporated in the fellowship;
- c. The significance of making profession of faith does not in the first place to be presented as a ceremony, but through instruction in preaching and catechetical instruction.

Adopted.

Article 31.

Closing Devotions.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 28.

Article 32.

Opening Devotions. The minutes are read, and with a few corrections are approved.

Article 33.

Continuation of the report of the Theological School and College matters. (See Art. 20). Reporters: Dr. H. Beets.

The following is decided concerning the further changes of Art. 5 of the Rules for the Curatorium:

3. The examination of the theological students shall for the greater part be received orally in the presence of the entire Curatorium. The following examinations shall be received in written form by the professors: Isagogics, Catechetics, Poimetrics, Hermeneutics, Church Polity, Dutch and American Church History, Liturgics, and Church Order. The Curatorium decides concerning the results of all the examinations and the calling, after the standings of the professors have been consulted, and the judgment of the examining committee concerning the written examinations has been heard.

4. The faculty shall supply a complete list of all those who have been examined of those mentioned under 2 and 3, with their respective standings to be at hand concerning the activities with the inception of this article.

Adopted.

d. Since some of the Classes send in their quotas too late to the Treasurer, which creates confusion and difficulty, the Curatorium proposes to Synod that May 15th be the date for closing the fiscal year.

Adopted.

e. The Curatorium decided to seek the approbation of Synod that henceforth there be no reduction in tuition for students west of the Mississippi and east of the Ohio River, since they are better able to pay than many others.

Decided to continue the present decision.

Proposals on the Agenda.

A. With respect to the report of the Committee concerning the possibility of decreasing the work of the Curatorium, and thereby decreasing the number of members in the Curatorium, Synod decides to abide by the existing rule.

A Committee be appointed to draw up a well circumscribed set of rules for the Curatorium.

Grounds:

1. The present set of rules (see the Church Handbook, p. 165) is not specific enough, and therefore gives much occasion for uncertainty.

2. The administrative work of the Curatorium demands definite rules by which it can make judgments for matters that require haste, which constantly arise in the interim of Synodical assemblies.

Adopted.

B. Synod consider the desirability to empower the Curatorium to sell the present school building and land, if a favorable opportunity presents itself, and to use the money for a theological school on the new campus. Decided so to advise.

Adopted.

In connection with the question what to do about the school at Madison Ave. and Franklin St., in the event that the new school is completed in September, 1917, and the old building has not been sold, your Committee takes the liberty to advise Synod that in this matter it empower the Curatorium to act according to its best judgment.

Adopted.

C. Classis Ostfriesland requests Synod to grant \$2,000.00 support for the establishment of the German School, and be relieved of paying the quota for the Theological School.

Your Committee advises that with respect to the first point to grant \$2,000.00, to be taken from the School Fund.

Grounds: The income of the promised money for the German School will not begin before October, 1917, so that the \$2,000.00 is necessary for current expenses until the above mentioned date.

Concerning the second point, to be relieved of the School quota, your Committee advises not to consider the matters;

1. Because as yet we are not able sufficiently to judge what Classis Ostfriesland intends to establish in order to gauge the reasonableness of this request.

2. Because of the funds raised by Synodical quota is chiefly, if not exclusively, for the College proper and the Seminary, while it does not appear that Ostfriesland will have a College and a Seminary.

3. Because the cancellation of the obligation of paying the quota could set a precedent to be followed by others where Christian High Schools, etc., are erected.

This advice is rejected, and instead both of the requests of Classis Ostfriesland are adopted with the following conditions:

1. That Synod appoint a committee to become informed of the basis and the regulations of the school, and that the promised amount shall be paid by the treasurer, if the appointed committee has no objections.

2. That the cancellation of the quota be granted now until the next Synod.

3. That the above mentioned committee in conjunction with Classis Ostfriesland shall prepare a concept regulation with respect to the school at Grundy Center in relation to the churches, and to report to the next Synod, that then Synod, if possible, come to a final resolution of this relationship.

Your Committee:

D. Considered the Report of the Interim Board for the Transfer of our Academy, and advises Synod for the present to take a waiting attitude, in the hope that before long more interest is shown for the establishment of a Society that could and would take over the Academy.

Adopted.

Your Committee also took note of the Rules for Secondary Education upon a Reformed basis in Michigan by the Interim Board, and advises that it be placed in the Synodical Archives.

Adopted.

Article 34.

After it is decided to have an evening session from 8 to 10 o'clock, the session is closed with thanksgiving.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION, JUNE 28.

Article 35.

Opening Devotions.

Article 36.

Rev. J. J. Hiemenga reports for the Committee on Varia.

1. Concerning the request of the churches of Pease and Ogilvie, Minnesota, your Committee advises that their request be granted to be transferred from Classis Ostfriesland to Classis Sioux Center, since the first named has German as its official language, whereas these congregations are Dutch, and since the traveling conditions to the Classis of Sioux Center are as good as to Classis Ostfriesland, and moreover the refusal of the request might lead to other difficulties.

Adopted.

2. Concerning the resolution of Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen (Art. 9), and a communication from the consistory of Hull, Iowa, concerning the European war, your Committee advises that Synod not consider the matter.

Grounds:

This matter is a question of pure international justice. It is not within the province of the churches to enter into this field, and to make pronouncements in such matters.

Adopted.

Against this action of Synod the following was received as

PROTEST.

The undersigned hereby register their serious protest against the decision of Synod, whereby it was adopted not

to consider the resolution presented to Synod by Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen, in which resolution it was stated: our devotion to this country, our prayers for the peace and the welfare of this country, our anguish that many in our country⁸⁹²⁶ profit by destructive materials for the war in Europe, and the sending of ammunition, apparently cannot be prevented, that our prayers on behalf of the President in his attempt to mediate and to seek the return of peace in Europe may be blessed; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States.

The undersigned protest against the decision of Synod, not to consider this resolution, on the one hand, to relieve our conscience in not being able to agree in this decision, and on the other hand, to express our judgment that the ground upon which this decision was made, and is expressed in the proposal of the Committee of Pre-advice, namely, that "this matter is a question of pure international justice, and it is not within the province of the churches to enter into this field, and to make pronouncements in such matter," in their judgment is once and for all untenable.

J. Van Lonkhuyzen
J. Timmermann
P. Vanden Berg
B. Primus

3. Cooperation with the "Federal Council". See Supplement of 1914, p. 21. From this Report of the Committee in 1914 appointed by Synod, it appeared that cooperation with this council would be unfruitful, if not completely impossible. Your Committee is of the opinion that improvement of marriage laws can and should be obtained along different lines. It therefore advises Synod to declare that by means of the Christian Press and through the preaching of the Word Christian citizens are enlightened so that they endeavor to bring improvement.

Adopted.

4. The deputies of the Emeritus Fund presented the following proposals, which your Committee advises be adopted:

- a. Requests: For Mrs. J. A. Kett \$150.00
 For Mrs. Schultz 200.00
 For Mrs. H. Huizingh 200.00
 For Mrs. L. Rietdyk 100.00
-

- b. Synod approve the increase granted to Mrs. A. Van Houten. This increase was \$50.00
- c. Synod increase the amount for Rev. H. Vander Werp from \$400.00 to \$500.00.
- d. Synod decide that the quota remain at 25% per family, unless Synod decides to increase the amounts substantially.

Points a to d adopted.

5. In connection with the Emeritus Fund Classis Hudson presents an overture for better care be given to emeritus ministers, etc.

The Committee advises not to consider this matter.

Grounds:

- a. Not one complaint was received by the Emeritus Board of a concrete case.
- b. The Board is always ready to make increases where needed.
- c. The Board is of the opinion that an increase is presently not necessary.

Adopted.

6. Classis Pella requests approval of Synod for the honorable emeritation of Rev. J. I. Flea because of age. The committee recommends that Synod approve the same.

Adopted.

7. An overture from Classis Pella wherein Classis requests Synod to give financial support for a new church building in Denver.

The advice of your Committee is as follows: Taking into consideration the peculiar composition of the Denver church, Synod recommend the request of Denver to the churches.

Adopted.

8. Women's Franchise. With respect to this matter there are two reports. The Committee has studied both reports. The judgment of the Committee is that the question of Women's right to vote is not an ecclesiastical matter. It is a purely political question and does not belong to the province of the church. The Christian

Press and the preaching of the Word should give enlightenment in this matter. Hence your Committee advises that Synod make no declaration on this matter.

Adopted.

9. The Labor Movement and Union Committee. With respect to Labor Unions two reports were presented, a majority and a minority report. Your Committee was of the opinion that it was not within its province to engage in a discussion of the difficulties between the members of the committee with respect to Labor Unions, which only concerns the method of work, wherein the Synod has no concern. Your Committee can find no satisfaction in one of the reports, much less in the decision of the Synod of 1904. It decided finally to present the following to Synod:

With thanks to the brethren who in the past have served the churches with enlightenment concerning the Unions, and after having considered the majority and the minority reports, and the instruction from the consistory of Sheldon, Iowa, and after detailed elucidation of the majority report by Rev. B. Einink and the minority report by Rev. J. Groen, your Committee advises Synod:

a. Tentatively to revise the decision of the Synod of 1904, because

1. According to the judgment of the Committee there is not sufficient evidence at hand to show that membership of the Church is incompatible with membership in the so-called neutral Unions, unless it can be substantiated that a Union regiments a sin or sins or in its actions show to be in favor of sin.

2. As long as we have come to no complete assurance in this matter, and we cannot maintain the decision taken, that the present standing of many of our church members is tolerated is undesirable.

b. From both of the reports and from the elucidation it appeared that there was a very divergent conception concerning the solidarity in the field of labor. By some it is the conviction that members of the Labor Unions are responsible for all the actions of such Unions or of their federation, while others judge that such is not the case. In this situation your Committee could not come to complete clarity. Hence it advises the following to Synod:

1. To alert all the members of our churches, and especially our leaders, to make a more special study of this important matter than has been done before, in order that under the guidance and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit we may ^{come} to agreement of thought.

c. In consideration of the present situation of matters, and as advice to employers and employees, members of our churches, your Committee recommends the following:

1. If one is forced to belong to a so-called neutral Union in order to provide for a living, then he shall give a dynamic witness in the midst of his union, employers, and fellow-laborers to belong to the Christ of God and seek his honor; and if this is not possible, to separate from that Union.

2. In places where independent Christian Unions are desirable, to endeavor, as far as possible, to cooperate with other Unions in order to obtain or maintain social justice.

Adopted.

Article 37.

The following proposal filed by Dr. Beets is adopted:

Since in the year 1917 it will be four hundred years ago that the Reformation began, Synods declares the wish that our churches commemorate this fact in a fitting manner, whether as separate congregations, or a groups of neighboring churches.

Article 38.

An overture from Classis Illinois appearing on the credential to give consideration to men with business capacity be chosen to the Mission Board is received as information.

Closing Devotions.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 29.

Article 39.

Opening Devotions.

The minutes were read and with certain remarks were adopted.

Rev. H. Walkotten takes the place of Rev. J. H. Geerlings from Classis Zesland.

Article 40.

A motion to review the Union question adopted at the last session (Art. 36), is rejected. Revs. J. Timmermann and E. Breen give notice that they protest against the decision taken with respect to the matter of Unions, as also Rev. C. Vriesman and Elder P. Vanden Berg.

Article 41.

Rev. H. J. Kuiper reports for the Committee of Pre-advice concerning Protests and Appeals.

Your Committee has the honor to report the followings:

I. A protest legally before Synod is that of Rev. L. J. Hulst and Prof. G. K. Hemkes against Rev. G. J. Haan. This protest has reference to a few articles by Rev. Haan in the Calvinist, Nos. 139 and 140, wherein an explanation is given on Romans 9:22-23: "What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction, and that he might make known the riches of his glory upon vessels of mercy, which he afore prepared unto glory."

The expressions in dispute are especially these: 1. "The decree of God pertains to all things...thus also over ein." 2. "Predestination takes such a central place in the decree of God, that the remainder are arranged accordingly...Predestination predominates in the decree of God---Creation and fall are the means to make the decree of predestination to be realized."

The protest against Rev. Haan on the basis of the expressions named, is twofold:

1. The brother does not abide by the Conclusions of Utrecht, also adopted by our churches in Synod, and

2. He makes such a supra explanation of the above mentioned text, that he makes God the author of sin, and consequently blasphemous.

Your Committee proposes to Synod, concerning point one of the protest to join in the decision of Classis Illinois concerning this matter, which is as follows:

"Considering that the complaint of Rev. Hulst and Prof. Hemkes does not concern the teaching of Rev. Haan in his preaching or in his catechism classes, but only has reference to what he has published in a weekly paper, there can be no reasonable ground for the complaint.

In the Conclusions of Utrecht our churches declare the following in paragraph 1:

"In regard to the first point, infra- or supralapsarianism, Synod declares that our Confessional Standards admittedly follow the infralapsarian presentation in respect to the doctrine of election, but that it is evident both from the wording of Chapter I, Article 7, of the Canons of Dort and from the deliberations of the Synod of Dort, 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 Dort 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."

Here then is only a question of preaching and catechetical instruction. And in respect thereto only an earnest warning is given, and no prohibition, to propose supralapsarianism.

Also concerning point 2 of the protest, your Committee proposes to Synod its adhesion to the decision concerning this matter taken by Classis Illinois. It reads:

"Concerning Rev. Haan's interpretation of Romans 9:22-23, your Committee judges that:

a. That the brethren Hulst and Hemkes have correctly understood what they claim concerning the disputed numbers of The Calvinist have a supralapsarian interpretation of Romans 9:22-23.

b. That the conclusion of Rev. Hulst and Prof. Hemkes as being an interpretation of Romans 9:22-23 that would lead God to be the cause of sin, is not deduced by Rev. Haan.

c. That the charge of Rev. Hulst and Prof. Hemkes is in fact a charge against supralapsarianism, which according to the Canons of Dort (I, Art. 7) and according to the decisions of the Synod of Dort and the Conclusions of Utrecht is not to be excluded nor condemned.

d. Consequently neither Rev. Haan nor anyone else is to be hindered in his supralapsarian expressions.

Finally, your Committee judges that the Synod should also adopt the third point of the report of Classis Illinois. It is as follows:

"Your Committee is of the opinion that sharp distinctions should be made between the right of office-bearers or members of our churches to champion supralapsarianism, and the desirability to publish their feeling concerning this or similar controversial points.

"Considering that engaging in the discussion concerning intra- and supralapsarianism: a. Does not make it possible to create satisfaction in our thinking, and consequently is unfruitful, and b. Disturbs the churches and, unless done with the greatest prudence, is unfruitful,---it appears to us that similar discussions, for the sake of peace and the welfare of the churches, should seriously be discouraged."

Synod approves the advice. At the request of the brethren Hulst and Hemkes, it is approved that it be noted in the minutes that they file a protest against the decision of Synod. It is as follows:

PROTEST.

The undersigned declare by these their objection to the decision of Synod, and declare that their objection has not been taken away, and therefore sign the protest, and appeal to the judgment of the triune God.

L. J. Hulst
G. K. Hemkes

II. There is a document from Rev. J. Vander Werp wherein there is reflected upon the decision of the previous Synod concerning his protest concerning the action of Classis Pella, Acts, p. 73.

Your Committee judges that:

1. That although Rev. Vander Werp, by virtue of his ecclesiastical position, has no right with respect to the consideration of his case, it is nevertheless necessary for Synod to take knowledge of the document received.

2. Synod does not have to give further explanation of the prayer of thanksgiving in the Form for Baptism, since the expressions concerned must be expressed according to the confession.

3. The Synod, with respect to the request concerning restoration to the office, is called upon to declare that the above written interpretation must be addressed to Classis Pella.

Adopted.

III. Legally before Synod are two protests from J. Hoeksema against the consistory of Eastern Avenue and Classis Grand Rapids East.

A. The first is a protest against the public vindication and plea by Rev. Groen concerning General Women's Voting Rights.

Your Committee advises Synod concerning this to agree with the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East, namely, not to enter into the matter, without, however, adopting the ground in the Classical decision, which is as follows: "While this protest has the purport of censure because of Rev. Groen's plea for Women's Voting Rights."

Ground:

We have no declaration concerning this question in the Confessions or Church Order.

B. The second protest has reference to the censure imposed by the consistory of Eastern Ave. upon the protesting brother. Grounds for censure are:

1. J. Hoeksema charges Rev. Groen with being unreformed or rather unbiblical in his preaching.

2. Creating tumult in the congregation by circulating a petition against Rev. Groen.

3. Insulted the members of the consistory.

The Classis to which Hoeksema appeals this censure, twice refused to consider the matter, and referred him back to the consistory. The grounds for this decision cannot be found in the minutes of Classis. Apparently Classis believed that it would suffice to wait with its judgment of this protest until there eventually would be a request from Eastern Avenue seeking advice with respect to the second step of censure.

Your Committee advises Synod to declare:

Concerning the second protest of J. Hoeksema (namely, against his censure) Synod declare that Classis is obligated to consider this matter, since a. this protest legally came before Classis; b. a protestant always has the right for a declaration from a major assembly to which he addresses himself, always within the limits of the existing rules.

Approved, after having heard the protestant.

IV. Legally before Synod the protest of G. F. Boerkool against Classis Grand Rapids East.

Information: Boerkool came from the Netherlands with his certificate of membership to Eastern Avenue. He did not feel at home there, and received a certificate of membership without remarks to Oakdale Park, although he lived in the neighborhood of Eastern Avenue. Oakdale Park refused to receive him. Classis decided, upon the basis of a previous decision of Classis, that Oakdale Park did nothing illegal. Eastern Avenue expressed her willingness to receive his certificate again. The brother refuses to do this and demands that Oakdale Park accept his certificate.

Your Committee advises Synod to declare:

a. Eastern Avenue had no right, according to the Classical decision of May 21, 1902, point IV, concerning boundary rules to give Boerkool an attest to Oakdale Park without first consulting with the Consistory of Oakdale Park.

Point IV reads: "If in one or another instance, because for pressing needs, one or another, or some are permitted to become members of one or another church outside the borders of the home, or that they remain members where they were, although they moved from a neighboring city or village, it is

necessary to do this in consultation with and agreement by both churches." (Vostius).

b. Oakdale Park had the right to refuse the attest of Boerkool upon the ground of the above decision.

c. Boerkool must consent to the decision of Classis Grand Rapids East to present his attest again to Eastern Avenue.

d. Since Boerkool must share the blame in getting into this distressing ecclesiastical situation, the consistory is obliged to receive the certificate of membership of Boerkool in the same status which he enjoyed at the time of his departure.

The protestant having heard the advice of Synod decides to concur therein.

V. Legally before Synod is a protest from Classis Ostfriesland against the Publication Committee. This Committee refused to publish in De Wachter a protest of this Classis against an article of a department editor concerning the war in Europe.

The ground for this refusal: The editor concerned in a later article returned to his former standpoint. Classis maintains that the Publication Committee does not have the right to refuse the publication of a Classical decision.

Your committee advises Synod to declare:

The action of the Publication Committee was in harmony with the right granted to it by the Synod of 1910 (Acts, Art. 71, I, 2): "The judgment of the placing or refusal of placing of articles sent in remains unquestionably in the domain of the editor-in-chief in accordance with Art. 4, c of the Rules, Acts, Art. 17." (Of Church Order, p. 164.)

Adopted.

The Committee does not consider itself competent to state whether the Rules in this instance are in accordance with the principles of Church Polity.

Decided not enter into this matter.

VI. Legally before Synod is a protest from the Consistory of Peoria concerning the standpoint of the Church Handbook pp. 99, 203, taken with respect to discipline, specifically the matter of resigning one's membership.

Since the protest of Peoria is not against the Church Order but against the additions which have no ecclesiastical authority, because they have never been adopted by Synod, your Committee advises not to consider the matter.

Adopted.

VII. Protest from four members of the Christian Reformed Church of Edmonton, Canada, against Classis Pacific. From further information the following emerges:

Edmonton was appointed by Classis as calling church for the mission field of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Consistory called its own minister, Rev. Jongbloed. Dissatisfaction concerning this action became public and a congregational meeting was called to discuss this call. Two elders and a few members left the meeting stating that because of certain remarks made were through. These people no longer attended church, but met separately. The consistory confessed to having passed the stern expressions concerning them at the congregational meeting without any dissent. They, however, confessed nothing. The Consistory lets the matter rest. The congregation expected a public confession of these brethren who had separated. And since this did not take place, two members appeared before the Consistory to inquire about this matter. The Consistory refused to proceed further. These two brothers protested to Classis, which appointed a committee to investigate this matter in loco and to resolve the matter.

The Committee advised the Consistory to request a public confession of the separated brethren. After the conclusion of the meeting with the Consistory, the protesting brethren, and the two elders, who has separated themselves, a certain brother V appeared and requested the Committee to engage again in the entire matter of the notorious congregational meeting. The Committee did not believe it had the right to do this. Since the insulted brethren had received satisfaction in their confession to the Consistory. Brother V. appeals to Classis, and now takes his appeal to Synod, while this appeal was also signed by the three brethren who made themselves guilty of separating from the church, and later made confession, and also declared outside the congregation that all was resolved.

Your Committee advises the following:

1. That brother Visacher should accept the decision of Classis.
 2. That the other protestants have no right to protest since they were reconciled, celebrated the Lord's Supper, and have protested neither to the Consistory nor the Classis.
- Adopted.

VIII. A protest of Simon Pos against Classis Hudson.

Information: The brother appealed to Classis against the action of the Consistory of Paterson I. The Classis decided because of the disgraceful content of the appeal, to return the document to the brother and inform him to send it in presentable form.

Your Committee advises Synod to declare although severe charges appear in the appeal, there is no canonical ground for the decision of Classis.

Adopted.

Article 42.

Closing Devotions.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, JUNE 29.

Article 43.

Opening Devotions.

Article 44.

Rev. Bakker reports for the Committee of Preadvice concerning Church Order matters.

I. Instruction - Classes Muskegon and Pella:

"Synod decides: that resignation of membership in order to escape discipline is censurable even unto excommunication."
(Classis Muskegon)

Classis requests Synod to declare concerning the questions:
"How to deal with members, who, in order to escape discipline, resign their membership?"

Grounds:

a. The Synod of 1890 (Acts 1890, Art. 23) decided to eliminate the clause found in the General Rules, Art. 65. This clause read that the Church could do no more since these pitiable people have excluded themselves from the Church.

By deciding to eliminate this clause (Acts 1890, Art. 23), which decision continues to be valid, does not mean to say that the Church no longer has any concern with them.

b. The official stand of the Church, however, is too negative in character in order to create stability and unity in our ecclesiastical life. Consequently:

c. In order to eliminate instability, to prevent arbitrariness, and to promote the unity of our Church, Synod declare positively how to deal with such people.

With respect to the question of Muskegon and Classis Pella concerning resignation of membership by those who wish to escape discipline, Synod decides: To accept this resignation, if they wish to affiliate with another denomination, because they no longer agree with the doctrine and Church Order of the Church. But when such is not the case, to continue with discipline.

a. Since it is not yet evident if discipline will have a healing effect.

b. Since one cannot free himself from the Church as institute, since one according to the command of God has become affiliated with the Church as institute, and no by arbitrary action.

c. Since in this way the prestige of discipline is maintained.

Decided to appoint a committee for this matter. See Art. 51.

II. Synod decides: That consistories, if they deem it to be of the best interests to send the requested certificate of membership to the consistory concerned.

Classis Muskegon

Instruction - Classis Pella:

Synod declare whether Art. 82 of the Church Order includes that a certificate of membership must be given to persons, who, in the judgment of the consistory make such a request to escape discipline.

The opinion of your Committee is that Synod answer the instruction of Classis Pella in the affirmative because the article cited has no limitations. Herewith the instruction of Classis Muskegon is also dealt with.

Adopted

III. "Synod consider the question whether the Church declare clearly its attitude toward the saloon, as it presently exists among us:

a. Because members of the Church continually make themselves guilty of patronizing the saloon, and thereby support this evil, whereby so many lives are destroyed morally, spiritually and physically.

b. Because Synod has never declared itself clearly concerning members of the Church, who regularly patronize saloons.

c. Because Synod has denied membership to saloonkeepers and those who rent their buildings for this purpose."

Classis Muskegon

"Synod express itself with reference to the saloons, and lay down rules for discipline in regard to those who in any way patronize them."

Classis Hackensack

With respect to these overtures your Committee judges that Synod do not express itself with respect to this matter:

a. Because the Church is not called by Synodical decision to condemn every possible evil, and to enact particular rules concerning every possible evildoer other than those mentioned in Art. 71-78 in the Church Order.

b. Because both overtures proceed from the supposition that patronizing saloons is censurable and the way for censure is sufficiently stated in the Church Order.

Whereas, however, the saloon as an establishment has become a dangerously destructive power in our social and political life, Synod give its moral support to movements seeking to break this power, to alert the churches to war against this evil with every means permitted by Scripture.

Adopted

IV. Translation of the Church Order.

The committees appointed by the previous Synod for the

translation of the Church Order in English and German (Acts 1914, Art. 64, 9) have completed their work, and ask Synod to approve and adopt its work.

In order to serve Synod with well-motivated advice, it is simply not feasible, because of the many other matters it had to consider. Hence it advises Synod that for each of the translation a competent committee be appointed:

a. To investigate whether the translation submitted is a true rendering of the Dutch text adopted by the last Synod.

b. To consider seriously all the observations and remarks by the churches to be handed in before June 1917.

c. To report to the next Synod.

Your Committee advises that it must be recommended as the best way of dealing with this matter, the more so since the German translation was published so late, so that the Churches and Classes did not have an opportunity study it, and also concerning the English translation, which did appear on time, but apparently received insufficient attention from the Churches and the Classes.

Finally, in order to avoid any difficulties that might arise, Synod decide that for the time being the English and German translations as they now are be used by the English- and German speaking churches. See Supplements XV and XVI and Art. 51

Adopted.

V. Marriage Problems, Arts 51 and 68, Acts 1914.

Finally, your Committee had to consider the reports appearing in the Agenda concerning divorce, and more particularly concerning the question whether the stand of the Church that only the ground mentioned in Matthew 5:32 is the only legal ground for divorce, and removes every possibility of admission to membership in the Church, and excludes those who obtained a divorce on other grounds, and thereafter remarried, then if this were not the case.

Concerning this, however, they cannot serve Synod with specific advice, while they, regardless that they had many and prolonged meetings as was at all possible,

did not have time enough to discuss these reports point by point, and feels that advice without such previous discussion would as such be worthless to Synod. It did appear that the majority of its members by personal reading came to the conclusion, that it would be better to adhere to report No. 1 than report No. 2, but it may be supposed from each delegate to Synod, that they have read the reports and have for themselves come to a conclusion. Your Committee therefore believes that it could not do differently than without coming to any decision to leave it to Synod.

After lengthy discussion concerning the matter of divorce, and after the conclusions of the reports in the Agenda were both rejected, the following was adopted by Synod:

Synod taking note of such divergent conclusions of the reports concerning divorce, and the apparent unreadiness of the assembly to come to a decision, decides to let the matter for the present to remain in statu quo, and that meanwhile the Synodical Committee seek the advice of the Gereformeerde Kerken of the Netherlands and South Africa.

Article 45.

The report of Rev. E. J. Tuuk, delegate to the Reformed Church of America is read. Received as information.

Occasioned by this report Rev. J. Fimmermann is appointed to present a well-motivated motion with respect to our correspondence with the Reformed Church. (See Art. 50.)

Article 46.

A communication is received from Classis Pacific requesting Synod to set a Sunday apart concerning the bloody war in Europe by means of preaching and prayer.

Synod decides not to consider the matter.

Article 47

A letter is read from the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago seeking financial support from our churches.

Decided not to consider the matter.

Article 48.

Closing Devotions.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION, JUNE 30.

Article 49.

Opening Devotions.

The minutes are read and approved.

Article 50.

Rev. J. Timmermann reads a motion concerning the correspondence between the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church. (See Ast. 45.)

Rejected.

Article 51.

Rev. Drukker reports for the Committee on appointments, which is approved as follows:

Synodical Committee - Revs. J. Timmermann, W. P. Van Wyk, F. Fortuin.

Synodical Treasurer - Rev. J. Noordewier.

CURATORS

Grand Rapids East - Rev. W. P. Van Wyk, 4 years; Alt. Rev. J. Holwerda; Rev. P. Ekster, 2 years; Alt. Dr. Y. P. De Jong.

Grand Rapids West - Dr. H. Beets, 4 years; Alt. Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen.

Hackensack - Rev. D. De Beer.

Holland - Rev. B. H. Einink, 4 years; Alt. Rev. H. Hoeksema.
Rev. E. J. Tuuk, 2 years; Alt. Rev. A. J. Rus.

Hudson - Rev. J. B. Hoekstra, 4 years; Alt. Rev. F. Fortuin.
Illinois - Rev. J. Manni, 4 years; Alt. Rev. S. S. Vander Heide.
Muskegon - Rev. H. Keegstra, 4 years; Alt. Rev. J. Dolfin. Rev.
J. Bruinooge 2 years; Alt. Rev. J. L. Heeres.
Orange City - Rev. J. B. Vanden Hoek, 4 years; Alt. Rev. W. De Groot.
Ostfriesland - Rev. H. Ahuis, 4 years; Alt. Rev. H. C. Bode.
Pacific - Rev. E. Breen, 4 years; Alt. Rev. T. Vander Ark.
Pella - Rev. I. Van Dellen, 4 years; Alt. Rev. J. Haveman. Rev.
C. De Leeuw, 2 years; Alt. Rev. G. D. De Jong.
Sioux Center - Rev. H. J. Heynen, 4 years; Alt. Rev. J. M. Byle-
veld. Rev. P. Jonker, Sr. 2 years; Alt. Rev. H. M. Vander Ploeg.
Zeeland - Rev. M. Van Vesseem, 4 years; Alt. Rev. J. H. Geerlings.
Rev. E. J. Krohne, 2 years; Alt. Rev. L. Trap.
Church Help Committee - Revs. J. Manni, D. De Beer, H. J. Heynen,
W. Borgman, P. A. Hoekstra, and G. Vriesman.
Emeritus Board - Elders S. S. Postma and M. Trap.
Representative at the National Christian Association - Rev. S. S.
Vander Heide.
General Fund for Domestic Missions - Revs. I. Van Dellen and K.
Poppen and Elder B. Sevenama. Alternates - Revs. H. Ahuis, G.
J. Haan, and H. Bakker.

Deputies to Heathen Missions:

Grand Rapids East - Dr. Y. P. De Jong
Grand Rapids West - Dr. H. Beets
Hudson - Rev. M. Botbyl
Hackensack - Rev. K. Poppen; Alt. Rev. D. De Beer
Holland - Rev. R. Bolt; Alt. J. J. Heeringa
Illinois - Rev. J. Mannie; Alt. Elder J. Meeter
Muskegon - Rev. J. Dolfin
Orange City - Rev. L. Ypma
Ostfriesland - Rev. H. C. Bode; Alt. Rev. D. H. Kromminga
Pacific - Rev. E. Breen
Pella - Rev. I. Van Dellen; Alt. Rev. G. W. Hylkema
Sioux Center - Rev. H. M. Vander Ploeg; Alt. Rev. P. Jonker, Sr.
Zeeland - Rev. H. Walkotten

Point IV - Report Heathen Missions for Formulation of a decision concerning membership of our Missionaries (Art. 25) - Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen, Prof W. Heyns, and Elder E. Hekman.

Publication Committee (Art. 27) - For 4 years; Rev. J. Manni, Prof. W. Heyns, Hon. A. Bosch, and H. Denkema. For 2 years; Mr. J. B. Hulst, Prof. J. G. Vanden Bosch, and Rev. E. J. Tanis.

Editor for the Sunday School Lessons (Art. 27);
For De Wachter - Rev. D. H. Krommings
For The Banner - Rev. W. Stuart

Committee to contact the Chicago Tract Society in order to obtain good tracts Art. 28) - Revs. H. J. Kuiper, F. Doezena, E. Sherda.

Committee to show the relationship between the Sunday School and the Church - Revs. E. J. Tuuk, J. Ghyssels, and Prof. L. Berkhof.

Committee for Mission Lesson (Art. 28) - Rev. J. W. Brink for De Wachter, and Rev. L. S. Huizenga for The Banner.

Deputies for Jewish Missions (Art. 29) - Prof. W. Heyns, Rev. J. I. Fles, and Elder S. Dekker.

Bureau for Immigration, to Prevent Dispersion of our People (Art. 23) - Rev. H. J. Heynen, W. Eierma, W. Aardappel, D. J. Zylstra, B. Leest.

Committee Concerning the School and Classical Examination (Art. 30) - Rev. E. J. Tuuk, Rev. R. L. Haan, Prof. S. Volbeda.

Committee for the Promotion of Unity in our Worship Services (Art. 30) - Rev. D. Zwier, Prof. W. Heyns, Rev. L. Trap.

Committee with respect to Resignation of membership from the Church (Art. 44) - Rev. J. Groen, Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen, Prof. F. M. Ten Hoor, Rev. H. Bultema.

Committee to Review the English and German Translations of the Church Order (Art. 44) - For English; Rev. W. Stuart, Rev. D. R. Drukker, Prof. B. Kuiper; For German; Revs. J. Timmermann, D. H. Krommings, F. Schuurman.

Committee for Erasure of Baptized Members, Continued (Art. 10) - Revs. S. S. Vander Heide, I. Van Dellen, H. Keegstra.

Committee for Expansion of Heathen Missions (Art. 25) - Revs. M. Van Veesem, K. Fortuin, H. G. Bode.

Committee for drafting a new set of rules for the Curatorium
(Art. 33) - The Executive Committee of the Curatorium and
Prof. A. J. Hooke and Dr. R. Janssen.

Committee to consult with Classis Ostfriesland with respect to
a German School in Grunday Center. Revs. G. D. De Jong, C. De
Leeuw, A. H. Erat.

DEPUTIES AD EXAMINA.

Grand Rapids East - Rev. J. Groen
Grand Rapids West - Rev. L. Veltkamp
Hackensack - Rev. D. De Beer
Hudson - Rev. P. A. Hoekstra
Illinois - Rev. J. Manni; Alt. Rev. D. Zwier
Muskegon - Rev. P. D. Van Vliet
Orange City - Rev. J. Timmermann; Alt. Rev. M. Vander Heide
Ostfriesland - Dr. W. Bode; Alt. Rev. D. H. Kromminga
Pacific - Rev. C. Vriesman
Pella - Rev. C. De Leeuw; Alt. Rev. G. D. De Jong
Sioux Center - Rev. P. Jonker, Sr.; Alt. Rev. H. M. Vander Ploeg
Zeeland - Rev. A. Keizer; Alt. Rev. E. J. Krohne

Article 52.

Synod accepts the following report of the Obituary Committee:

"As in practically every period of two years between Synodical assemblies, the Church must lament the Ministers of the Word who were taken away by death, so it was the case this time also.

"On December 23, 1914, Rev. J. H. Schultz died in the Lord at Middelburg, Iowa, at the age of 62 years; and on August 31, 1915, Rev. H. Huizingh died at the age of 69 years at Leota, Minnesota.

"Synod declare that it acknowledges with gratitude and appreciates the labors that these brethren might perform over a period of years, and

"And believing that by their departure not only the relatives concerned, but the entire Church which they served, have thereby been cast into sorrow, Synod wishes by this means to express its sympathy with the sorrowing relatives, and pray that they will experience the rich comfort of the Holy Spirit."

E. Breen
J. Post

Article 53.

Decided that, the Lord willing, the next in Synod in 1918 is to meet in Grand Rapids in the new college building. The consistory of Eastern Avenue is appointed to convene Synod, and make arrangements for housing the delegates.

Article 54.

Decided that the stenographer of our school be given an honorarium of \$10.00 for her extra work in mimeographing the reports. Furthermore, a resolution is passed to thank the churches of Grand Rapids, and particularly the First Church, for the hospitality shown to the delegates of Synod.

Article 55.

Synod decides that henceforth an extra copy of the Acts be sent to the consistories to be placed in the church archives.

Article 56.

Having come to the conclusion of its work the President addresses Synod with a concluding word:

Honorable Brethren:

Having come to the end of our work it is in order to speak a concluding word. With the expansion of our churches our Synodical assemblies are broadening in scope: the problems increase, markedly more questions, which a quarter of a century ago received little or no consideration, now call for solution.

The truth of the Scriptures, which we know only in part, this time again surfaced, for sometimes it was most difficult to come to a solution that led to common satisfaction. We all looked for the best path, for the specific path, according to the lines drawn in the Word of God, which is a lamp unto our feet and a light upon our path, that we as Synod are also called to follow. Certainly God's Word spreads light on all questions, not only with respect to doctrine, but also with respect to the life of the Church, but it is not

always easy to discern the true light from so many false lights, which come to us from the outside as having been based on the Word.

In all likelihood this Synod has made decisions which later will appear not to have been specifically unjust, yet incomplete, and hence must be added to, or here and there revised.

May the Lord crown with his blessing all that has been decided in accordance with his will, and make harmless that which might appear to be in conflict therewith, and graciously pardon all that has cleaved to us in our work that was not according to the purity of his holiness.

I am thankful for the patience that the assembly had with its chairman; for the good help received from the vice-president, and to the clerks for their accurate recording of the minutes. Thanks to the members of the various committees of preadvice for their strenuous work many times until late at night; to the professors for their appreciated advice; to all who in any way cooperated to the success of the meetings. But above all humble gratitude to the God of all grace, who deigned to look upon us in this important work; for the desire and strength, the aptitude and devotion granted by Him, to be able to perform the work, surely with much deficiency, yet according to our best ability in accordance with his precepts.

And now we shall soon part from one another. Glad to have seen one another again, but moreso having been able to work together for the coming and the welfare of the blessed kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bring us safely home, especially those who have far distances to travel. May he bring you in good health to you loved ones and to the congregations and the classes, which delegated you. That we also without a synodical assembly constantly remember and meet before the throne of grace. One day we shall have attended our last Synodical gathering; may the Lord grant the reward of grace of the faithful in the heavenly regions, where no Synod will be held, but we shall know the triune God perfectly, serve him in perfection, love him in perfection, and in perfection glorify him.

Article 57.

The vice-president on behalf of the assembly addresses

Rev. Keizer for his eminent leadership as President of Synod. Thereafter the president leads Synod in prayer of thanksgiving, followed by singing Psalm 138:1. At the close the chairman pronounces the apostolic benediction.

A. Keizer, President
W. P. Van Wyk, Vice-President
J. B. Hoekstra, First Clerk
E. J. Tuuk, Second Clerk

True Copy:

Henry Beets, Stated Clerk

SUPPLEMENTS.

SUPPLEMENT I.

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL COMMITTEE
TO THE SYNOD OF 1916.

Honorable Brothers:

The stream of ecclesiastical life during the Synodical year that has passed flowed gently in its bed so that there was nothing of particular importance for your committee to do. We can only give a report concerning the following matters. First of all that various brothers were delegated to attend the broader assemblies of corresponding Churches in our land. They themselves will inform you concerning the results of their task. They were the brothers Tunk to the General Synod of the Reformed Church of America; Vander Riet to the United Presbyterian Assembly; W. Trap to the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; and J. Mulder to the Associated Presbyterian Synod.

Illness prevented brother Hoekenga to attend the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Invitations were sent to the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands, the Reformed Church in South Africa, and the Old Reformed Church in Bentheim and Ostfriesland to attend our Synod. From the first two word was received that they were hindered in sending delegates.

Gilvie's request for a recommendation for a collection

for a new church building, at the request of Classis Oetfriesland, was supported.

A request from Classis Pacific concerning a second Day of Prayer for the World War was just received, and is presented to you for action.

A few other matters concerning which advice was asked were not considered to be acceptable since they were beyond the domain and the rules of the Committee.

Thanking you for the confidence placed in us, we return our mandate into your hands.

Your Servants and Brothers wishing you Godspeed,

J. Groen
J. Keizer
J. Timmermann

Henry Beets, S. G.

SUPPLEMENT II.

REPORT OF THE CURATORIAL OF THE THEOLOGICAL
SCHOOL AND CALVIN COLLEGE
TO THE SYNOD OF 1916.

Honorable Fathers and Brothers:

The Curatorium has the honor and the satisfaction to present the following report to Synod:

As in other years the Curatorium has much to be thankful for the benefits received during the two years since the meeting of the last Synod. Desire for study, undivided devotion and united cooperation by both the professors and students were an index of school life. Although more than one was visited with sickness, no one was taken by death. Some students because of indisposition or through lack of study ability were necessitated to leave. Where necessary, discipline was exercised. We may rejoice in the gradual growth of the student body. In the beginning of the last school year there were not less than 344 enrolled, of which 22 were necessitated to leave again. Of the 322, who could continue in their studies, 36 were in the Seminary, 61 in the College, and 225 in the Preparatory School. In 1915 there were 13 students admitted to Theology, and 8 were declared eligible for a call. Of this number 2 went to Princeton. In 1916, 18 were admitted to Theology, and 5 were declared eligible for a call.

1. THE FACULTY.

The last Synod appointed Rev. S. Volbeda, D.D.

to the chair of Historical Theology, and Prof. R. Janssen, to the chair of Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament. We can report that both have accepted their appointment, and have already worked fruitfully at our School for two years. In 1915 Mr. H. G. J. Van Andel was appointed by the Curatorium as instructor in the Dutch language, who accepted the appointment, and with blessing has already taught at the School for one year. Further the Curatorium gave a definite reappointment to Prof. J. Broene, Mr. J. Nieuwdorp for 6 years, Mr. J. H. Muijskens and Mr. H. G. J. Van Andel each for 2 years. Prof. A. E. Broene, who had received a leave of absence to continue his studies in Germany, returned in 1915.

At the present time the faculty at our School consists of the professors G. K. Hemkes, Professor Emeritus, F. M. Ten Hoor, W. Heyns, L. Berkhof, B.D., S. Volbeda, D.D., and R. Janssen, Ph. D., professors in theology; and A. J. Rooke, A.M., K. Schoolland, J. G. Vanden Bosch, A.M., E. K. Kuiper, A.E., A. E. Broene, A.E., W. Rinck, A.M., J. Broene, A.M., J. Van Haitama, A.M., J. Nieuwdorp, B.S., J. H. Muijskens, A.E., H. G. J. Van Andel, A.M., in the Literary Department.

2. THE CURRICULUM.

With respect to the curriculum the following can be reported:

a. Concerning the expansion of the College, the Curatorium decided not to engage in further expansion at the present time, since there is added expense at present, and further expansion would add remarkably to the expense, and further in the present building there is no room for expansion.

b. The Theological Faculty was instructed to serve the Curatorium with a concept of a Seminary Post Graduate Course.

3. FINANCES.

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

a. The Theological School - 1914-1915

Balance, May 31, 1914	\$ 5,428.51	
Receipts	<u>29,127.45</u>	
Total		\$34,555.96
Disbursements		<u>27,387.66</u>
Balance, May 31, 1915		\$ 9,168.30

c. Calvin College Endowment Fund - 1914-1915

Balance, May 31, 1914	\$39,100.00
Receipts	<u>700.00</u>
Balance, May 31, 1915	\$39,800.00

c. Library - 1914-1915

Balance, May 31, 1914	\$5,800.00	
Receipts	<u>1,092.19</u>	
Total		\$ 6,892.19
Disbursements		<u>1,038.54</u>
Balance, May 31, 1915		\$ 5,853.54
Real Estate		250.00

d. Building Fund - 1914-1915

Balance, May 31, 1914	\$3,705.60	
Receipts	<u>613.52</u>	
Total		\$ 4,319.12
Disbursements		<u>4,183.00</u>
Balance		\$ 136.12
Outstanding		<u>4,142.65</u>
Value of Fund, May 31, 1915		\$ 4,278.77

1915-1916.

a. Theological School

Balance, May 31, 1915	\$ 9,168.30	
Receipts	<u>27,390.98</u>	
Total		\$36,559.38
Disbursements		<u>26,690.03</u>
Balance, May 31, 1916		\$ 6,869.35

b. Calvin College Endowment Fund

Balance, May 31, 1915	\$39,800.00
Balance, May 31, 1916	\$39,800.00

c. Library

Balance, May 31, 1915	\$ 5,944.54	
Receipts	<u>1,242.28</u>	
Total		\$ 7,186.82
Disbursements		<u>917.61</u>
Balance, May 31, 1916		\$ 6,269.21

d. Building Fund

Balance, May 31, 1915	\$ 136.12	
Receipts	<u>1,065.05</u>	
Total		\$ 1,201.17

Disbursements	\$ 357.35
Balance, May 31, 1916	\$ 843.82
Outstanding	<u>4,500.00</u>
Value of the fund, May 31, 1916	\$ 5,343.82

e. Building Fund for the New School

Receipts	\$12,125.00
Disbursements	<u>5,571.84</u>
Balance, May 31, 1916	\$ 6,553.16

4. EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY.

In the past two years the Educational Secretary, Rev. J. Vander May, has regularly been busy in the interest of the School. As of yet the financial concerns of the School take the most important place. Still as much as possible he is urging promising young people to seek their instruction at our Institution. And at the same time as much as possible endeavoring to instil in our people a larger place in their hearts for the principles which our School represents.

Concerning the financial results of his work, we report the following:

In 1914-15 he received gifts and promises for a total of \$28,065.00

With joy we inform you that the well advertised campaign for this year in Grand Rapids and vicinity for \$50,000.00, for the building fund was crowned with success. There is still work connected therewith, since the campaign has not yet been completed, and promises keep coming in, so it is not possible to determine what the total will be. But it is safe to say that the sum of \$50,000.00 has almost been reached, and the amount will be over that sum. Over and above this he collected during this year \$19,000.00 of money pledged. Thus the total for 1915-16 amounts to \$69,000.00.

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

a. New Buildings.

I. Because of the great increase of students, the Curatorium felt obligated to provide more room

and decided to build a new administration building on the new campus. Before the Curatorium could make such a decision, it faced two important questions, the canonical: is it permitted, since the Synod of 1914 decided on postponement, and can it be done, as far as finances are concerned. The answer to these questions is as follows:

A. The question as to Ecclesiastical Law.

The Curatorium is of the opinion that strictly speaking in agreement with the decision of Synod there is objection, yet there are overriding practical reasons to begin building, and they are as follows:

1. That Synod did not give real consideration to the proposal because the Committee of Pre-advice said finances would not permit a building project;

2. Since Synod could not visualize the large influx of students in September, and the difficulties caused thereby;

3. Because we, if we have to make-shift as we are presently doing, it will create great damage for the School, since we were called to turn away a rather sizable number of students at New Year's time, and this probably will be the same with the beginning of September and again New Year's.

4. Because Synod instructed the Curatorium to provide the necessary room, and in the opinion that this cannot be done in a more effective way than to begin building.

B. The Financial Question.

In this matter consideration had to be given whether or not enough funds were on hand and pledged to start building.

The Curatorium is of the opinion that there is no objection to take such steps since we can at present provide \$40,000.00, the entire Koffers legacy, and the Peck legacy for this purpose, with \$4,000.00 in the Building Fund, and our Educational Secretary continues to collect for this project.

II. With respect to the building of a Dormitory, the Curatorium decided not to begin until the Spring of 1917, so that it will be ready at the same time that the Administration Building would be occupied.

III. The Curatorium decided to take out a mortgage with the bank for \$60,000.00 for the Administration Building, which is the sum in pledges that the Educational Secretary has received, and are to be paid in approximately 2 years.

b. SALARIES AND PENSIONS.

1. The Curatorium decided to propose to Synod that a separation be made between the Seminary, the College, and the Preparatory School with respect to appointments and salaries for professors and instructors.

2. With respect to the Theological Professors the Curatorium proposes to Synod that the maximum salary be set at \$1,700.00, to be applied by the Curatorium according to the rule established by the Synod of 1910, Acts, Art. 56, VII, 3, B: "In the courses in which a professor teaches, he shall satisfy the demands which generally have been established in our country for professors teaching the same courses in other institutions, which are on about the same level as ours.

The General Requirements Are:

- a. The professor must possess due intellectual capacity;
- b. The professor must continue, as much as time allows, to devote his time to further study, also especially for his courses;
- c. The professor must possess due pedagogical tact;
- d. That he shall not through age or debility be unqualified for his duties.

C. The final decision whether or not these requirements are being met, in every instance where there is a difference of opinion, shall be decided by Synod.

D. If the above named rules should be adopted, the Curatorium then advises Synod that these rules not only are valid for the professors, who shall be appointed in the future, but also those who are presently on the faculty.

3. In connection with the increase in salary Synod is requested to set the quota at \$1.25 per family.

4. Concerning the rules and the fixing of pensioning professors, it be declared, that with honorable emeritation all the professors (not instructors) have a right to pension

of the Churches, because they like ministers have devoted all their talents and efforts in the interest of the Churches. Concerning the method the Curatorium advises that professors receive a minimum of \$500.00 and a maximum of \$1,000.00, in accordance with the need of the person or his family, which is to be decided by the Curatorium.

5. Synod approve the increase in pension for Mrs. G. E. Boer to \$400.00 per year and Mrs. H. Beuker to \$300.00 per year.

c. EXAMINATIONS.

For taking examinations the Curatorium proposes to Synod the following changes in the Rules, so that Art. 5 henceforth read as follows for the Curatorium:

"The Curatorium shall hold its annual meeting in June.

"For taking examinations the following regulations shall obtain:

"1. All examinations in the Preparatory School and the College, except for the graduates of the last named department, shall be given by the faculty, which shall also determine the grades.

"2. An Examination Committee consisting of five persons, which has control and the right to ask questions, shall represent the Curatorium with respect to the examinations of the graduates from the College, which will be given by the faculty. The decision remains with the full Curatorium after it has heard the report of the Examination Committee and after the judgment of the faculty.

"3. The Theological examinations shall be taken orally by the faculty in the presence of the full Curatorium, which also decides concerning the advance to post-graduate work or eligibility for a call.

"4. The faculty shall provide a complete list of all those examined under 2 and 3, with the respective standings, which must be at hand at the beginning of the activities mentioned in this Article."

d. DATE FOR THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

Since some of the Classes send their funds too late to the Treasurer, which creates confusion and difficulty which is necessary for keeping books in an orderly way, the Curatorium proposes to Synod to establish the date for the closing the fiscal year at May 1.

e. TUITION.

The Curatorium decided to seek the approbation of Synod to discard the rule for decreased tuition because of distance.

Humbly submitted,

In the Name of the Curatorium,

H. Keesstra, Secretary.

SUPPLEMENT III.

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL DEPUTIES

of the

GENERAL FUND FOR DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Honorable and Esteemed Brothers:

Your deputies for the supervision of the General Fund for Domestic Missions has the honor and the pleasure of reporting the following:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION.

With the departure of Rev. G. Westenberg from the East, Rev. K. Poppen became a member of the committee. The deputies corresponded regularly with one another and with the respective Classes. At the end of their second year of service your deputies held their meeting according to the decision of Synod. Rev. Poppen could not be present at this meeting, so that the other two deputies were of necessity called upon to make the report.

It was pleasing to your deputies that each time they could pay what was deemed necessary to the Classes that need support. That they were able to do this was because of the Koffers legacy, that at the beginning of the Synodical year amounted to almost \$6,000.00, and the balance is yet to be received, besides a legacy of the late Mrs. Grove, which was received after the last Synod. These amounts made it possible for the Classes to pursue their work with vigor. Your deputies believed that they could note the providential care of God, where just in the past two years he gave such an abundance

because if ever it was needed, it was now, since the work in the immeasurable South-West and North-West of our country was laid hold of and expanded.

And there is reason for joy. A large number of men are working both East and West on the Domestic Mission field, while various weak churches by means of the support granted were able to call a Minister of the Word. Pella is working in California and among the Mormons; Pacific in the Northwestern States and in Canada; Hudson and Hackensack in the port of the land, while other Classes each in its own sphere are becoming more active.

Yet where the Church may rejoice in such flourishing condition on this field, it would be doubly pitiful, if through lack of finances, the necessary support would be lacking. Your deputies began with a balance of \$6,000.00, yet at the present there is only a balance of approximately \$1,200.00. There are no prospects of new legacies, and many Classes collected less than in the years 1912-1914. The requests for the next two years are \$13,000.00 per year, and during the past two years the Classes collected approximately \$6,500.00 per year, just half of the requests. This is sure to cause trouble, if no change is brought about. Your deputies believe that this should be earnestly emphasized. If things are to run smoothly the needs for the General Fund will have to be doubled, or Synod will have to promise only about half of what the respective Classes request.

In the judgment of your deputies this would not be fair and just should the latter take place. It is very well possible that with effort and system some Classes could help themselves in the collection of necessary funds. It would be desirable if Synod would investigate this matter. In this connection your deputies point to the example of Classis Pella. There the disbursements are constantly increasing, yet this Classis requests only \$2,500.00 against \$5,000.00 in 1914, \$4,000.00 for the work in general and \$1,000.00 for the work among the Mormons. That this Classis has the courage to do this is because it has put forth efforts to get the various congregations resorting under the Classis to promise certain amounts each year, while one congregation, namely, Peoria, took upon itself the responsibility of its own missionary.

May that good example of Pella find a following.

Although the Classes are making more efforts to get funds in their own circles, yet there is much necessary for the General Fund. A word from Synod to provoke greater contribution for the General Fund would not be superfluous. The work of Domestic Missions has been called the right arm of the Church. May that arm not become lame. May that which is weak become strong, that the work may continue with courage and vigor.

The rule is that the committee make its judgment concerning the amount of support requested. Your deputies, however, believed that it would be superfluous to enter into more particulars at this time, and thus will abide by what has been determined under III, by stating what the needy Classes have requested. If necessary, more information can be given orally when needed.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT.

June 1, 1914 - May 31, 1916

1. Commercial Account

Classis Grand Rapids East	\$ 1,343.50	\$ 400.00
" Grand Rapids West	1,494.49	200.00
" Hudson	991.85	East.
" Hackensack	139.51	Mission 2,100.00
" Muskegon	1,486.42	1,350.00
" Orange City	988.04	1,000.00
" Pella	1,238.89	6,700.00
" Pacific	263.60	7,363.60
" Holland	1,056.63	
" Illinois	1,376.42	
" Sioux Center	993.76	
" Zeeland	1,082.88	
" Ostfriesland	728.67	
Total	\$13,044.48	\$19,313.60
Balance June 1, 1914	220.50	
Balance of Koffers legacy	436.44	
Grave legacy	500.00	
Interest Lubbers Fund	162.00	
Interest Comm.	17.45	
Diverse incomes	24.05	
From Savings Account	5,252.41	

Traveling expenses, tax, etc.	\$	103.65
Honorarium, Treasurer		50.00
Balance, June 1, 1916	\$	210.08
Total	\$19,677.33	\$19,677.33

2. Savings Account

Balance, June 1, 1914	\$	5,925.50
Interest		371.50
Total	\$	6,297.50
Disbursements		5,252.41
Balance, June 1, 1916	\$	1,044.59

3. Balances:

Commercial Account	\$	210.08
Savings Account		1,044.59
Total	\$	1,254.67

4. Lubbers Fund \$ 1,350.00

III. Requests from Classes in Need of Support

Classis Grand Rapids East	\$	500.00
" Hudson and Hackensack		2,500.00
" Muskegon		1,200.00
" Orange City		1,600.00
" Pella		2,500.00
" Pacific		4,000.00
" Ostfriesland		1,200.00
Total		313,500.00

Humbly Submitted,

K. Poppen, President
W. P. Van Wyk, Secretary
I. Van Dellen, Treasurer

SUPPLEMENT IV.

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL DEPUTIES OF HEATHEN MISSIONS
TO THE SYNOD OF 1916.

Worthy Fathers and Brothers:

The Synodical Deputies have the honor and the pleasure to report concerning our Heathen Mission.

According to the Synodical decision of 1914 (Acts, p. 43) these two years we have worked according to the method that is now being followed, and is more satisfying than that which was discarded by the previous Synod.

Since the Synod of 1914 your deputies met 19 times, with this understanding that the deputies of Classes Grand Rapids East and West, Zeeland, Holland, Muskegon, and Illinois functioned as Executive Committee. All the Classes were represented at the annual meeting held last year and this year.

The Executive Committee endeavors as much as possible to consult the other deputies, sends reports to them concerning important matters, and the secretary and the treasurer provide a copy of the minutes and a financial report.

In this way the synodical deputies can render a comprehensive report at the classical meetings, and thus the entire Church is regularly informed with respect to the work of Heathen Missions.

The deputies appointed by the respective Classes are herewith presented for your approval:

Classis	Grand Rapids East	Dr. Y. P. De Jong
"	Grand Rapids West	Dr. H. Beets
"	Zeeland	Rev. H. Walkotten
"	Holland	Rev. R. Bolt
"	Muskegon	Rev. J. Dolfin
"	Hudson	Rev. M. Botbyl
"	Hackensack	Rev. K. Poppen
"	Illinois	Rev. J. Manni
"	Sioux Center	Rev. H. Vander Ploeg
"	Orange City	Rev. L. Ypma
"	Ostfriesland	Rev. H. C. Bode
"	Pella	Rev. I. Van Dellen
"	Pacific	Rev. E. Breen

In connection with the work of Heathen Missions, it was also experienced these past two years that nothing is abiding here below. Also in the area of our mission changes took place.

Now it surely is not necessary to record in this report which endeavors to give a general historical oversight of the course and the state of matters, to go into particulars. This can the moreso be done since the annual reports of the missionaries are ere long to appear in De Wachter.

In order, however, to give a somewhat global survey, we feel free to consider each post separately, and report the following:

REHOBOTH.

The missionary laboring here is Rev. J. W. Brink, supported by the congregation of Eastern Ave. He works with zeal and devotion, and seeks constantly more fully to understand the needs of the post entrusted to him.

Concerning the supervision of the Industrial Department the Synodical Deputies decided to make a change. The various reports we received concerning this work, as well as the manager and the superintendent caused the deputies to consider that it would be better to incorporate the Industrial Department with the work of the General Manager. At the last meeting it was decided to test this for a year, and beginning September 1 Mr. J. Boescher will begin as General Manager. The necessary help for mechanical work and manual training will be granted him.

Our Girls Matron, Miss Anna Derke, who for several years worked with devotion, has left the field. The deputies were sorry to see her leave. Miss Cora Van Zanten was appointed in her place, who thus far has proved to be a worthy successor.

Our Medical Missionary, Dr. C. K. J. Moore, also left the field. Repeated attempts were made to fill this vacancy, but initially without any success.

Fortunately, in our estimation, your deputies finally found in Mr. J. D. Mulder the man desired. It is true that he had another year of study when he received the appointment, but the deputies did not feel that this was an overriding objection.

We were fortunate that Dr. L. S. Huizenga, still stationed at Tohatchi, appeared willing as much as possible to provide help at Rehoboth in our hospital. With praiseworthy zeal he performed this work. A word of thanks for his appreciated services and willingness in this matter from the combined churches of Classis Holland, is considered by your deputies as not being misplaced, but very appropriate.

Further we were successful in obtaining a head nurse for our hospital. Miss Sena Voss from Hackley Hospital in Muskegon is now working at Rehoboth. Last year she received her appointment, and after taking her State Board examinations, she departed for the field. From her reports it appears that she is performing her duties with satisfaction and zeal.

Before long the work at the hospital will undoubtedly expand. This stands in connection with the coming of the appointed doctor, Mr. J. D. Mulder.

This young man, a son of the Church, formerly studied at our Calvin College. A weakening of his voice necessitated him to give up the idea of studying for the ministry. He then began studying medicine, and in the beginning of this month received his diploma from Rush Medical School of Chicago, Illinois. After taking his State Board examinations, he expects to leave for the mission field in July.

Miss Christine B. Hood is now working as Field Nurse. She received her appointment last December. It is superfluous to remark here surely that at the request of the deputies she spent the winter months on a journey to the

East visiting the various churches, and also many places in Michigan and Illinois for public appearances. In justice it can be said that this first Indian nurse on our field, and the first one graduated from our hospital, during her stay in our circles made a very favorable impression, and left behind pleasant memories.

For several months now she has been active as Field Nurse, stationed at Rehoboth. From her reports it appears that she performs her duties with joy and devotion, which has the love of her heart.

In connection with Miss Hood it should gratefully be acknowledged that the congregation of Fremont, which supported her financially during her training, is now providing for her salary.

Besides it can also be stated that last year in December Miss Fannie Becenti also graduated as nurse. It is possible that in the near future she may take a post-graduate course at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon.

Taking all this into consideration we may say that with our post at Rehoboth we may well face the future with optimism.

TOHATCHI.

Two years ago Dr. L. S. Huizenga was still working at this post, the missionary of the combined churches of Classis Holland. It is known to all of us that in the course of 1915 this brother received permission from his sending churches to devote himself temporarily to the continuation medical study, and is presently working in the congregation of Englewood, N. J.

In the meantime the combined churches of Classis Holland were negotiating with Mr. M. Bouma, who formerly had been working on the mission field, to be the missionary assistant to Dr. Huizenga. As a result Mr. Bouma left for Tohatchi, and is working with love and devotion.

In connection with this post it should be noted that Rev. H. Hevns is temporarily stationed at Tohatchi, and appears to be working harmoniously with Mr. Bouma. The work has been divided, and they appear to dovetail well.

TWO GREY HILLS.

Since the Synod of 1914 many changes also took place here.

First of all what pertains to the personnel. Two years ago Mr. William Mierop worked on this post as missionary assistant, sent by the three churches of Roseland, resorting under Glas-
sis Illinois.

His interpreter was Mr. James Becenti. He had to leave the field, and later Mr. Mierop also left, because he wanted to qualify himself better through further study.

With the departure of the latter, the deputies notified the Roseland churches as follows: "The synodical deputies advise you that, if you call again, to call an ordained minister. Reasons: This works out better with respect to performing marriages, and with an ordained minister one can exert much more influence among the Indians."

The result was that the above mentioned churches called Rev. L. P. Brink, a former missionary. He accented the call and has already been working at Two Grey Hills over a year.

His present interpreter, Hudson Bainbridge, is in all probability going to be replaced by Edward Becenti.

A change was also made with respect to buildings. Recently the secretary received a telegram from Rev. L. P. Brink that a windstorm had completely demolished the missionary's home. Fortunately no lives were lost. Sufficient publicity of this event was published in our church papers, so that we do not have to enlarge on this matter.

The only things that should still be stated is that the new home, which must be built, will be located closer to the government buildings. This will make the work of the missionary considerably easier.

CROWN POINT.

Since the last meeting of Synod changes have also taken place on this post. In his report to the last Synod the secretary was already called upon to state: "Since this has been written Rev. D. H. Mayskens accepted an appointment as Educational Secretary for the Western Calvin Academy, and Crown Point is vacant." So it was, but not for long.

The churches of Paterson I, II, IV, and Prospect Park, resorting under Glasgis Hudson, in a comparatively short time were successful in getting a successor in Rev. J. Bolt, who has already occupied this post for more than one and a half years.

This brother also works with joy and devotion. He as much as possible applies himself to language study. Temporarily

at his own request he is working without an interpreter, but now has asked for permission to engage an interpreter, which was granted.

BLANCO CANYON.

At the request of Classis Zeeland this post has been given to it. This youthful Classis with courage has assumed the responsibility of this most recent post.

The Lord has thus far also crowned their efforts with success, so that Classis Zeeland since September 1915 has its own missionary in Rev. H. Heyns, B.D.

As stated above Rev. H. Heyns is temporarily stationed at Tohatchi. There is a reason for this. In the near future the government expects to erect buildings at Blanco Canyon. The exact location is as yet not known. As long as we do not know, your deputies believe they should not erect any buildings at Blanco Canyon, since our buildings should be in the vicinity of the government buildings.

Classes Holland and Zeeland reached an understanding, so that Zeeland's missionary could temporarily man the post of Holland.

To this there may be added that last year a thorough inspection-journey was made at the post of Blanco Canyon by our missionaries, and that your deputies received a favorable report concerning this post.

THE ZUNI FIELD.

Everything remained about the same on this field. Rev. Fryling works with his assistants continually with pleasure and harmony.

Two matters with respect to this post should be mentioned. In Mr. M. Vander Beek from Holland, Mich., the missionary received an assistant, who, especially stands at his side in working with the young Zunies, and appears to be applying himself with youthful courage. Since Rev. Fryling's annual report will soon appear in De Wachter, we need say no more about this field.

Only this should yet be said, that lately the deputies were perturbed by the attempts of the Romans, who wish to infiltrate in Zuni. In so far as possible measures have been taken to prevent such infiltration.

That the work on the mission field is not entirely without blessing can be seen by the fact that from time to time our church papers can announce that the youth, and also a few who are along in years, desire and receive baptism.

The last letter received from Rev. J. W. Brink informed us that five young people made profession of faith, of which four were Indians and one the daughter of the missionary.

Generally the Lord our God does not leave himself without witness. Surely also in the sphere of missions things do not always go the way we desire. Even at times it seems to be a plowing on rocks and sowing in the wind. Yet we do not despond. Also the report of the inspection committee, the Revs. J. Manni and W. D. Vander werp, last year was in many respects encouraging.

The following personnel are working on the mission field or will be doing so by the 1st of September:

REHOBOTH, NEW MEXICO.

Rev. J. W. Brink, Missionary (Eastern Ave, Grand Rapids, Michigan).

Mr. J. Bosscher, General Manager.

Dr. J. D. Mulder, Medical Missionary.

Miss Sena Voss, Head Nurse.

Miss Christine E. Hood, Field Nurse (Fremont, Michigan).

Miss Fannie Bicenti, Nurse, not yet stationed (Sherman St., Grand Rapids, Michigan).

Miss Nellie De Jong, Principal and Disciplinarian.

Miss Carrie Ten Houten, Assistant Teacher.

Miss Cora Van Zanten, Girls' Matron.

Miss Eartha Rosbach, Boys' Matron

Miss Zandstra, Housekeeper.

Miss Clarissa Pierson, Assistant Housekeeper.

Miss Nellie Bakker, Laundress.

TOHATCHI, NEW MEXICO.

Mr. M. Bouma, Missionary Assistant.

Rev. H. Heyns, Missionary of Classis Zeeland, temporarily at Tohatchi.

ORCZIER, NEW MEXICO.

(Two Grey Hills.)

Rev. L. P. Brink, Missionary of the Roseland Churches.
Mr. Hudson Bainbridge, Interpreter (Ridott, Illinois).

CROWN POINT, NEW MEXICO.

Rev. J. Bolt, Missionary of the Paterson Churches.

ZUNI, NEW MEXICO.

Rev. H. Fryling, Classis Muskegon.
Mr. H. Vander Beek, Missionary Assistant.
Miss Alice Aardema, Teacher.
Miss Hattie Beekman, Matron.

The following children are cared for and instructed in
our Schools:

I. CHILDREN AT REHOBOTH BOARDING SCHOOL AND THEIR SUPPORTERS.

1. Joseph Lee Bergen, S. S. Englewood, N. J.
2. Donald Bergen, 1st Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.
3. Paul Cadman, Mission Society, Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids.
4. Frederic Coan, Ora et Labora, Harrison. S. D.
5. John Cook, Church of Overisel, Mich.
6. Mark Cook, S. S., 1st Church, Roseland, Chicago, Ill.
7. Julius Denay, Maranatha, Kalamazoo, Mich.
8. Robert De Groot, Church of Luctor, Kans.
9. Richard Duncan, Y.P.S., Midland Park, N. J.
10. William Duncan, S.S., Central Ave., Holland, Mich.
11. David Evans, S.S., LaGrave Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
12. Brainard Holland, 14th St. Church, Holland, Mich.
13. George Hood, S.S., Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
14. David Livingston, S.S., Paterson I, N. J.
15. Chi Peshlakai, Hope Ave., Passaic, N. J.
16. James Sherman, S.S., Sherman St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
17. Albert Sherman, Ladies' Aid, Zeeland I, Mich.
18. Henry Whipple, New Holland, S.D.
19. Marcus Whitman, S.S., Legrand St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
20. Robert Peshlakai, Ladies' Aid & Y. W. Soc., Pella, Ia.
21. Herbert Whitman, Mission Circle and S.S., Muskegon II, Mich.
22. Marinus Williams, S.S., Drenthe, Mich.
23. Clarence Willetto, Albert Gardner, Miss. Soc., G. R. M.
24. Edgerton Young, S.S., 9th St., Holland, Mich.
25. Roger Hillman, "Friends", Englewood, Ill.

26. Charles De Groot, S.S., Lafayette, Ind.
27. Paul Becenti, Miss. Soc., LaGrave Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
28. Walter Heekaltsee, Rev. & Mrs. N. Burggraaf, Bishop, Mich.
29. Grace Averisco, Friends, Broadway, G.R.M., & Rehoboth, N.M.
30. Wilhelmina Beets, Church, Lucas, Mich.
31. Clara Beets, S.S., Prospect St., Passaic, N. J.
32. Louise Smith, 1st Church, Chicago, Ill.
33. Emma Bode, Miss. Soc., Franklin St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
34. Leonora Brink, Ladies' Aid, Englewood I, Chicago, Ill.
35. Evelyn Cadman, S.S., Chicago I, Ill.
36. Ethel Cadman, Friends, Bates St., Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.
37. Johanna Curloyemith, N.N., Holland, Mich.
38. Jessie Curloyemith, Friend, Wellsburg, Iowa.
39. Nonabah De Groot, S.S., Legrand St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
40. Nona Gordie, Dennis Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
41. Mattie Green, S.S., East Saugatuck, Mich.
42. Tuli Heshi, Ora et Labora Soc., Roseland II, Chicago, Ill.
43. Martha Holland, S.S., Douglas Park, Chicago, Ill.
44. Mary Johnson, S.S., South Holland, Ill.
45. Dorothy Livingston, S.S., 3rd Church, Paterson, N. J.
46. Catharine Murphy, Reeman, Mich.
47. Nonabah Murohy, S.S., Broadway, Grand Rapids, Mich.
48. Jeanette Paton, Lynden, Wash.
49. Cora Sherman, Mission Soc., 1st Church, Muskegon, Mich.
50. Minnie Sherman, West Side, Cleveland, Ohio.
51. Elizabeth Smith, S.S., Prospect Park, N. J.
52. Julia Smith, S.S., Graaftschap, Mich.
53. Samuel Hale, Miss. Soc., 1st Church, Kalamazoo, Mich.
54. Harriette Bode, Ladies' Aid, Peoria, Iowa.
55. Susie Johnson, S.S., Broadway, Grand Rapids, Mich.
56. Alice Hood, Friends, So. Dakota, and Michigan.
57. Willie Hillman, Ladies' Aid, Oakdale Park, Grand Rapids, Mich.
58. Lambert Franklin, Mission Soc., Franklin St., G. R. M.
59. Anthony Eede, Ladies' Aid, Broadway, Grand Rapids, Mich.
60. Ellen Smith, S.S., Third Church, Chicago, Ill.
61. Anna S. Dolfen, S.S., Third Church, Zeeland, Mich.
62. Etta De Groot, Miss. Soc., Grandville Ave., G. R. M.
63. Helen Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Jellema, Holland, Mich.
64. Margaret Vanderveer,.....
65. Edith Howard,.....
66. Ida Peshlakai, Mr. & Mrs. J. Brouwer, Holland, Mich.

II. CHILDREN AT THE ZUNI DAY SCHOOL AND THEIR SUPPORTERS.

1. Douglas Lasti, S.S., Franklin St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

2. Helen Nashu, S.S., Franklin St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
3. Lucy Monta, S.S., Franklin St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
4. Richard Leopolda, S.S., Franklin St., Grand Rapids, Mich.
5. Charlie Tjuyati, Y.L. Guild 3rd Kalamazoo, Mich.
6. George Suphony, Y.L. Guild, 3rd Kalamazoo, Mich.
7. Amy Humpekya, Y.L. Guild, 3rd Kalamazoo, Mich.
8. George Humpekya, Miss. Soc., Franklin St., G. R. M.
9. Nicholas Yuyescelu, 2nd Grand Haven, Mich.
10. May Hustite, Ladies' Aid, 14th St., Holland, Mich.
11. Pauline Teanati, S.S., 3rd Roseland, Chicago, Ill.
12. Hilda Lahu, A. W., Orange City, Iowa.
13. Celia Moma, Miss Helen Shaw (Ladies' Aid), Brooklyn, N. Y.
14. Mable Iula,, Y.L. Sewing Circle, Munster, Ind.
15. Rosa Zuni, 10 Mission Friends, Grand Rapids, Mich.
16. Ned Washu, S.S., LaGrave Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.
17. Isaac Lutazin, North Side, Passaic, N. J.
18. Anna Walve, North Side, Passaic, N. J.
19. Walter Kany, Lincoln Center, Iowa.
20. Ester Lawenti, S.S., Burton Heights, Grand Rapids, Mich.
21. Elizabeth Duce, N. N., Peoria, Iowa.
22. Grace Mina, E. S. Cleveland & Chicago Junction, Ohio.
23. Louis Momy, Fourth Paterson, N. J.
24. Ruth Tjuyati, Y.P.S., First Muskegon, Mich.
25. Alfred Laatsaa, S.S., Bethany, Muskegon, Mich.
26. Ruth Emily Facet, Ladies' Aid, Bethany, Muskegon, Mich.
27. Norman Kany, S.S., N.W. Church & Wm. St., Chr. Sch., Kalamazoo, Mich.
28. Susan Monta, S.S., First Zeeland, Mich.
29. Lettie Iula, S.S., First Zeeland, Mich.
30. Ramona Tjuyati, S.S., First Zeeland, Mich.

Furthermore, we believe that we should inform you that in the last two years the following new buildings were erected on our mission field. A parsonage at Zuni, a parsonage at Crown Point, and a Mission House at Rehoboth. As it appears from the report of the Treasurer these buildings have cost a lot of money. This must be brought in connection with the great cost of the transportation of building material. This explains why we could not close the year without debt.

Your deputies also wish to call to the attention of Synod the inevitability of the following disbursements which we will have to face in the near future:

Rehoboth - The building of two dormitories, a new barn, and the installation of a gas plant.

Blanco Canyon - The erection of buildings, since there are none on this post.

Two Grey Hills - New house and what goes with it.

Then we must also purchase 640 acres of land at Rehoboth @ \$10.00 per acre, if we are to be guaranteed against the infiltration of the Roman Catholics.

With these expenses before us we as synodical deputies take the liberty to point out to Synod to be exceedingly careful and slow in choosing a new mission field.

In connection with the question of a new mission field the deputies call the attention of Synod to two letters, which we place before Synod on request.

Concerning the Training School (See Acts 1914, pp. 38,39), the following is to be reported: The deputies received from the field a well worked out plan concerning the Training School. All the deputies could concur in the plan.

As much effort as possible is being put forth according to the spirit of the plan. Since for the next two years we do not expect any students, who have passed the eighth grade, and since in the near future we are faced with extensive expenses, we as deputies advise that we keep the Training School in status quo for the present.

And, finally, the deputies direct the attention of Synod on the points: the membership of our missionaries.

At our last annual meeting this matter was again discussed. It was decided that in conjunction with the instructions from Classes Aella, Illinois, and Zeeland, pertaining to this question to present the matter in this form to Synod: "The synodical mission deputies would be pleased that the ecclesiastical position of the missionary-ministers on our mission field would be determined in such a way, that with respect to their ministerial status it would remain with the calling churches, but with respect to their membership it would be in the congregation on the mission field."

In this way, having been elected, they can be seated as members of the consistory, and because of their position in the office of elder or deacon can as an official conduct work concerning work of the local church on the field.

The financial report of the Treasurer is as follows:

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE HEATHEN MISSIONS.

JUNE 1, 1915 - May 31, 1916

Receipts

Balance, May 31, 1915	\$ 704.61
Classis Grand Rapids East	2,787.44
" Grand Rapids West	4,855.65
" Hackensack	588.57
" Holland	2,431.75
" Hudson	1,779.22
" Illinois	3,562.33
" Muskegon	1,957.40
" Orange City	1,554.73
" Otfriesland	747.45
" Pacific	1,456.44
" Pella	1,489.40
" Sioux Center	2,695.03
" Zealand	1,524.84
Total	\$30,565.40

Disbursements

Annual Board Meeting	\$ 182.38
Executive Coma. Meetings (7)	113.03
China Inland Mission	75.00
General Miss. Expense (\$3,800 on Loans)	4,067.19
Salaries of employees	4,844.17
Traveling Exp. (vacations)	677.88
Rehoboth	12,844.03
Zuni	3,498.85
Crown Point	1,974.51
Two Grey Hills	1,610.10
Tohatchi (Miss Hood salary & exp.)	151.63
Tohatchi	21.62
Total	\$30,060.39

Balance, May 31, 1916 \$ 505.01

Indebtedness—Two notes \$2,000, personal account—J. Spyker 4,000.00

In addition to above disbursements \$30,060.39 we have:—

Eastern Ave. for their Missionary 31,581.92

Churches of Ol. Holland for their Miss. 3,242.70

Four Churches Paterson for Crown Point 1,312.00

Classis Muskegon for Zuni	\$ 1,944.87
Three Churches of Roseland for Tow Grey Hills	1,400.00
Classis Zeeland for Blanco Canyon	<u>1,858.37</u>
Grand Total spent on Indian Mission Field	\$41,400.25

The Board of Heathen Missions, Christian
Reformed Church.

Records examined and found correct by:

I. J. Flea
H. A. Rietdyk
Examining Committee

John Dolfin,
Treasurer

Humbly submitted per the Deputies
for Heathen Missions,

Y. P. De Jong,
Secretary.

SUPPLEMENT V.

GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH MISSIONS.

Honorable Fathers and Brothers:

It is my task as Treasurer of the mission among the Jews to give an account of receipts and disbursements of the past two years. With grateful hearts we can inform you that the God of the fathers has blessed us. The churches in general have faithfully endeavored to perform their duties. Our societies and individuals have contributed, Sunday Schools and Christian Schools sent their gifts. We even received the pennies saved by children. So we teach our children not only to give but also to pray for children who are taught at home and in the synagogue to reject the name, the only name given us for salvation. Again there has been labor and prayer, and surely not in vain. Because Jehovah says: My word shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish that for which it has been sent forth. We know that the work of Evangelism among the Jews is cumbered with many difficulties. If one complains about the ignorance, the lack of culture, the idolatry, etc., among the heathen, among the Jews there is cleverness, subtle catch questions, and derisive language. And yet the Spirit knows how to strike the heart, and many grains of seed have found their way into the hearts of those who were bitter enemies of the Crucified One.

So let us not become sluggish and discouraged, even though it takes a long time before one sees fruit. The seed sown shall not be without fruit. The Spirit of the Lord by means of the Word preached makes alive the dead bones of the whole house of Israel.

FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 1914 - JUNE 1916.

Balance, June 1914	\$ 3.553.02
Receipts to June 1915	<u>5,116.39</u>
Total	\$ 8,669.41
Receipts, June 1915 to June 1916	<u>5,595.52</u>
Total	\$14,264.93
Disbursements:	
Paterson Hebrew Mission	\$10,612.37
Chicago Hebrew Mission	<u>3,089.00</u>
Total	<u>13,701.37</u>
Balance, June 1, 1916	\$ 563.56

That Chicago received more than synod had decided is found in the fact that--let me say it--for the love of this sterling mission. This was clearly seen from the fact that many collections were sent by congregations, societies, and individuals, of which half was designated for Chicago, and sometimes from individuals entirely.

Your committee has completed its task as far as it could. The mandate to make a draft of Rules was not carried out. To a great extent the reason for this was that the members of the committee lived at too great a distance from one another. To come from the distant East and from the distant West would cost too much. We have not even met once in two years. If Synod thinks it necessary to appoint a committee, then it should appoint members from the middle of the country.

Herewith we bid farewell, and thank you for the confidence placed in us.

The Lord God bless the work of missions among the people of old, also the Christian Reformed Church, be it alone, or in conjunction with other churches, in order that this ancient people be led to the Messiah, and the veil on their heart be taken away.

In the name of the committee,

J. I. Flea, Treasurer.

SUPPLEMENT VI.

REPORT OF THE MISSION WORK AMONG THE
JEWS IN PATERSON AND VICINITY.

Honorable Fathers and Brothers:

Although according to the decision of Synod we were not directly instructed to present a report to Synod, your deputies of Classes Hackensack and Hudson nevertheless thought it well to submit the following:

According to the instruction of the Synod of 1914 the deputies of Classes Hackensack and Hudson, in consultation with the Synodical deputies appointed thereto by the Synod of 1914, took possession of the Paterson Hebrew Mission Society in accordance with the conditions set forth by the Society in its offer to the last Synod.

Since taking over and organizing the deputies have met 20 times. The first matter of business was to find a larger room, because with the expansion of the work the room at 2½ Temple St. was much too small. After a few weeks we found a suitable place at 48 N. Main St., which we rented for \$50.00 per month, with the option of buying the entire building of three stories for the sum of \$9,000.00, and if purchased within six months, the rent would be deducted. It is a brick building containing the latest improvements, and very suitable for

the work of Jewish missions. After long and broad discussion about the matter, and after consulting the Synodical Committee, the building was purchased with a down payment of \$4,000.00, and a mortgage of \$5,000.00 at 5% interest. The committee had itself incorporated according to the laws of the State of New Jersey under the name of "The Paterson Hebrew Mission of the Christian Reformed Church of America.

Concerning the working personnel we have not prospered too well up to the present. Rev. Feuersohn, missionary for the Paterson Hebrew Mission Society, resigned just as the time when we took over the mission, so that we had only one worker in the beginning in the person of Mrs. Feuersohn, who, after we employed Mr. Rottenberg, also left soon afterward. Mr. Rottenberg worked until last February, when he left to continue his studies at Dubuque, Iowa. In his place we employed Rev. M. Neuenberg, who will only work during the summer months while studying at Princeton. Mr. and Mrs. John Huizer were appointed as missionary assistants, who at the same time will have supervision over the building. Consequently we have need for more workers, especially missionaries, who can take over the work permanently and continue it. To obtain these, however, is difficult. O that the Lord, particularly with an eye to Jewish Missions, would cast workers into his vineyard. We have made investigations in New York City, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia for work methods, and at the same time cast about for qualified workers. We hope soon to be successful in obtaining qualified persons for this responsible work.

With the work force that we have at the present time, the work is carried on diligently, and as we may believe, not without fruit. It is true we cannot announce any conversions, yet it is noted that there is interest shown by many, and those, who before had confessed Christ, were supported and encouraged. The seed of the Word was regularly sown, the reading room was regularly kept open, of which some Jews made use, and many Jews were visited in their homes to bring them the message of salvation. Meetings were held regularly on Sunday, and during the week a sewing school and night school were held, moreover many tracts and testaments were distributed.

With satisfaction the committee might labor, despite the many difficulties connected with the work.

Although the Jews, who have not yet accepted Christ, are filled with a terrible and bitter hatred against our work, and do everything in their power to hinder it and make it distasteful, the work has much that is attractive, especially since we here have to do with that ancient covenant people, who have such a close relationship with our religion as far as history is concerned. For indirectly this people was the means in giving us the Bible and the Savior, although they themselves have rejected him.

Your committee, however, has in many respects had to work with burdened heart, because it constantly was confronted with matters that cost the Church much money, and also because our mandate was so vague and undefined, so that often we did not know how far we could go in the matters confronting us. We are therefore looking forward to a well circumscribed set of Rules, as well as for a well defined mandate concerning the work that is expected of us. The matters concerning which we particularly wish to receive instructions concern the employment of missionaries and missionary assistants, how many persons we may appoint, what salary we may pay, whether we must require of them that they shall be members of our church, if they are not such at the time of their appointment, whether we shall call an ordained minister from our own circles or a Jewish convert; briefly, whether we are empowered to judge and decide concerning all matters that confront us as is given to delegates, who are sent to Classis or to Synod.

Humbly submitted,

Per the Deputies of Classes
Hackensack and Hudson,

D. De Beer, Secretary.

SUPPLEMENT VII.

REPORT OF THE EMERITUS BOARD.

Worthy Brothers:

The Board met four times since the last Synod in the city of Zeeland and once in Grand Rapids. Brother F. Kniphuizen could not attend any of the meetings because of physical weakness.

The officers consisted of the following brothers:

President; Mr. S. S. Postma
Vice-President; Mr. D. W. Jellema
Treasurer; Rev. J. Smitter
Secretary; Rev. M. Van Vassen

Disbursements were made each quarter from the Fund for the amounts promised. Moreover we were enabled to grant tentative aid to Mrs. J. A. Kett at the request of Classis Grand Rapids East for the amount of \$150.00; to Mrs. Schultz at the request of Classis Orange City for the sum of \$200.00; to Mrs. H. Huizingh, after the death of Rev. H. Huizingh, at the request of Orange City for \$200.00.

We also sent an honorarium of \$100.00 to three emeritus ministers, which they received with thanks and joy.

Rev. Vander Velde vanden Bok was taken away by inexorable death.

Synod is called upon to decide on new requests, which are:

Mrs. J. A. Kett	\$150.00
Mrs. Schultz	200.00
Mrs. H. Huizingh	200.00

Mrs. L. Rietdyk for \$100.00 on the recommendation of Classis Illinois.

At the request of Mrs. A. Van Houten, supported by the Consistory of Paterson III, we granted her a \$50.00 increase, and request your approval of the same.

The Board requests an increase of subsidy for Rev. H. Vander Werp, to raise it from \$400.00 to \$500.00.

If Synod makes no change in the list for subsidy, then the quota can remain at 25¢ per family.

Synod must elect two new members this time. The retiring members are Mr. F. Kniphuizen and Mr. S. S. Postma.

With gratitude we remember the many years of service of Mr. J. Heeringa, the former Treasurer, and Mr. S. S. Postma, the retiring President.

The report of the Treasurer is as follows:

1914 - 1915

Balance	\$1,026.88
Receipts	<u>4,513.10</u>
Total	\$5,539.98
Disbursements	<u>4,125.77</u>
Balance	\$1,414.21
Lubbers Fund	\$1,406.43

1915 - 1916

Balance	\$1,414.21
Receipts	<u>4,181.07</u>
Total	\$5,495.28
Disbursements	<u>4,554.45</u>
Balance	\$ 940.83
Lubbers Fund	\$1,463.24

The books of the Treasurer were examined and found to be in good order.

With thanks to the Lord, we thank the Church also, which placed its confidence in us, and we pray the Lord's blessing upon Synod.

In the Name of the Board,

M. Van Vessel, Secretary.

SUPPLEMENT VIII.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR CHURCH HELP.

Honorable Brothers:

Your committee can with satisfaction report the following:

Church Help might continue its work for two years, so that in those two years weak congregations might again be supported. This support is for weak congregations a joy. It is sad that this support could not always be given, when it was requested. This sometimes leads to dissatisfaction, and at times leads them to obtain help from another source than Church Help, which would not be necessary if the path of patience could be exercised to obtain help from Church Help.

It is also necessary that Classes investigate more fully the circumstances under which these congregation find themselves, who seek support, and presented to the Committee; hence the Committee once again would like to emphasize, as De Wachter has done, that the Classes make a thorough investigation of the needs of a congregation before making a recommendation to the Committee.

The finances are as follows: From payment on Notes for these two years \$2,236.22 was received, while the collections amounted to \$5,184.44. Two years ago there was a balance of \$262.25, making a total of \$7,682.91.

Making a comparison of the collections of the various Classes we note for the last two years: Grand Rapids East 23%, Grand Rapids West 21%, Hackensack 13%, Holland 22%, Hudson 39%, Illinois 32%, Muskegon 31%, Orange City 35%.

Ostfriesland 32½¢, Pacific 66¢, Pella 36¢, Sioux Center 34¢, Zealand 21¢. Richly blessed Classes are behind the others.

In the last two years help was given to the following congregations:

Ocheyedan	\$ 900.00	North Blenden	\$ 500.00
Cramersburg	300.00	Detroit	1,000.00
Worthington	500.00	Hancock	400.00
Bethel, Gr. Rpsd.	1,000.00	Elpis	300.00
Neerlandia	300.00	Lincoln Center	500.00
Los Angeles	800.00	Freemont II.	500.00
Holland, Minn.	400.00	Total	\$7,400.00

Neerlandia returned \$100.00 because it could get along on \$200.00. Including administrative expenses the total disbursements were \$7,491.95. Thus there is a balance on May 31, 1916, of \$190.96.

Below is a list of the congregations which have received loans from the Church Help Fund. The consistories of these congregations are requested to examine these amounts.

Caldwell	\$ 269.16	Elpis	\$ 385.00
Grant	195.00	Ada	475.00
Sullivan	540.00	Corsica	425.00
Atwood	40.00	Bethany, Musk.	325.00
Kanawha	100.00	Conrad, Mont.	705.00
Rudyard	691.50	Paterson, Mad. Ave.	400.00
Ellsworth	105.00	Plover	260.00
Harvey	262.50	Muskegon Hghts.	700.00
Byron Center	475.00	Burdett, Can.	160.00
Rusk	95.00	Santorn	475.00
Hudsonville	325.00	Sheldon	356.65
Lebanon	105.00	Farmington	285.00
Volga	550.00	Amsterdam, Idaho	750.00
Alamosa	130.00	Winnepeg, Can.	600.00
Passaic, N. S.	250.00	Redlands	425.00
Oakaloosa	495.00	Inwood	969.44
Chicago, Ohio	260.00	Hancock	900.00
Doon	225.00	Rochester	239.58
Burton Heights	300.00	Hanford	750.00
East Palmyra	428.00	Sibley	500.00
Prairie City	400.00	Kenosha	100.00

Racine	\$ 275.00	Worthington	\$ 900.00
Ireton	575	Ocheyedan	850.00
Noordelooe	225.00	Cramersburg, Kans.	285.00
South Boardman	50.00	Bethel, Gr. Rps.	950.00
New Holland, Mont.	400.00	Los Angeles	800.00
Vesper	210.00	Neerlandia	200.00
Randolph	570.00	Holland, Minn.	400.00
Hitchcock	47.50	North Elendon	500.00
Granum	500.00	Detroit	1,000.00
Plainfield	424.55	Lincoln Center	500.00
Bishop	225.00	Fremont II	500.00
Holland, 16th St.	375.00		

Altogether there are 66 congregations which have received loans to the amount of \$27,453.88. Another \$2,100 has been promised to congregations recommended by their respective Classes. Our expectation is that churches will increasingly reap the blessing of God as they learn to understand Church Help, and therefore will also give generously.

With thanks for the confidence placed in us,

Your Committee,

R. Bolt
J. Manni

SUPPLEMENT IX.

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

To the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, assembled at
Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 21, 1916.

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The Publication Committee has the following to bring to
your attention:

1. In accordance with the decision of the last Synod
The Publication Committee has had itself incorporated according
to the laws of the State of Michigan.

2. According to the decision of the last Synod The Banner
has been purchased for the sum of five thousand dollars
(\$5,000.00). There was also an indebtedness of nine hundred
dollars (\$900.00), which had to be assumed by the Church; but
of its own accord The Banner Publishing Co. assumed \$600.00
of this. The remaining \$300.00 has been paid by the Church;
with the purchase a down payment of \$1,000.00 was made on
January 1, 1916. Henceforth on January 1 of each year \$1,000.00
must be paid off.

A contract was was made with the Grand Rapids Printing
Co. to print The Banner. In connection with this the follow-
ing protest was registered: "Protest in giving the printing to
Verhaar and Hoffius."

The undersigned protested against the decision taken at
the meeting of the Publication Committee on January 18, 1915,

Art. 7, concerning the giving the printing of The Banner to Verhaar and Hoffius.

1. Because they see therein an injustice to the churches because it has to pay two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) more than the bid for printing by The Holland Printing Co.

2. Because therein they see an injustice to The Holland Printing Co., represented by Mr. H. Holkeboer, which is as qualified and trustworthy as a printer as is Mr. Verhaar; which has been shown by twenty years of work for the Church.

3. Because in the discussion which led to the decision, it was clearly shown that printers outside of Grand Rapids do not have a chance in sending in bids for Church publications.

Furthermore, the undersigned request that this protest be inscribed in the Minutes, and that mention be made of it in the report of The Publication Committee to the next Synod.

Filed on January 19, 1915,

(Signed) J. Manni, W. Heyns.

4. Brother Jacob Van Es, since the purchase of The Banner, has been field agent for both De Wachter and The Banner.

5. The Publication Committee with much difficulty was finally successful in obtaining department editors for both papers.

6. The advertising question constantly keeps the Committee busy, and sometimes is of a complicated and difficult nature.

7. The Financial Report is as follows:

Disbursements for De Wachter and The Banner.

Wachter Printing	\$12,429.74
Banner Printing	4,696.05
Theological School	1,800.00
Banner of Truth Publishing Co.	2,573.87
Editors	1,651.57
Publication Committee	211.20
Papers, cuts, expenses, etc.	257.82
New Subscribers	50.08
Field Agent	2,085.00
Local Agents	1,967.50
Administration	2,611.51
Total Disbursements to 5-31-16	\$50,334.34

Receipts	\$30,698.62
Disbursements	<u>30,334.34</u>
Balance, June 1, 1916	\$ 364.28

D. W. Jellema, Administrator

Committee of Publication,

H. Denkema
J. B. Hulst

REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS:

De Wachter from June 1, 1914 to May 31, 1916
The Banner from January 1, 1915 to May 31, 1916

RECEIPTS FOR DE WACHTER

June 1 to December 31, 1914 - Income from Subscriptions and advertising	\$ 3,832.79
January 1 to December 31, 1915 - Subscriptions	11,502.17
January 1 to December 31, 1915 - Advertising	1,994.32
January 1 to May 31, 1916 - Subscriptions	5,437.73
January 1, to May 31, 1916 - Advertising	<u>852.86</u>
Total	\$23,619.87

RECEIPTS FOR THE BANNER

January 1, to December 31, 1915 - Subscriptions	\$ 3,559.89
Advertising	855.12
January 1 to May 31, 1916 - Subscriptions	1,827.73
- Advertising	<u>329.69</u>
Total	\$ 6,572.43
Total for both	\$30,192.30
Balance, June 1, 1914	<u>506.32</u>
Total Receipts to May 31, 1916	\$30,698.62

RECOMMENDATIONS.

8. The Publication Committee recommends the following:

a. Since the last Synod by its appointment of the Publication Committee did not stipulate which members were to serve for two years and which for four years, the entire committee retires at this time. And Synod with its appointments determine which members are to serve four years and which two years.

b. To eliminate all annual and semi-annual financial reports from the church periodicals, because these

take too much room, are superfluous, and increase the costs.

c. The re-appointment of the present personnel of the editorial department of both De Wachter and The Banner. Since brother W. Stuart does not wish to be re-appointed, your committee recommends that Rev. G. D. De Jong be appointed for the department of "Frese Comments"; and Dr. J. Van Lonkhuyzen as alternate Editor-in-Chief for De Wachter.

d. To set the honorarium of the department editors at \$60.00 per year.

9. Finally, The Publication Committee requests concurrence of Synod to let out on contract the printing and administration of the church periodicals for a specific sum, and for a specific number of years, without surrendering the rights which the Church exercises at present over these periodicals.

Humbly submitted,

The Publication Committee,

J. Manni, President
A. H. Bosch, Secretary
W. Heyns
J. G. Vanden Bosch
J. B. Hulet
E. J. Tanis
H. Denkema

SUPPLEMENT X.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH AMERICA.

Fathers and Brothers:

(See Art. 23 of these Acts.)

Since the last Synod your deputies for South America have received \$2,026.27, and disbursed as follows:

Subsidy for Buenos Aires	\$ 800.00
Subsidy for Tres Arroyos	800.00
Traveling Expenses to R	25.00
Wachters and Banners	89.00
Exchange	8.13
Books, and Rev. S., and Corr.	11.68
Total Disbursements	\$1,733.81
Balance	\$ 292.46

With thanks to God we may inform you that the good work among the Hollanders in South America continues to progress. Three brothers, two of whom are married and ordained, work with untiring patience and perseverance, and with a measure of blessing, as has been reported in more detail in De Wachter.

The congregations in South America appreciate the support received from North America. Little help came from the Netherlands these last two years because of the difficult times there.

There is need of a fourth minister, one who does not teach school, but can call on dispersed from place to place, whether by train or auto.

Erection of buildings is also necessary. In B. A. more room is necessary for the Christian School, and also to avoid renting which is very expensive.

And in Chubut a parsonage should be built in the center of the colony.

We request that Synod decide to continue support for South America, and appoint your deputies with the same mandate as before.

Humbly submitted,

The Deputies,

J. Wyngaarden, Secretary

SUPPLEMENT XI.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO PREVENT DISPERSION.

(See Art. 23 of these Acts.)

Esteemed Fathers and Brothers:

The undersigned, members of the Committee to prevent dispersion, have the honor to report the following:

The instruction of the previous Synod placed us before a new and far from simple task. To give trustworthy advice concerning the spiritual prospects of Dutch settlements in the far West is well nigh impossible. The number is already very large, and is becoming larger by the year. Not all these new places will grow into robust congregations; to the contrary many small groups disappear again, or are swallowed up by American churches. It is difficult to figure out which places have a future.

In order to be able to serve with trustworthy advice your committee itself first had to become informed with the different local circumstances of the many places with which they were not acquainted. This took a good deal of time; and then one is necessitated again and again to obtain information concerning the precariousness to which the Western settlements are subject.

Concerning the questions received for information, we noticed that the majority were interested only in the material prospects. At the same time it must be stated that only a small number have made use of our free advice.

Yet we might save a few from bitter disappointment.

In general it can be said that in most cases our people must be strongly urged not to sacrifice the privileges of Church and School, which they have in the older colonies, for an uncertain future both materially and spiritually in the many new places in the Northwest.

Concerning land advertisements in the church periodicals we can inform you that the Publication Committee listened to our advice, and some advertisements offered for placements were not placed.

Further our committee made contact with the Netherlands Society for Emigration. Through Mr. J. Maurer we were requested to cooperate with this Society of which he is a director. When he was in America last year we were to have a meeting with him. Through lack of time this did not take place. Correspondence, however, has been carried on regularly; yet we cannot point to any results.

The Committee,

H. J. Heynen
W. Bierma
W. Aardappel

POSTSCRIPT OF THE COMMITTEE TO PREVENT DISPERSION.

After we sent in our report we received a letter from the Director of the Netherlands Emigration Society. With the possibility of decisions with respect to Immigration work in the East and further work in the West to give information, we thought it would be good for Synod to have knowledge of this.

The main thrust is as follows:

The Netherlands Emigrant Society is an unofficial body, and therefore has to reckon with diverse factors. Therefore it is not possible to work with the haste that some would desire.

The Bureau has to reckon seriously with the new Emigrant law, which shall soon be presented to the representatives of the people, and of which the public is not yet acquainted.

The Society must also accommodate itself to the content of the Immigration Laws of the United States.

The plan is to establish a branch office in New York, and to place at the head of it a leader, who is an officer in the Society. With that leader our committee can directly coöperate in the Dutch colonies.

Probably at this branch office a supervisory committee will be placed wherein we also can be represented.

The leader of the branch office shall also have the duty to receive the Dutch emigrants when they arrive, or give advice and help in accordance with the need of each one of them.

In the near future the Director of the Society expects to visit the United States, and then would gladly be enlightened by us.

In the Name of the Committee to Prevent Dispersion,

Henry J. Heynen

SUPPLEMENT XII.

I.

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

(Of. Acts 1914, pp. 15, 16, 83).

Honorable Brothers:

In the name of the General Synod we have the honor to inform you, that it has decided to declare:

1. That the Synod highly esteems the opportunity to give to delegates of foreign churches, who have full command of our language, the opportunity in matters of general concern of our churches, to be served with advice, when they should desire such.

2. That we also feel dutibound in accordance with the Word of God to give heed to one another that we neither in doctrine, nor in practice or discipline to depart from Reformed principles, while we judge that the correspondence between the two churches already places this duty upon us.

3. That the mutual consultation, holding supervision over a third will be difficult to do.

a. Because of the great distance separating us.

b. Because the relationships in both countries differ widely.

4. With respect to the matter of serving one another with guidance, especially when it is a question of revision of the Confessions or Liturgy, in as far as it touches doctrine, the Synod judges that it is necessary to seek mutual agreement in conformity with the Word of God.

We also have the honor to inform you concerning the project petition that Synod decided to place this in the hands

of the Deputies for Correspondence with the High Government, with the friendly request, to dress the aforementioned document in the the required form, and then to send it back to the Committee of the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church of America, appointed for this matter.

Further her Deputies for Correspondence with the High Government are instructed, when they have again received the petition from America, to present it to the High Government, with the information that the Synod considers this matter to be of great importance.

With fraternal greetings,

G. Keizer, Secretary
J. P. Klaarhamer, Secretary

II.

Esteemed Brother, Stated Clerk of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Thank you for the friendly invitation, which you extended in the name of the last Synod, to send one or more delegates of our Gereformeerde Kerken to the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, meeting June 21, and following days in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In the name of the Deputies of Correspondence with Churches in foreign countries, I must inform you that because of the sorry circumstances at the present time hinders us from accenting your invitation. We do with you consider that it is urgently necessary through the seriousness of the times to have fellowship with one another, not least of all unitedly to entreat the King of the Church that He remember Zion in the midst of the convulsion of the nations, and cause it to be a blessing. To consult with each other cannot be done at this time. To meet together before the throne of our God and King we can and may do through his grace, because in our prayers and entreaties remembering the needs of his Church, pleading for its concerns, but also bringing before the throne of grace the appalling needs of lands and peoples. While the hand rests heavy on the earth in these times, may it please the Lord in his matchless compassion, to increase the grace of prayer in you and in us. Could it be that in all the churches to the glory of his Name, and the welfare of his Zion.

May he grant you a blessed assembly, good fruitful dis-

cussions, and cause Synod to make decisions that will be a blessing for our sister churches in America.

With the greatest regards, I have the honor to be,

In the name of the Deputies of Correspondence

For Churches in Foreign Countries,

With fraternal greetings,

J. S. Vanden Linden

The Hague, May 15, 1916.

SUPPLEMENT XIII.

To the Christian Reformed Church of North America.

Esteemed Brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa has instructed the undersigned to send to you hearty greetings from said Church.

The Synod of the Reformed Church had its assembly in this month of March at Potchefstroom, Transvaal. It spent 10 days working on the matters in the Agenda, wherein some rather difficult points appeared. The Synod was called upon to decide what the status of a minister should be, who became a member of parliament.

Then there were questions concerning rebellion in general, and concerning political rebellion or disturbance of 1914 in Transvaal and the O. V. State in particular.

With respect to Missions we had to answer the question whether a heathen, who has two wives and has been converted to Christianity, can be baptized, without sending one of his wives away. (Synod answered this question affirmatively.)

As soon as the Acts are ready, a copy will be sent to you.

We rejoice in the fact that things are prosperous in your Church.

Concerning the sister churches in the Netherlands this cannot be said, nor can it be said here.

In Netherlands the threatening clouds of war continue to hang over them, and then there was a terrible flood. Here we had and continue to have a war, and then in some

districts of the country there is a terrible drought. Hundreds of thousands of sheep have died, and famine reigned in some places. South Africa again for the umpteenth time is being severely visited by the Lord, and the end is not yet in sight.

The Reformed Church under all this has suffered a great deal, but we may still speak of rich blessings. God the Lord in the midst all the differences of feelings in the political sphere preserved the unity.

From the heart we wish the Christian Reformed Church of America God's blessing in its manifold labors as well in as outside of the Church.

With kindest greetings,

Your brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ,

T. Hamersma, V.D.M.

Philipsburg, K. P., March 26, 1916

J. G. Vander Walt, V.D.M.

Middelburg, K. P., March 29, 1916

SUPPLEMENT XIV.

CHURCH ORDER OF THE CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH.

(As revised in Synod assembled at Chicago, 1914.)

Article 1.

For the maintenance of good order in the Church of Christ it is necessary that there should be certain offices and assemblies, supervision of doctrine, sacraments, forms of worship and Christian discipline; of which matters the following articles treat in due order.

Of the Offices.

Article 2.

The offices in the church are fourfold:

1. The office of Ministers of the Word.
2. The office of Professors of Theology.
3. The office of Elders.
4. The office of deacons.

Article 3.

No one, though he be a professor of theology, elder or deacon, shall be permitted to administer the Word and the sacraments without having been lawfully called. If any one acts contrary to this rule, and after being frequently admonished, does not desist, the classis shall judge whether he is to be declared schismatic or is to be punished in some other way.

Article 4.

The lawful calling of those who were not previously in office consists;

First, in the election, which, after prayers have been offered, shall be conducted by the consistory and the deacons, with due observance of the regulation established for this purpose by the consistory, and of the ecclesiastical ordinance that only those can for the first time be called to the Ministry of the Word who have been declared eligible by the churches, according to the rule in this matter; and furthermore with the advice of classis or the counselor appointed for this purpose by the classis.

Secondly, in the examination with respect to doctrine and life, which shall be conducted by the classis, to which the call must be submitted for approval, and which shall take place in the presence of three delegates appointed by the Synod from the nearest classes.

Thirdly, in the approval by the members of the calling church, which takes place when the name of the minister is announced for two successive Sundays and no lawful obstacle arises. This approval, however, is not required in case the congregation cooperates in the election by choosing out of a nomination previously made. Finally, in the public installation in the congregation, which shall take place with appropriate stipulations and questions, admonitions and prayer, and the laying on of hands by the officiating minister (and by the other ministers present with him) agreeably to the adopted Form.

Article 5.

Ministers already in service who are called to another congregation shall likewise be called in the aforesaid manner, by the consistory and the deacons, with observance of the regulation made for this purpose by the consistory and of the general ecclesiastical ordinances for the eligibility of those who have served outside of the Christian Reformed Church, and for the repeated calling of the same minister during the same vacancy, further, with the advice of the classis or of the counselor appointed by the classis and with the approval of the classis or of the delegates appointed by the classis, to whom the ministers called shall show good ecclesiastical testimonial of doctrine and life, with the approval of the members of the calling congregation, as stated in Article 4; whereupon the ministers called shall be

installed with appropriate stipulations and prayers, agreeably to the adopted Form.

Article 6.

No minister shall serve as such in institutions of mercy or be otherwise engaged, unless he be previously admitted in accordance with the preceding articles, and he shall, as well as others, be subject to the Church Order.

Article 7.

No one shall be called to the Ministry of the Word without his being stationed in a particular place, except he be sent to do church extension work.

Article 8.

Persons who have not pursued the regular course of study in preparation for the Ministry of the Word and have therefore not been declared eligible according to Article 4, shall not be admitted to the ministry, unless there is ample assurance of their exceptional gifts, piety, humility, modesty, sound judgment, as also gifts of public address. When such persons present themselves for the ministry, the classis (if the Synod* approve) shall first examine them, and further deal with them as it shall deem edifying, according to the general regulation of the churches.

*or Particular Synod.

Article 9.

Preachers without fixed charge, or others who have left some sect, shall not be admitted to the ministry of the church until they have been declared eligible after careful examination by the classis, with the approval of the Synod.

Article 10.

No minister, once legally called, may leave the congregation to which he is bound, and accept a call elsewhere, without the consent of the consistory together with the deacons, and knowledge on the part of the classis; and likewise no other church may receive him until he has presented a lawful testimonial of his departure from the church and the classis where he served.

Article 11.

On the other hand, the consistory as representing the congregation shall be bound to provide suitably for her

ministers, and shall not dismiss them from service without the knowledge and approval of the classis, and of the delegates of the Synod (Particular).

Article 12.

Inasmuch as a Minister of the Word, once lawfully called, is bound to the service of the church for life, he is not allowed to enter upon a secular vocation except for such weighty reasons as shall receive the approval of the classis.

Article 13.

Ministers, who by reason of age, sickness, or otherwise, are rendered incapable of performing the duties of the ministry, shall nevertheless retain the name and honor of a minister, and the church which they served shall provide for them in their need (likewise for the orphans and widows of all ministers) out of a common fund of the churches, according to the general ecclesiastical ordinance in this matter.

Article 14.

If any minister, for the aforesaid or any other reason is compelled to discontinue his service for a time, which shall not take place without the advice of the consistory, he shall nevertheless at all time be and remain subject to the call of the congregation.

Article 15.

No minister, having left the ministry of his church, or being without a fixed charge, shall be allowed to preach without the consent and authority of the Synod or classis. Likewise, no one shall be permitted to preach or administer the sacraments in another church, without the consent of the consistory of that church.

Article 16.

The office of the minister is to persevere in prayer and in the Ministry of the Word, to dispense the sacraments, to watch over his brethren, the elders and deacons, as well as the congregation, and finally, together with the elders, to exercise Christian discipline and to see to it that everything is done decently and in good order.

Article 17.

Equality shall be maintained among the Ministers of the Word with respect to the duties of their office and in all other matters as far as possible, according to the judgment of the consistory and, if necessary, of the classis. Likewise equality shall be maintained among elders and deacons.

Article 18.

The office of the Doctors or Professors of Theology is to explain Holy Scripture, and to defend sound doctrine against heresies and errors.

Article 19.

The churches shall exert themselves, as far as necessary, that there may be students supported by them to be trained for the Ministry of the Word.

Article 20.

Students who have received permission according to the rule in this matter, and persons who have according to Article 8 been judged competent to be prepared for the Ministry of the Word, shall, for their own training, and for the sake of becoming known to the congregations, be allowed to speak a word of edification in the congregational services.

Article 21.

The consistories everywhere shall see to it that there are good Christian schools, where the parents have their children instructed according to the demands of the covenant.

Article 22.

The election of the elders shall be determined by the judgment of the consistory together with the deacons, according to the regulation fixed by the consistory. Where local circumstances make it advisable the members (in full communion) may be given an opportunity to direct attention to suitable persons, in order that the consistory may thereupon either present to the congregation for election as many elders as are needed, that they may after they are approved by it, unless any obstacle arise, be installed with public prayers and stipulations, or present a double nomina-

tion to the congregation and thereupon install those chosen by it, in the aforesaid manner, agreeably to the adopted Form.

Article 23.

The office of the elder, in addition to what was declared (in Article 16) to be their duty in common with the Minister of the Word, is to take heed that the ministers together with their fellow-elders and the deacons faithfully fill their office, and both before and after Lord's Supper, as time and circumstances may demand for the edification of the churches to visit the families in order particularly to comfort and instruct the members, and also exhort others to (profess) the Christian religion.

Article 24.

The deacons shall be chosen, approved, and installed in the same manner as was stated concerning the elders.

Article 25.

The office peculiar to the deacons is diligently to collect alms and other contributions of charity, and after mutual counsel faithfully and diligently to distribute the same, to strangers as well as to the regular members, as their needs may require; to visit and comfort the distressed, and to exercise care that the alms are not misused; of the distribution of which they shall render an account in consistory, and also, if any choose to be present, in congregational meeting at such a time as the consistory shall see fit.

Article 26.

In places where others are devoting themselves to charity work, the deacons shall aim to keep in close touch with them, to the end that the alms may be distributed where the need is the greatest. Moreover, they shall make it possible for the poor to make use of institutions of mercy, and to that end they shall request the Board of Directors of such institutions to keep in close touch with them. It is also desirable that the deaconries assist and consult one another, especially in caring for the poor in such institutions.

Article 27.

The elders and the deacons shall serve two or more years according to local regulation, and an equal number shall

retire each year. The retiring officers shall be succeeded by others, unless the circumstances and the profit of some church render a re-election advisable, in the execution of Articles 22 and 24.

Article 28.

The consistories shall exercise care that the churches may be able to claim protection from the state in the holding of their property, and for the preservation of peace and order in their meetings---on the express condition, however, that they may never, for the sake of peace or material possessions, do violence in the slightest degree to the Kingdom of Christ over His Church.

Of Ecclesiastical Assemblies

Article 29.

Four ecclesiastical assemblies shall be maintained: The Consistory, the Classis, (the Particular Synod) and the General Synod.

Article 30.

In these assemblies ecclesiastical matters only shall be transacted and that in an ecclesiastical manner. In greater assemblies only such matters shall be considered as could not be finished in lesser assemblies, or as pertain to the churches of the assembly in common.

Article 31.

If anyone complain that he has been wronged by the decision of a lesser assembly, he shall have the right to appeal to a greater assembly, and whatever may be decided by a majority vote shall be considered binding unless it be proved to conflict with the Word of God or with articles of this Church Order, as long as they have not been changed by the General Synod.

Article 32.

The transactions of all assemblies shall begin with prayer and be closed with thanksgiving.

Article 33.

Delegates to the assemblies shall take with them their credentials and instructions signed by those sending them, and they shall have a vote in all matters except such as particularly concern their persons or churches.

Article 34.

In all assemblies there shall be not only a president, but also a clerk to keep a faithful record of all important matters.

Article 35.

The duty of the president is to state and explain the business to be transacted, to see to it that each speaker observes the rules of order, to silence those who are captious and vehement in speaking, and to properly discipline them if they refuse to listen. His duties shall cease with the termination of the assembly.

Article 36.

The classis shall have the same jurisdiction over the consistory as the Particular Synod has over a classis, and a General Synod over the Particular.

Article 37.

In all churches there shall be a consistory composed of the Ministers of the Word and the elders, who at least in larger congregations shall, as a rule, meet once a week. The Minister of the Word shall preside. If there be a plurality of ministers, they shall preside in rotation. Wherever the number of elders is small, the deacons may be added to the consistory by local regulation. This shall invariably be the rule where the number is less than three.

Article 38.

No consistory shall be constituted for the first time or anew at any place without the advice of the classis.

Article 39.

Places where as yet no consistory can be constituted shall be entrusted to the care of a neighboring consistory.

Article 40.

Likewise the deacons shall meet, wherever necessary every week, prayerfully to transact the business pertaining to their office; of which transactions the ministers shall take good heed. If necessary the ministers shall also attend these meetings.

Article 41.

The classical meetings shall consist of neighboring churches that respectively delegate, with proper credentials,

a minister and elder to meet at such time and place as was determined by the previous classical meeting. Such meetings shall be held at least once in three months, unless great distances render this inadvisable. In these meetings the ministers shall preside in rotation, or one shall be chosen to preside; however, the same minister shall not be chosen twice in succession.

Furthermore, the president shall, among other things, put the following questions to the delegates of each church:

1. Are the consistory meetings held in your church?
2. Is church discipline exercised?
3. Are the poor and the Christian schools cared for?
4. Finally, do you need the judgment and the help of the classis, for the proper government of your church?

And, finally, at one but the last meeting and, if necessary, at the last meeting before the (Particular) Synod, delegates shall be chosen to attend said Synod.

Article 42.

If in any church there is a plurality of ministers, also those not delegated according to the foregoing article shall have the right to attend classis with advisory vote.

Article 43.

At the close of the classical and synodical meetings, those who have in the meeting done something worthy of punishment or who have scorned the admonition of the lesser assemblies, shall be disciplined.

Article 44.

The classis shall authorize at least two of her oldest, most experienced, and competent ministers to visit all the churches once a year, and to take heed whether the ministers and the consistories faithfully perform the duties of their office, adhere to sound doctrine, observe in all things the accepted form of government, and properly promote as much as lies in them, through word and deed, the upbuilding of the congregation, in particular of the youth, to the end that they may in time fraternally admonish those who have in anything been negligent, and may by their advice and assistance help direct all things unto peace, upbuilding, and greatest advantage of the churches. And each classis may continue these visitors in service as long as it sees fit, except where the visitors themselves ask to be released for reasons acceptable to the classis.

Article 45.

It shall be the duty of the church in which the classis and likewise the (Particular) General Synod meets to furnish the following meeting with the minutes of the preceding.

Article 46.

Instructions concerning matters to be considered in greater assemblies shall not be written until the decisions of previous Synods touching these matters have been read, in order that what was once decided be not again proposed, unless a revision be deemed necessary.

Article 47.

(Every year, or if need be oftener, four or five or more neighboring classes shall meet as a Particular Synod, to which each classis shall delegate two ministers and two elders. At the close both of the Particular and General Synod some church shall be empowered to determine with advice of classis, the time and place of the next Synod.)

Article 48.

(Each Synod shall be at liberty to solicit and hold correspondence with its neighboring Synod or Synods, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to general edification.)

Article 49.

(Each Synod shall appoint delegates to carry out such decisions as regard the state or the respective classes under its jurisdiction. Likewise, some or all of these delegates must supervise the examination of all future ministers. Moreover, they shall be helpful to the classes in all other difficulties that may arise, in order that unity, order, and soundness of doctrine be maintained and promoted. They shall also keep a careful record of, and report, all their doing to the Synod, and, if required, offer such explanations as may be asked. They shall also continue in service until the Synod releases them.)

Article 50.

The General Synod shall ordinarily meet once every two years, unless pressing need demand an earlier session. Three ministers and three elders shall be delegated to the Synod from each classis.

If it becomes necessary in the opinion of at least three classes to call a meeting of Synod within two years, the local church designated for this purpose shall determine time and place.

Article 51.

The missionary work of the church among the heathen and among the Jews is regulated by the Synod by means of its Form Mission.

Article 52.

Inasmuch as several languages are spoken in the churches the necessary translation shall be made in the ecclesiastical assemblies, and in the publication of recommendations, instructions, and decisions.

Of Doctrine, Sacraments, and Usages

Article 53.

The Ministers of the Word of God and the Professors of Theology (to whom the other professors and school teachers ought to be added) shall subscribe to the three Reformed Standards; namely, the Belgic Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dordrecht, 1618-19, and the Ministers of the Word who refuse to do so shall de facto be suspended from their office by the consistory or classis, until they have given satisfactory explanation, and if they obstinately persist in refusing, they shall be deposed from their office.

Article 54.

Likewise the elders and the deacons shall subscribe to the aforesaid Standards.

Article 55.

Both ministers and elders shall use every means available, namely, teaching, refutation, warning, and admonition, in the Ministry of the Word, and in Christian teaching, and in house-visitation, to guard against false teaching and errors that multiply exceedingly through heretical writings.

Article 56.

The covenant of God shall be sealed unto the children of Christians by baptism as soon as possible, and in the congregation at the time of public worship.

Article 57.

The ministers shall faithfully urge the father to offer his child for baptism.

Article 58.

In the ceremony of baptism, both of children and of adults, the ministers shall use the respective forms drawn up for the administration of this sacrament.

Article 59.

Adults are through baptism incorporated into and accepted as members of the Christian church, wherefore they are obliged to partake of the Lord's Supper, which they shall promise to do at their baptism.

Article 60.

The names of those baptized, together with those of the parents, and likewise the date of birth and baptism, shall be recorded.

Article 61.

Only those shall be admitted to the Lord's Supper who have made confession of the Reformed religion, in accordance with the usage of the church which they join, and who are known to be pious in their walk, nor shall anyone lacking these requisites be admitted from other churches.

Article 62.

Every church shall administer the Lord's Supper in such a manner as it shall judge most conducive to edification; provided, however, that the outward form as prescribed in God's Word be not changed and all superstition be avoided, and that at the conclusion of the preaching and congregational prayer the Form for the administration of the Lord's Supper together with the prayer composed for that purpose, be read.

Article 63.

The Lord's Supper shall be administered at least every two or three months.

Article 64.

The Lord's Supper shall be administered only at such places as are under the supervision of elders in accordance with the rule of the churches and only in public congregational worship.

Article 65.

Funeral services shall not be introduced.

Article 66.

In times of war, pestilence, national calamities, and other great afflictions, the pressure of which is felt throughout the churches, it is fitting that the classes proclaim Days of Prayer.

Article 67.

The churches shall observe, in addition to the Sunday, also Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Day of Prayer, the National Thanksgiving Day, and Old and New Year's Day.

Article 68.

Every minister shall on the Lord's Day explain briefly the summary of Christian doctrine comprehended in the Heidelberg Catechism so that as much as possible the explanation shall be annually completed in accordance with the division of the Catechism made for that purpose.

Article 69.

Only the 150 Psalms of David, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Twelve Articles of Faith, the Songs of Mary, Zacharias, and Simeon, the Morning and Evening Hymns, and the Hymn of Prayer before the sermon, shall be sung in the churches.

Article 70.

Since it is proper that marriage be solemnized in the congregation of Christ, according to the adopted Form, the consistories shall take good heed of this matter.

Of Ecclesiastical Admonition and Discipline

Article 71.

Just as Christian Discipline is spiritual and exempts no one from civil trial and punishment, so also besides civil punishment there is need of Christian discipline to reconcile the offender with the church and his neighbor and to rid the Church of Christ of the offense.

Article 72.

In case anyone errs in doctrine or offends in conduct,

as long as the sin is of a private character, not giving public offense, the rule clearly prescribed by Christ in Matthew 18 shall be followed.

Article 73.

Secret sins of which the offender repents, after being admonished by one person in private or in the presence of two or three witnesses, shall not be laid before the consistory.

Article 74.

If any one has committed a secret offense and has been admonished in love by two or three persons, but does not heed, or has committed a public offense, the matter shall be reported to the consistory.

Article 75.

The reconciliation of all such offenses as are of a public character or have become public because the admonition of the church was despised shall take place (upon sufficient evidence of repentance) in such a manner as the consistory shall deem conducive to the edification of each church. If, in a particular case, any consistory cannot agree as to whether the confession shall be public or not, the advice of two neighboring churches or the classis shall be sought.

Article 76.

Such as absolutely reject the admonition of the consistory, or have committed a public or otherwise gross offense, shall be suspended from the Lord's Supper.

And if, after being suspended and repeatedly admonished, they do not show any marks of repentance, the consistory shall finally proceed to the last remedy, namely excommunication, agreeably to the adopted Form in accordance with the Word of God. No one, however, shall be excommunicated except with the consent of classis.

Article 77.

After the suspension from the Lord's Table, and subsequent admonitions, and before proceeding to excommunication, the obstinacy of the offender shall be publicly made known to the congregation, the offense explained, together with the care bestowed upon him in reproof, suspension from the Lord's Supper, and repeated admonition

and the congregation shall be exhorted to speak to him and pray for him. There shall be three such admonitions:

In the first the name of the offender shall not be mentioned that he may be somewhat spared. In the second, with the approval of classis his name shall be expressed. In the third the congregation shall be informed unless he repent he will be excluded from the fellowship of the church, so that his excommunication, in case he remains obstinate, may take place with the tacit approbation of the church. The interval between the admonitions shall be left to the discretion of the consistory.

Article 78.

Whenever an excommunicated person desires to become reconciled to the church in the way of penitence, it shall be announced to the congregation either before the celebration of the Lord's Supper, or at some other opportune time, in order that, if no objections are raised, he may with profession of his conversion be publicly reinstated, according to the Form.

Article 79.

If elders and deacons have committed any public gross offense, which is a disgrace to the church, or worthy of punishment by the State, the consistory in conjunction with the neighboring consistory shall immediately proceed to their trial, and upon conviction either suspend or expel them from office. If Ministers of the Word have committed like offense, the procedure shall be the same as in the case of the elders and deacons, except the expulsion from office shall be the prerogative of the classis, together with the advice of the delegates of the (Particular) Synod mentioned in Article 11.

Article 80.

The following are to be considered as the principal offenses that deserve the punishment of suspension or removal from office: heresy, public schism, public blasphemy, simony, faithless desertion of office or intrusion upon that of another, perjury, adultery, fornication, theft, acts of violence, drunkenness, brawling, filthy lucre, ---in short all such sins and gross offenses as render their perpetrators infamous before the world and which in any private member of the church would be considered worthy of excommunication.

Article 81.

Ministers of the Word, elders and deacons, shall, before partaking of the Lord's Table, exercise Christian censure among themselves and in a friendly spirit admonish one another with regard to the performance of the duties of their respective offices.

Article 82.

The consistory shall give to those that leave the congregation a certificate of their confession and walk, signed by two members of the consistory, or by one in case the seal of the church is affixed.

Article 83.

Such poor as leave for sufficient reasons, the deacons shall furnish with so much money for traveling as they deem adequate. The consistory and the deacons shall not be too ready, however, to relieve their own congregation of the care of the poor, only to burden other congregations unnecessarily.

Article 84.

There shall be no lordship in God's church, whether of one church over another church, of one minister over other ministers, or one elder or deacon over other elders or deacons.

Article 85.

Churches whose usages differ from ours merely in non-essentials shall not be rejected.

Article 86.

The foregoing articles, touching the lawful regulation of the church, have been so made and accepted by common consent, with the understanding that they may and ought to be altered, added to, or reduced, whenever the good of the churches so demands.

However, no single congregation, classis (or Particular Synod) shall have the right to do so, but they shall diligently observe them until the General Synod alters them.

SUPPLEMENT XV.

CHURCH ORDER OF THE CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH.

(As revised in Synod assembled at Chicago, 1914.)

The pages 127 to 144 contain the translation of the
Church Order written in Dutch into the German language.