

AGENDA

Synod Christian Reformed Church

*To convene June 11, 1941
at Grand Rapids, Mich.*

【 PART I: 】 REPORTS

Office of the Stated Clerk
737 Madison Avenue, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mich., U.S.A.

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PREFACE

THE Synod of 1926, p. 174 of its "Acta," and reiterated by the Synod of 1937, p. 111, decided that hereafter its Agenda should be published in two parts, the first, to contain the Reports, to appear as soon as possible after January 1st; the second part to contain the Overtures to be laid before Synod, to be published on or before May 1st. The present volume is PART I. The second part is to appear on or before May 1, 1941. Classical stated clerks, please send us the overtures, the names of all the delegates, and the ADDRESSES of the elders by the first day of April, 1941.

The publication of this First Part of the Agenda is alas belated again because only two of the Committees sent their reports before December 1, as stipulated by the Synod of 1937, p. 111. Compare the overture of the Classis of Minnesota to the 1940 Synod, calling attention to the tardiness in the appearing of the Agenda. The Classis was thanked "for this highly necessary reminder" and the Advisory Committee reporting to the 1940 Synod recommended "that the Rules of Synod be enforced." Acts of the 1940 Synod, p. 41. Classical Stated Clerks, may we remind you of Ex. 5:16?

P. S. I waited and waited, in the spirit of Judges 3:25 and II Kings 2:17 to obtain more material, but finally had to give the "go ahead" signal to the printer—although Agenda I is unusually small.

H. B.

February 3, 1941.

Henry Beets

737 Madison Ave., S. E.,
Grand Rapids, Mich., U. S. A.

AGENDA

PART I

REPORTS

REPORT I.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE IN RE EXPEDITING OF SYNODICAL PROCEDURE

To the Synod of 1941:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

AS is evident from the Acts of Synod 1940, page 143, the last Synod appointed the undersigned a "Committee in re Expediting of Synodical Procedure." As far as your Committee knows the Acts contain no other reference to the work entrusted to us. The absence of a specific mandate in the Acts may be accounted for by the possibility that the resolution to appoint a committee as named above was presented directly from the floor of Synod, that the motion after adoption was referred to the Committee on Appointments and that no further mention was made of it in the Acts. In the absence of a recorded resolution in which our mandate is specified and amplified, your Committee, seeking to determine its task, could be guided only by the light shed by the name given to the Committee, i.e., Committee in re Expediting of Synodical Procedure. This name indicates, we assume, that the Synod of 1940 desired to see synodical work done more expeditiously. Your Committee, having given this desire careful consideration, begs leave to present the following report.

It was not difficult for your Committee to understand why Synod should be desirous of expediting its work. It is a well-known fact that since Synod began to meet annually in 1937 there was a growing desire that Synod finish its work in the second week. Since the Synod of 1940 was not able to conclude its program in the second week, your Committee readily sees that a motion prevailed to appoint a committee which was to consider the

possibility of expediting synodical procedure. Moreover, another matter is in need of special consideration. It has often occurred that progress at our Synods was impeded because the Advisory Committees were not ready to present their reports, in part or as a whole, for Synodical consideration, resulting in slow progress during the first days of Synod and a heavy rush of the oft-times more important matters during the closing days. If it were for correcting only these two matters the appointment of a special Committee would be justified. Improvements which aim at efficiency consistent with thoroughness are, we are sure, both desired and desirable.

This is not the first time that this matter is brought to the attention of Synod. In 1918 Classis Holland overtured Synod to adopt certain changes which would give the Advisory Committees more time to do their work thoroughly and efficiently. The Classis stated that the Advisory Committees did not have the necessary time to prepare their reports, that the work at the Synod and the committee meetings which lasted often till far into the night, demanded too much of human endurance, that there was a scarcity of work in the first and an oversupply in the last sessions and, finally, that the members of Synod lacked the time to digest the reports properly. To remedy this, the Classis proposed that Synod meet on Thursday instead of Wednesday and that the Advisory Committees meet on the previous Tuesday at nine o'clock in the morning. These Advisory Committees were to be appointed by the convening consistory in conjunction with a committee appointed by the previous Synod, at least four weeks before Synod convened. This overture of Classis Holland was rejected on the grounds that Synod had set a full day aside to enable the Advisory Committees to prepare their reports, and, secondly, that undue influence might be used in the appointment of committees.

In line with the overture of Classis Holland to the Synod of 1918 some churches in our country appoint their Advisory Committees weeks before the Synod convenes. The Reformed Church in America sends its Program or Agenda in ample time to the various delegates before the opening of Synod. The delegates are thus informed weeks before they come to Synod on which committee they are to serve. That this is an important time-saver

is self-evident. With our present method of working on the opening day much valuable time is consumed in selecting the various committees and assigning the work. To use Synod's time to better advantage we might try something akin to the practice followed in the denomination just mentioned and already suggested by one of our Classes twenty-two years ago. The Stated Clerk could be instructed to publish in the Agenda, Part II, which is published on or about May 1, the names of the customary committees together with their membership, this membership to be selected from the delegates to the forthcoming Synod. The convening consistory in conjunction with a committee appointed by the previous Synod might conceivably be charged with the task of appointing the various committees, subject to the approval of Synod.

However, your Committee did not feel free to recommend such a change at this time, even though it desires to bring this possible change to Synod's attention. It realizes that efficiency is not the only factor to be considered and that historical policies should not be discarded without preponderant reasons. Your Committee comes with advice which is less radical but, we hope, just as effective in reaching the desired end.

Considering the question how Synod's procedure might be expedited, your Committee wants to emphasize the fact that, if Synod is to finish its work in the second week, more time must be made available in the one and one-half week that Synod is in session. It is the opinion of the Committee that this can be done. Usually little more is done on Wednesday than the election of officers, the appointing of committees and the assigning of the work to the various committees. If at least part of this were done on Tuesday evening, after the Synodical Prayer Service, and if, in addition, Synod decided to meet also on Monday morning, almost a day and a half could be saved and used for real Synodical work. If, moreover, the Committees appointed on Wednesday morning could have the rest of that day for the preparation of reports, there would be enough work on the Synodical table to engage the attention of Synod by Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Finally, if some of the existing rules were adhered to more consistently, Synod, your Committee believes, would have less difficulty to finish its work in the week following the one in which Synod begins its labors.

In the light of the foregoing your Committee calls Synod's attention to the organization of Synod, the meetings of Synod, the work of Synod and to Synodical rules already existing.

I. THE ORGANIZATION OF SYNOD

Your Committee proposes:

Immediately after the Prayer Service on Tuesday evening, Synod organize and proceed with the election of officers and the appointment of two committees, one for the purpose of assigning the work to the customary committees, the other to select the personnel of these committees.

Remarks: If two committees are appointed, instead of one Program Committee, they can work simultaneously and less time will be consumed. In 1940 seventeen members of Synod served on the Program Committee. This Committee was at work while Synod adjourned till five o'clock Wednesday afternoon. More than fifty delegates were idle. There seems to be no good reason why two committees should not do the work of one committee at a saving of valuable time.

Anticipating the objection that the time after the Synodical Prayer Service is not very ideal for the organization of Synod, your Committee stresses the fact that if time is to be saved it must be saved especially during the first days of Synod. Here is an opportunity. Why shall we not avail ourselves of it. The very first evening the delegates are, or should be, ready for work. Moreover, the inspiration of the Prayer Service would seem to fit the delegates for immediate active work. Thus far the delegates usually lingered around the church, after the service, for a considerable time to meet other delegates and friends. Some went to their home to spend an hour with their host and hostess. In the Netherlands all the delegates of Synod meet in some hall or hotel, after the Prayer Service, for social purposes. Why can not we, who are pressed for time, utilize our opportunity and put first things first. Even after the organization of Synod there may be time for the social side of life.

II. THE MEETINGS OF SYNOD

Your Committee proposes:

1. Synod meet on Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock at which time the committees appointed the previous

evening shall report. Should these Committees not be ready with their report, such other work as may be on the Synodical table shall be taken up. After the two Committees have reported Synod shall adjourn for the day in order to give the Advisory Committees an opportunity to consider the material assigned to them and to prepare their reports.

2. Synod meet also on Monday morning of the second week at the usual time.

Remarks: Heretofore Synod did not meet on Monday morning but resumed its work on Monday afternoon. There seems to be no good reason, from Synod's point of view, why no session should be held on Monday morning. A half day gained at the beginning of the week will ease the usual rush at the closing sessions.

3. Synod adjourn not later than Friday of the second week.

Remarks: To justify Synod's meeting annually the sessions should not be extended beyond the second week. When the Synod of 1936 expressed itself in favor of annual Synods it advanced as one of its reasons, "This will make for shorter meetings of Synod. Our Synods at present are too long. Delegates complain that it is difficult for them to be away from their work for so long a time," Acts 1936, page 39.

III. THE WORK OF SYNOD

Your Committee proposes:

1. Synod examine the seminary graduates on Thursday. If the graduates number four or more Synod shall divide itself into two groups, one group consisting of the ministers and elders first named in the Agenda, the other group consisting of the ministers and elders named second. The first group shall be presided over by the President of Synod with the Clerk acting as Secretary, the second group shall be presided over by the Vice-President of Synod with the Second Clerk acting as Secretary. The two groups shall meet separately for the purpose of hearing the sermons of the graduates, each group hearing an equal number. If the number of graduates is an uneven number the last graduate to be heard shall speak to the entire Synod. After the sermons have been delivered the entire Synod shall meet again for the purpose of examining the graduates.

2. By Thursday afternoon and Friday morning reports from the Advisory Committees should begin to come in in sufficient number to keep the Synod occupied without delay until the time of adjournment. If necessary Synod employ more typists to prevent the work from piling up in the typists' room.

Remarks: The cost of an extra typist is negligible in comparison with the sum needed to keep Synod an extra day.

3. Synod bring the suggestions of the Clerk of the former Synod to the attention of the reporters of the Advisory Committees. The suggestions made in the interest of uniformity and efficiency read as follows:

REPORTERS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

To facilitate the work of the clerks of Synod in preparing the daily minutes and in getting the Acts of Synod ready for the press, you are kindly requested to observe the following:

1. Please adopt a logical and continued system of numbering and lettering the various matters contained in your report. When your report is submitted to Synod piecemeal, continue the numbering and lettering from the point where you left off.

2. In case some matter in your report is recommitted, which would throw the numbering and lettering of the various sections and paragraphs out of gear, please do not "mix up" the new advice of your Committee with the continuation of your report, but have it mimeographed on a separate sheet, so it can be slipped in at the proper place in your report.

3. Please incorporate in your report *in full* all short overtures from the Classes and proposals from the Boards and from Committees appointed by the former Synod, and then state the advice of your Committee in regard to these overtures and proposals.

4. In case these overtures or proposals are very lengthy, too lengthy to be incorporated in full, please give a summary, as brief as is consistent with clarity, of the contents of the overture or proposal, and then state the advice of your Committee.

5. Never refer in your report to the *pages* of mimeographed reports, but if necessary, refer to *sections* (I, II,

III, etc.) or paragraphs (A, B, C, etc.) These mimeographed reports are not permanent, hence are not preserved, and it is very confusing if you refer to the paging of these reports. Of course, you can refer to the pages of the Agenda, Part I, or Part II, because these are permanent.

6. Please leave double or triple space under each part of the advice of your Committee, so as to permit the actions of Synod to be inserted.

7. Please omit all useless recommendations "to receive as information." It speaks for itself, doesn't it, that Synod receives as information the reports of its Committees? It is entirely superfluous to clutter up the Acts with such technicalities!

Remarks: These suggestions are the fruit of many years of experience of Rev. Daniel Zwier, who served Synod as Clerk for many years. Reporters by bringing these suggestions into practice will do their part to expedite Synodical procedure.

IV. EXISTING RULES OF SYNOD

The Synod of 1934 adopted "Rules for Synodical Procedure," Acts 1934, pp. 298-313. Some of these rules are not consistently lived up to, with loss of time as a result.

Your Committee proposes:

1. Synod assign as much of its work to Advisory Committees as possible.

Remarks: The present rule reads, "Wherever feasible Reports and Overtures shall be dealt with directly by Synod," Acts 1934, p. 305. Experience has shown, however, that many matters dealt with directly by Synod were after all given into the hands of an Advisory Committee and sometimes even recommended to the Committee after they had been discussed on the floor of Synod. Experience seems to favor assigning the work to Committees as much as possible. It will save time. The present rule wants to assign as much work as possible to Synod directly, the proposed rule wants to assign as much work as possible to Advisory Committees.

2. Synod accept for consideration, without further reading, reports which have been in the hands of the delegates for a sufficient time.

Remarks: This is one of the Rules of Synod, Acts 1934, p. 304, (e). We call Synod's attention to it. Advisory Committees should as much as possible complete their work so that it can be given to the delegates at least a day before it is taken up by Synod.

3. Synod be not lenient in granting permission to protestants and appellants to plead their case before Synod.

Remarks: The rule states, "Protestants and appellants shall as a rule not be permitted to plead their case before Synod but before the Advisory Committee on Protests and Appeals unless their matter is taken up by Synod directly," Acts 1936, p. 16. In the past much valuable time has been taken up by protestants and appellants pleading their case.

4. In case this report is adopted by Synod, Synod change its Rules for Synodical Procedure accordingly.

Your Committee is of the opinion that if the changes proposed above are adopted and the existing rules thus modified are lived up to, our Synods will do their work more expeditiously.

May God bless the Synod of 1941.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee,

J. M. VANDE KIEFT

E. VAN HALSEMA, *Sec.*

C. GREYDANUS

REPORT II.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE RE EDUCATIONAL FILMS FOR CALVIN'S STUDENTS

To the Synod of 1941:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

YOUR Committee was instructed according to Art. 92, page 98 of the Acts of the Synod of 1940 to "ascertain whether it is feasible to make arrangements so that Calvin's students may see educational films and pictures of a high order without attending the theater."

Your Committee considered the second part of its instruction to be the important one, since the procuring of educational films does not involve any difficulties.

I. In regard to the procuring and actual showing of pictures of a high order, let us first of all tell how others solve this problem:

- a. According to an article in *The Cresset*, an orthodox Lutheran magazine of May and June, 1940, the Roman Catholics divide the movies into three groups. Group A they consider to be unobjectionable for their young people. Group B they call doubtful. Group C is the forbidden category.
- b. This same magazine reviews about ten pictures of the A and B class every month, leaving it to the conscience of their young people to choose what they want to see.
- c. The "Gereformeerde Jeugdbeweging" in the Netherlands, according to an article in *Het Pedagogisch Tydschrift* of August, 1939, condemns all Hollywood pictures and even all dramatic films for adolescents, and recommends only educational, non-professional fairy tale, "teekenfilms," and newsreel films.
- d. The Christian Ex-Service Men tell us that they cannot rent first-class, but only second-class pictures, and that they have to wait at least half a year and often a year or more before they can even show these pictures.

II. It will, therefore, be impossible for the college authorities to procure the pictures of a high order, at least

those of the best class and also, the expense would be too great.

And as far as the securing and showing of second-rate pictures is concerned, the Committee does not think that the college authorities ought to go into this matter for the following reasons:

- a. Many of our Christian Reformed leaders are opposed to Hollywood pictures, even if they are of a high order.
- b. Even if this were not the case, the committee of censorship and the Calvin College authorities would expose themselves to a great deal of criticism which would harm the school and the cause of God's Kingdom.
- c. If it would be possible at all in the future to procure first-rate pictures, it would be imperative to leave this matter to private initiative rather than to involve people who have a position in the Christian Reformed Church or its institutions.
- d. The Committee does not believe that censorship by Calvin authorities will solve our problem, because:
 1. The supply would not satisfy the demand, i.e. our young people would not be satisfied with the few good pictures which the committee would choose. They would demand more pictures of the primary and secondary class.
 2. The supply of such pictures might even encourage our young people to take in pictures of a doubtful character.

III. Meanwhile the college authorities are doing all they can to keep the students interested in such activities as student programs, college club life; and also to furnish Friday evening programs sponsored by different clubs to get the students acquainted with each other and to provide entertainment under the supervision of the proper faculty committees.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee re Educational
Films for Calvin's Students,

REV. J. GRITTER, *Pres.*

REV. G. GORIS

PROF. J. BROENE

PROF. H. J. VAN ANDEL, *Sec.*

REPORT III.

REPORT OF TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

To the Synod of 1941:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

YOUR Transportation Secretary has the honor of submitting the following report for the calendar year 1940:

The railroads favored us with five annual passes, twenty-eight trip passes, and two half-rate orders.

The trip passes were mostly for long-distance trips. They covered a total of about 68,000 miles of free travel by representatives of various branches of our Church.

Correspondence was carried on with delegates to Synod with the view of keeping Synodical transportation expenses down to a minimum consistent with proper travel.

Generally, the response and cooperation were very encouraging, and an appreciable saving was effected, for which the delegates deserve commendation.

Below is a statement showing by Classes the payments made to delegates; also a comparison of the 1940 totals with those of 1939.

(See next page for table referred to above.)

We bespeak the cooperation of all delegates to the 1941 Synod and others traveling on Church business, toward making any reasonable savings in their traveling expenses.

It is our privilege and pleasure to be of service to the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
BERT POUSMA.

Classes	Railroad	Pullman	Bus	Private Auto	Other	Totals 1940	Totals 1939	Inc.	Dec.
California	\$ 126.30	\$ 9.20	\$	\$ 120.00	\$ 3.50	\$ 259.00	\$ 276.07	\$	\$ 17.07
G. R. East .....	.....	.....	.....	24.00	.....	24.00	2.40	21.60	.....
G. R. South .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
G. R. West .....	.....	.....	.....	4.00	.....	4.00	.....	4.00	.....
Hackensack ..	146.80	22.30	.....	6.00	.....	175.10	142.70	32.40	.....
Holland .....	.....	.....	.....	12.00	.....	12.00	4.00	8.00	.....
Hudson	68.09	22.20	.....	77.80	11.50	179.59	206.10	.....	26.51
Illinois .....	.....	.....	.....	22.00	1.00	23.00	14.00	9.00	.....
Kalamazoo ..	11.40	.....	.....	3.00	.....	14.40	43.84	.....	29.44
Minnesota	20.96	.....	5.90	96.00	.....	122.86	130.20	.....	7.34
Muskegon .....	.....	.....	.....	10.03	.....	10.03	21.90	.....	11.87
Orange City ..	.....	.....	.....	90.90	5.00	95.90	99.55	.....	3.65
Ostfriesland ..	11.00	.....	.....	50.00	1.00	62.00	95.95	.....	33.95
Pacific	149.40	46.40	.....	49.00	20.40	265.20	269.44	.....	4.24
Pella	37.75	15.30	.....	78.10	12.50	143.65	85.00	58.65	.....
Sioux Center ..	81.35	.....	.....	45.75	12.00	139.10	121.57	17.53	.....
Wisconsin .....	.....	.....	12.68	48.45	3.00	64.13	44.50	19.63	.....
Zeeland .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.00	.....	2.00
TOTALS	\$ 653.05	\$ 115.40	\$ 18.58	\$ 737.03	\$ 69.90	\$1,593.96	\$1,559.22	\$ 34.74	

REPORT IV.

REPORT OF FAITH, PRAYER AND TRACT LEAGUE

To the Synod of 1941:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

ON August 9 the last, our League might bring to a close another year of activities. As during preceding years, we tried our utmost to bring the blessed Gospel by means of our Silent Evangelists. These have again winged their way to practically every corner of the globe, being sent on their errands by those who are convinced of the efficacy of the ministry of the printed page. We have, as opportunity presented itself, tried to enlist the services of men and women everywhere in this glorious ministry. We have especially tried to interest our own people in this ministry, and believe that many have been induced to engage in this work. But here also it is true that, whereas the harvest is great, the laborers are few.

To make it possible to reach the largest number with these messages of salvation, we had a supply of tract racks made, which can be conveniently placed wherever large numbers meet, such as stores, filling stations, bus or train depots, etc. Also we secured a number of cellophane sheets, of various attracting colors. Tracts, wrapped in these sheets, can be thrown out where they are sure to catch the eye of many.

As a result of these activities 383,966 tracts were sold this past year, and 33,183 sent out gratis, making a total of 417,149 tracts sent out. The total number of tracts printed since our organization in 1922 has now almost reached the 5,000,000 mark.

The financial statement, as of August 9, 1940, is as follows:

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand August 10, 1939.....	\$ 692.17
Membership Fees	56.00
Donations	992.79
Sale of Tracts.....	1,424.68

\$3,165.64

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing	\$1,215.35	
Advertising	495.39	
Postage	173.90	
Supplies	361.62	
Salary	325.00	
Miscellaneous	72.95	
		<hr/>
		\$2,644.21
Balance on hand August 10, 1940.....		\$ 521.43

Thus we go hopefully forward, trusting that the Lord will continue to bless our labors, and desiring that Synod will again commend our cause to our churches and people for their moral and financial support, as in past years.

In His service,

Faith, Prayer and Tract League,
Muskegon Heights, Mich.

S. G. BRONDSEMA, *Mgr.*

REPORT V.

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE TO THE SYNOD OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH, CONVENING AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., IN THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1941.

To the Synod of 1941.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

IN the Acts of the Synod of 1940, p. 40, is found a recommendation of a proposal of this Committee for co-operation with a similar Committee of the Reformed Church of America "the early minutes of Classis Holland, and the consistorial minutes of the 9th Street Christian Reformed Church of Holland, as well as other similar documents." This recommendation was adopted and the proposal approved by Synod on the following grounds:

- "1. Such joint labor makes for historical objectivity.
2. Such joint labor will render the documents accessible to both churches.
3. Such joint labor may save some expense since both Churches contribute equally to the project."

At the present time we can report to you, that the first part of this project has almost been carried out, to wit, the translation of the early minutes of Classis Holland. We have greatly enjoyed both the spirit of brotherly co-operation which have throughout marked the meetings of the joint Committee and the soundly reformed and tenderly Christian spirit pervading those early minutes. In just what form our translation will be made available and for how large a circle, can at this moment not yet be said, but in all likelihood the matter will have been settled by the time your esteemed body will convene. By that time we may also be able to report something more definite regarding the second element in this program of translation.

As was to be expected, the translation of the classical minutes, which will comprise about 146 single spaced typewritten pages, has depleted our funds, while what is to be undertaken next will in all likelihood again involve considerable expenditures. We therefore respectfully

request you, to replenish our financial resources and to grant us again the same allowance as in 1940, viz. \$300.

May the Lord grant you the guidance needed in all your deliberations, and may our work be blessed and used by Him for the welfare of both the Churches that are directly interested and for the advancement, in whatever humble way, of His cause.

Your brethren in Him,

PROF. D. H. KROMMINGA, *President.*

DR. HENRY BEETS, *Secretary.*

REPORT VI.

REPORT ON THE TRANSLATION OF THE "CONCLUSIES VAN UTRECHT"

To the Synod of 1941:

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

THE mandate was that a committee prepare an official English translation of the "Conclusies van Utrecht" endorsed by our Church in 1908, according to Overture No. 17 (Agenda, Part II) of Classis Sioux Center (Acts 1940, Art. 43, p. 29). After the Committee appointed by the Synod (Idem, Art. 137, p. 142) had made individual translations of the "Conclusies," it met on Jan. 10, 1941. It zealously kept in mind that Synod evidently desired that the meaning of the document should be reproduced exactly in the English translation. The following is a translation approved by the majority of your Committee:

Per EFFA ZWIER.

**Conclusions Anent Certain Disputed Points of Doctrine,
Adopted by the General Synod of the Reformed
Churches in the Netherlands at Utrecht,
September 7, 1905 (Cf. Art. 58, 1,
Acta)**

In regard to the first point, *infra-* or *supralapsarianism*, synod declares: that our Confessional Standards certainly teach the *infralapsarian* position in respect to the doctrine of election, but this, as is evident both from the wording of the Canons of Dordt (Chapter I, Art. 7) and from the deliberations at the Synod of Dordt, certainly does not mean that the *supralapsarian* position is thereby excluded or condemned; that it is accordingly not at all permitted to present the *supralapsarian* point of view as THE doctrine of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, nor to molest any one who personally holds the *supralapsarian* view, inasmuch as the Synod of Dordt has made no declaration about 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 in the preaching of the Word and catechetical instruction adhere to the position presented in our Confessional Standards.

In regard to the second point, *eternal justification*, Synod declares: that this expression does not appear in our Confessional Standards but that it may therefore be disproved no more than such an expression as the Covenant of Works and the like, adopted from theological terminology; that it is incorrect to say that our Confessional Standards merely acknowledge [know of] a justification out of and by faith, since *both* God's Word (Rom. 4:25) and our Confessions (Art. 20) speak emphatically about an objective justification sealed by the resurrection of Christ—[a justification] that in order of time precedes subjective justification; and furthermore [Synod declares] that as far as the matter itself is concerned, all our Churches sincerely believe and confess that Christ from eternity in the Council of Peace offered Himself as a surety for His people, and took their guilt upon Himself, just as afterwards by His suffering and death on Golgotha, He actually paid the ransom for us, and reconciled us to God while we were enemies; but that upon the basis of God's Word and in harmony with our Confessions it must be maintained that we personally share in this benefit only by sincere faith. Therefore Synod earnestly warns against any position that would do violence *either* to the eternal surety established by Christ for His elect *or* to the demand of a sincere faith, in order [that we may be] justified before God in the tribunal of [our] conscience.

In regard to the third point, *immediate regeneration*, Synod pronounces: that this expression may be used in a sound sense in so far as our Churches have steadfastly professed, over and against Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches, that regeneration does not take place by the Word and sacraments as such, but by the almighty and regenerating operation of the Holy Spirit; that this regenerating operation of the Holy Spirit, however, may not be disconnected in such a way from the preaching of the Word as if these two could be disconnected from each other. For even if our Confession teaches that we should not doubt concerning the salvation of our children who pass away early in life, though they have not heard the preaching of the Gospel, and furthermore even if our

Confessional Standards do not express themselves about the manner in which this regeneration takes place in these and other children, it is on the other hand certain that the Gospel is a power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and that in the case of adults the regenerating operation of the Holy Spirit accompanies the preaching of the Gospel. Even though Synod does not dispute that God is able to regenerate those whom He will, for instance in the pagan world, even without the preaching of the Word, yet Synod judges that we are not able, on the basis of God's Word, to make any declaration in respect to the question whether this actually occurs, and therefore we should adhere to the rule which God has revealed to us in His Word, and leave the hidden things to the Lord our God.

And finally in regard to the fourth point, *presupposed regeneration*, Synod declares: that according to the Confession of our Churches the seed of the Covenant must be held, by virtue of the promise of God, to be regenerated and sanctified in Christ until they manifest, as they grow up, the contrary in their way of life or doctrine; that it is not entirely correct to say that children of believers are baptized on the ground of their presupposed regeneration because the basis for baptism is found in the command and promise of God; furthermore, that the judgment of love with which the Church regards the seed of the Covenant to be regenerated does not mean at all that each child is actually born again, because God's Word teaches that "they are not all Israel which are of Israel," and about Isaac it is said, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Rom. 9:6, 7). Hence it is necessary in preaching that earnest self-examination be insisted upon because only "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Furthermore, Synod in agreement with our Confession maintains that the "sacraments are not empty and meaningless, so as to deceive us, but visible signs and seals of inward and invisible things by means whereof God works in us by the power of the Holy Spirit," (Art. 33) and that special mention is made of baptism as "the washing of regeneration" and "the washing away of sins" because God would assure us "through this divine sign and seal that we are as certainly cleansed of our sins in a spiritual sense as we are in an external sense washed with water." Therefore, our Church in the prayer following the bap-

tizing [says] "We thank and praise Thee, that Thou hast forgiven us and our children all our sins, through the blood of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and received us by Thy Holy Spirit as members of Thine only begotten Son, and adopted us to be Thy children, and sealed and confirmed the same unto us by holy baptism." Thus our Confessional Standards do clearly teach that the Sacrament of baptism signifies and seals the washing away of our sins by the blood and the Spirit of Jesus Christ; that is to say, justification and renewing by the Holy Spirit are benefits which God has bestowed upon our seed.

Meanwhile, Synod is of the opinion that the position, that every elect child even before its baptism would be regenerated in fact, cannot be proved either on Scriptural grounds or on Confessional grounds, because God fulfills His sovereign free-will at His time, either before, during, or after the baptizing. Hence, it is imperative to be circumspect in one's utterances in this matter, and not to wish to be wise beyond that which God has revealed. (Art. 158, Acta, The General Synod of Utrecht).

Respectfully submitted,

Y. P. DE JONG, *Chairman*

EFFA ZWIER, *Secretary*

H. SCHULTZE

J. G. VANDEN BOSCH

REPORT VII.

SECRETARIAL REPORT OF THE CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH, TO THE SYNOD OF 1941.

To the Synod of 1941.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

ONCE more we are privileged to serve your honorable body with a report covering the activities of the Jewish Mission of our church at Chicago, and of the actions of the board entrusted with its supervision and direction.

We may begin by expressing our appreciation of the way in which the churches in general have responded to their obligations, as pertaining to the financial needs for carrying on the Jewish Mission work. We appreciate the fact that the financial support is usually a good barometer by which to judge the moral support of those who supply it. We may believe that liberal support indicates love for the cause and prayer for its success.

Due to this regular support and a special donation of a \$1000.00 bond and other gifts and a small legacy, but especially by that of the Van Agthoven estate, was the board enabled to wipe out the entire indebtedness on our property. The board has also been fortunate in disposing of the Grenshaw Street property for \$3,000 on a monthly installment plan. This property was bought as a temporary home in that neighborhood, and was so used until we acquired the property upon which our present building was erected. Due to all the above the board considers it a special privilege to be able to recommend to Classis a reduction in its quota per family for Jewish Mission work in Chicago. We feel confident that 35c per family, for the Chicago work will be sufficient to carry out our work program; even with the proposed expansion in our work.

The board has also experienced God's blessing as far as the health of its individual members is concerned; although one of its members was subject to a mastoid operation, the Lord has graciously restored to complete

health. One of our members, Rev. P. A. Hoekstra, was called to labor in another field. Due recognition was taken of the faithful service rendered by the departing member. Our general alternate, Rev. J. P. Smith, was welcomed in our midst to take his place on the board. Regular monthly meetings have been held by the board during the past year. Due notice was also taken of the fact that during the past year Mr. A. Huisjen completed sixteen years of service in our mission, as also of the fact that the Secretary has served the board as such since 1919.

The regular staff also has been able to perform their duties regularly, and have done so faithfully. The personnel of the staff has remained the same as in recent years. Mr. A. Huisjen, acting Superintendent and Miss Edith Vander Meulen as girls' worker, are in regular attendance; while Dr. Wm. J. Yonker and Miss Dellas, the nurse are on a part-time schedule in the Clinic.

The work at the Institute has been carried on as usual. The monthly reports of the workers have been more encouraging, especially in the general attitude of those who attend the classes and other meetings. The interest and respect shown in Bible study in nearly all classes is very noticeable. In the Ladies' Society, especially three, boldly profess to be believers in Jesus as the Messiah. Other instances of special interest have been published in the *Banner* in October.

Two Gospel meetings are held each week: one on Sunday evenings for adults and one on Friday evenings for young people.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday forenoons the Clinic is open. During the past year an average of 158 patients per month have received medical care. A Gospel message is brought to them nearly every morning in the waiting room as well as personal work with individuals.

Eight girls' and 8 boys' Bible classes are held each week and one children's class on Saturday mornings. Five sewing classes and two or three club meetings of both boys and girls.

A Ladies' Society is held every Wednesday afternoon.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was held for Four and a half weeks with an average daily attendance of 50. All this has afforded an opportunity for making some 8800 contacts during the year, outside of some visitation work, of which not enough can be done with our present staff.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Nathaniel Institute,
C. LEENHOUTS, *Secretary*.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION
OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
January 1, 1940 to December 31, 1940

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand.....	\$ 768.29	
Synodical Treasurer	12,375.00	
Donations and Collections.....	193.94	
Bond Donation	1,000.00	
Interest	103.00	
Medical Fund	1,000.00	
Van Agthoven Estate.....	3,500.00	
Grand Rapids Bldg. & Loan Assn.....	227.17	
Fleming Contract (3948 Grenshaw).....	181.27	
Rebates	70.01	
Total Receipts.....		\$19,418.68

DISBURSEMENTS

Salaries	\$ 6,185.57	
Bonds	2,650.00	
Interest	39.60	
Transfer of Assets.....	7,500.00	
Mission Petty Cash Disbursement.....	350.00	
Medical Supplies	231.83	
Gas and Electricity.....	120.88	
Phone	50.80	
Fuel	390.79	
License	100.00	
Repairing and Decorating.....	218.68	
Mission Equipment	87.67	
Sale and Bond Release Expense.....	201.25	
Traveling Expense	140.30	
Real Estate Tax.....	273.17	
Bank Exchange	4.83	
Insurance	428.24	
Balance on Hand.....	445.07	
Total Disbursements.....		\$19,418.68

STATEMENT OF THE CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

as of January 1, 1941.

ASSETS

Property and Equipment in Building located No. 1241-43 S. Crawford Ave., Chicago.....	\$23,000.00
Fleming Contract—3948 Grenshaw.....	2,800.00
Property located—1534-26—14th St.....	2,000.00
Van Agthoven Estate (estimated).....	7,000.00
Federal Bldg. & Loan Ass'n Stock (U. S. Gov- ernment guaranteed)	7,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$42,300.00
LIABILITIES (None)	

January 6th, 1941.

To the Board of the Chicago Jewish Mission,
1241 S. Crawford Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:

As requested, I have made an examination of the books of the Chicago Jewish Missions, as they pertain to the financial transactions of your institution for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1940.

I have found the records in fine order and all the accounts in balance. I have reconciled all disbursements with vouchers or cancelled checks, and have compared these with respective entries in the Cash Journal.

Statement of cash receipts and disbursements were reconciled with all entries in cash books.

I certify that the attached statement of Income and Expenses, of Assets and Liabilities, are prepared from the books, are in keeping therewith and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

JERRY BELGRAVE, Accountant.

CHICAGO JEWISH MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1941

Salaries — Pastor, Religious Worker, Doctor, Nurse, Lady Worker, and Janitor.....	\$ 8,250.00
Pastor's Rent	480.00
Gas, Electricity, Phone, and Fuel.....	500.00
Insurance, Tax, and License.....	300.00
Repairing and Decorating.....	300.00
Medical Supplies	250.00
Traveling Expense	200.00
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$10,280.00

REPORT VIII.

COMMITTEE IN RE "READING SERVICE" SERMONS

To the Synod of 1941.

ESTEEMED BRETHREN:

ACCORDING to the Acts of Synod 1939, p. 58, the undersigned Committee was appointed in a response to overtures sent in by the Classes Sioux Center and Pella, requesting "that a Committee be appointed to supply various churches with sermons suitable for 'reading services'." The following was adopted:

"That Synod appoint such a Committee which shall contact various ministers of our church with the request to supply with sermon material, and that the Consistories who desire such sermons shall contact this Committee and so obtain these sermons."

In our report to the last Synod we could state that we had received twenty sermons which were at that time ready to go to press. Furthermore it was proposed:

1. That Synod request our Christian Reformed Publishing House to handle the printing and the sale of these sermons.

2. That Synod make provisions for the preparation, printing, and sale of more of these sermons as the need may arise.

Synod saw fit to adopt the following:

- "1. That these sermons be put out in mimeographed form, for instance through the facilities of Calvin College.

- "2. That Synod appoint a permanent committee to collect suitable sermons for reading services, and attend to their distribution, as need arises."

Your Committee acted in accordance with this decision. Under the direction of Mr. H. J. Voss the sermons were mimeographed at Calvin College largely as an N.Y.A. project. This meant that the cost of the work was considerably reduced. The assistance rendered by Mr. Voss in this matter is highly appreciated. The twenty sermons were bound in one volume, in very attractive book form.

One hundred copies were made. Complimentary copies were presented to each of the contributors as well as the members of the committee. On Dec. 31, 1940, it was reported that 54 copies had been sold. The committee feels that this response indicates that there is a real need for the work it has been privileged to perform.

Humbly submitted,

M. MONSMA
J. VANDER PLOEG
D. HOITENGA